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Rep. Smola Announces Grants for Pathfinder and Tantasqua High Schools

Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that two local high schools have been awarded funds through the Skills Capital Grants program. Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School will receive \$489,871 and Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School will receive \$121,317. Throughout Massachusetts, 33 high schools and educational institutions were selected for the program which enables schools to acquire the newest technologies to educate students and expand programs.

Pathfinder will enhance the current HVAC program and expand to include plumbing and pipefitting. Skilled instructors will train students in grades 9 through 12 who attend Pathfinder, as well as incumbent employees in the region who need to upgrade skills. This program equips high school students with skills for plumbing apprenticeships and mechanical contracting, and will provide them with a pathway to post-secondary education to study fields such as energy system technology, mechanical engineering technology, building construction management and technology, HVAC certification, and engineering. Pathfinder partners with Holyoke Community College, E2E, and Springfield Technical Community College to provide evening and day programs.

Tantasqua will purchase equipment to support the health assistance programs. The school will build a simulation lab and update hospital beds to more closely resemble the beds students use in both their clinical and internship placements. The equipment will strengthen courses and support an evening EMT program. Tantasqua will partner with Quinsigamond Community College to create an adult learners EMT program.

“These programs will be a great opportunity for our local students and teachers,” said Representative Smola. “This funding allows schools to further educate students in real world scenarios that provide them the knowledge and skills needed to succeed following graduation.”

Skills Capital Grants are designed to help high schools, colleges and other educational institutions invest in the most up-to-date training equipment to give their students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or particular area of study. Skills Capital Grants cover a broad array of fields, from construction and engineering to healthcare and hospitality. These competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand, in order to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the state.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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