



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Department
Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick
Press Release**

Contact: Heather Nichols, Rachael Neff, Juli Hanscom – 617-725-4025;
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**GOVERNOR PATRICK CELEBRATES OPENING OF
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CENTER AT
SPRINGFIELD**

New Higher Ed Center Expands Growth and Opportunity in Springfield and the Pioneer Valley

SPRINGFIELD – Wednesday, September 24, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick today joined University of Massachusetts and state and local officials to celebrate the grand opening of the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Center located in Springfield. The Center, in partnership with MassMutual, Baystate Health Systems and the City of Springfield is expanding educational opportunity in the City and across the Pioneer Valley Region.

“This satellite center will bring vitality to downtown Springfield, and open up new educational and job opportunities,” said Governor Patrick. “I congratulate UMass and the City of Springfield on their efforts to expand growth and opportunity for the residents of Springfield and beyond.”

Supported through \$5.2 million in funding through the Fiscal Year 2014 capital plan, the center is comprised of 10 instructional rooms, including six regular classrooms, one computer classroom, and three nursing classrooms, a computer lab, breakout rooms, conference rooms and space for student counseling and public events and meetings.

In November 2013 Governor Patrick announced that UMass selected Tower Square, an office tower owned by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., would house the center. The 26,000 square-foot facility is located at the heart of Springfield's downtown district, and is two blocks from City Hall and the MassMutual Center. The new center significantly expands the University's presence in Western Massachusetts and unlocks a range of degree opportunities to students of all ages that is tailored to the meet the region's workforce needs.

“I am pleased to have the campuses of the UMass system providing a range of programs at the UMass Center at Springfield,” said UMass President Robert L. Caret. “The University’ first satellite center has exceeded 300 enrollments on-site as a hub for students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in order to build better lives and better communities.”

“We’re excited about the opening of the UMass Center in Downtown Springfield, and pleased to be able to provide space for the satellite facility,” said Roger Crandall, Chairman, President and CEO of MassMutual. “The center will serve as is an important and dynamic step to help grow the local economy and revitalize downtown Springfield.”

The UMass Center at Springfield is open for the fall 2014 semester with 40 course offerings across 10 academic programs, including: Nursing, Education, Liberal Arts, Masters of Business Administration, Cyber Security/Network Security, Landscape Architecture and Planning, Architecture, Addiction Counseling, University without Walls (a bachelor's degree program for nontraditional learners) and seven training programs offered by other community colleges. The University also has a Welcome Center located on the first floor of Tower Square for prospective students.

“The UMass Center is unlocking a range of new educational and job training opportunities needed to fuel our innovation economy,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki. “The center’s location in the heart of the emerging innovation district enables it to further the economic revitalization of Springfield.”

“This satellite center demonstrates that the UMass is thinking outside of the box in how we deliver quality education to all students, meeting them where they are,” said Secretary of Education Matthew Malone. “I’m impressed at the partnership that has been created here and I hope this will be a model for accessibility for our public higher education system to replicate in the future.”

Last month, Governor Patrick signed An Act to Promote Growth and Opportunity, which provides \$12 million for an Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology Training Trust Fund to train 4,000 workers for middle-skill careers in manufacturing and information technology fields to address shortages in these industries and help employers continue to grow and innovate. The bill creates tools and training so our workforce is prepared to meet the needs of employers, invests in our Gateway Cities to promote economic development across the entire state and provides incentives to create jobs and stimulate the economy. The bill furthers the Administration's proven growth strategy of investing in education, innovation and infrastructure that has led to record job creation in Massachusetts and has made the Commonwealth a global leader in key innovation economy sectors.

“The opening of the UMass Center at Springfield marks an important day for the City of Springfield and the residents of the Greater Springfield area,” said Senator James T. Welch. “I am excited about the wide range of opportunities for education, growth, and training that the UMass Center affords and I look forward to watching its students and the City thrive.”

For more information on the legislation visit www.mass.gov/compete.

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