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Governor Patrick Visits Minuteman High School to Highlight Efforts to Prepare Students for High-Demand Careers

LEXINGTON – Thursday, September 12, 2013 – Governor Deval Patrick today visited Minuteman High School in Lexington. The vocational high school is focused on preparing students for high-demand careers post high school, a key priority of the Patrick Administration.

“All of our students deserve the opportunity to succeed, and schools like Minuteman give our young people the tools they need to thrive in the 21st century global economy,” said Governor Patrick. “Education is Massachusetts’ calling card around the world and central to our competitiveness in the global economy. We invest in education because we believe that it is the single most important investment government can make in our collective future.”



Governor Patrick visits with students at Minuteman High School in Lexington. (Photo: Eric Haynes/Governor's Office)

During the visit, Governor Patrick toured the school's bio-tech lab, where he met with students who were working on projects on topics ranging from forensics to DNA extraction. The Governor also visited the Trades Hall, where students in the Green Technologies program work to develop skills for future careers in the green jobs sector. With over 4,000 clean energy firms and nearly 72,000 clean energy workers, Massachusetts saw 11.2 percent job growth in the clean tech industry last year and these students will have the training to work in this growing field.

"Each day our teachers and staff go above and beyond to ensure our students are getting rigorous and relevant instruction in our classrooms, labs and shops," said Superintendent Edward Bouquillon. "I'm excited Governor Patrick came to Minuteman to see our school in action and I hope that he takes with him ideas of successful practice he saw in place that could be replicated elsewhere in Massachusetts."

Minuteman, founded in 1970, enrolls more than 700 students from local communities such as Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Lincoln, Needham, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland and Weston, among others.

As part of his Administration's efforts to align education with workforce development, Governor Patrick established the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Advisory in October 2009, to increase coordination and collaboration among existing STEM programs and resources. In addition to being rated number one by the U.S. Department of Education on the nationwide Race to the Top Competition, Massachusetts has also been recognized by the National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practices, Change the Equation and Innovate+Education as a top STEM state. Congressman Joe Kennedy is currently the honorary chair of the STEM Advisory Council.

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