



Executive Office of Education

Home > Government > New Companies Participating in MA STEM@Work Highlighted

CHARLIE BAKER
GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release - March 09, 2017

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Baker-Polito Administration Highlights New Companies Participating in MA STEM@Work

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Worcester area companies participate in program connecting high school students to STEM internships, address skills gap

Worcester – The Baker-Polito Administration today announced that Omni Control Technology and Lampin Corporation have signed on to participate in MA STEM@Work, an expanded initiative that connects high school students to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) internships across the Commonwealth.

The companies join Primetals Technologies USA, UMass Memorial Hospital, UMass Medical School, Metso Automation, Saint Gobain, Peterson Steel, Lake Pharma - The Biologics Company, Massachusetts Biomedical Initiative and other businesses that are providing STEM internships to high school students in Worcester and across Central Massachusetts.

The announcement came during a roundtable discussion at Primetals Technologies in Worcester with Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Secretary of Education James Peyser, local business and education leaders, and Central MA Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Jeff Turgeon.

“Massachusetts has one of the fastest expanding innovation economies in the nation, and companies around the state have told us that they need more skilled workers in the STEM fields to keep up with demand,” **Governor Charlie Baker said**. “I am excited that more Central Massachusetts employers are stepping up to the plate to inspire students and provide them with the career preparation they need to fill the jobs of tomorrow in Worcester and beyond.”

“We are thrilled to announce that Omni Control Technology and Lampin Corporation are making this important investment in the Commonwealth’s students and our future workforce,” **Lt. Governor Polito said**. “Central Massachusetts boasts a strong and rapidly growing STEM economy, and we’re excited to work with these companies to ensure we have a robust pipeline of skilled workers to fill critical job openings.”

The Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council, which is co-chaired by Lt. Governor Polito, U.S. Representative Joseph P. Kennedy III, and Jeffrey Leiden, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman, President and CEO of Vertex, recently identified four priority areas to advance STEM education in the Commonwealth. This includes expanding work-based learning opportunities in STEM fields by building a stronger network of employers offering career exploration and career immersion experiences to high school students, including job shadowing and paid internships.

“Across the Commonwealth, companies like Omni Control and Lampin are igniting students’ interest in STEM careers, and helping them gain vital skills and experience to pursue careers,” **Secretary James Peyser said**. “We hope more companies consider hiring high school interns, giving these young people an opportunity to succeed in the workplace, while building a human capital pipeline that will keep Massachusetts competitive in the years ahead.”

The STEM Advisory Council is working with the Massachusetts School to Career Connecting Activities system to identify and develop STEM internship opportunities throughout Massachusetts. The goal is to place more high school students in STEM internships this summer, and in the future.

More than 250 companies in STEM industries from every region of the state have hosted approximately 1,000 high school students each year since 2014.

“The future global competitiveness of Primetals Technologies depends on developing a healthy pipeline of local talent. So hosting a roundtable discussion on such a vital topic was natural for us,” **said Satoru Iijima, President and CEO, Primetals Technologies USA**. “Attracting students to STEM disciplines is essential to our long-term success in advanced manufacturing. That’s how we will continue to meet our customers’ needs in mills around the world.”

Lampin Corporation, a leading supplier of precision parts and components for the robotics, defense, medical device and Test and Measurement industries, is located in Uxbridge. The company will accept high school interns starting this summer.

“As a leader in precision manufacturing, our company is continually seeking talented and innovative students with the eagerness and desire to thrive in this important industry,” **said Bill DiBenedetto, CEO of Lampin Corporation**. “In order for our company and our state to remain competitive, providing high school students with on-the-job, nurtured opportunities to experience STEM careers is critical.”

Omni Control Technology, Inc. designs and assembles control systems for industries including transportation, medical, packaging, and energy, along with specialized systems for various robotic and factory automation applications. The

company is based in Whitinsville.

"Companies such as ours benefit greatly by having the opportunity to develop the type of workforce training we need to grow," said **Peter Bedigian, CEO of Omni Control Technology**. "Working with high school interns is an ideal way for our company to train the next generation workforce, partner with local high schools and provide new opportunities to increase employee engagement."

During the next decade, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology estimates that U.S. industries will need one million more STEM graduates than the system is expected to produce. Despite the need, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that just 1 in 6 high school seniors are proficient in math and interested in pursuing STEM higher education or careers.

Given this challenge, Massachusetts is working to connect high school students to internships at companies of all sizes across the Commonwealth. The Connecting Activities system, which features dedicated staff who work with companies and high schools, provides assistance and support to businesses throughout the internship process.

"We are proud to have developed such a strong network in Worcester and around the state that can support companies that want to hire high school interns," **Turgeon said**. "The Connecting Activities system makes it possible for businesses to engage their local high schools so they can nurture and develop their future workforce. STEM internships are a key component to ensure Massachusetts' continued economic success, particularly in the innovation economy."

To learn more or to participate, please contact Blair Brown, staff director at the STEM Advisory Council, at Blair.Brown@state.ma.us.

About the STEM Advisory Council

The vision of the STEM Advisory Council is to ensure all students in the Commonwealth receive comprehensive STEM education from highly-qualified educators so they are better informed and prepared to pursue post-secondary degrees or careers in these areas. Members of the Council include individuals from academia, business, government and non-profits who are well positioned to provide elevated awareness to the benefits of a STEM literate and skilled citizenry ready to fill the ranks of the 21st Century workforce. Building on earlier initiatives, the Governor's Advisory Council on STEM is now authorized by Section 218 of Chapter 6 of Massachusetts General Law. For more information, please visit <http://www.mass.edu/stem/home.asp>.

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