

Life After National Blue Ribbon



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Montachusett Regional Vocational-Technical School District

A Proud Moment

This year, the United States Department of Education has recognized 342 schools with the National Blue Ribbon School Award. These schools are as diverse as the student populations we all know and serve, representing:

- Public
- Private
- Traditional
- Charter, and
- Magnet schools



And the schools recognized here today represent **less than one-half of one percent** of the schools across the United States.

Transforming a School

- Lowest performing high school in the city
- One of the lowest performing vocational/technical schools in MA
- Cautious faculty



Creating a Culture of Excellence

- Community and businesses came together to build a \$90M facility
- Everything new
 - *New address*
 - *New name*
 - *New mascot*
 - *New principal*

We Needed To

- Seize the transformational moment
- Create a new vision and mission
- Prepare all students to graduate career and college ready
- Implement the new small learning community model
- Improve student outcomes



WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
2013 National Blue Ribbon School
Worcester, MA

2013-2014

Student Demographics

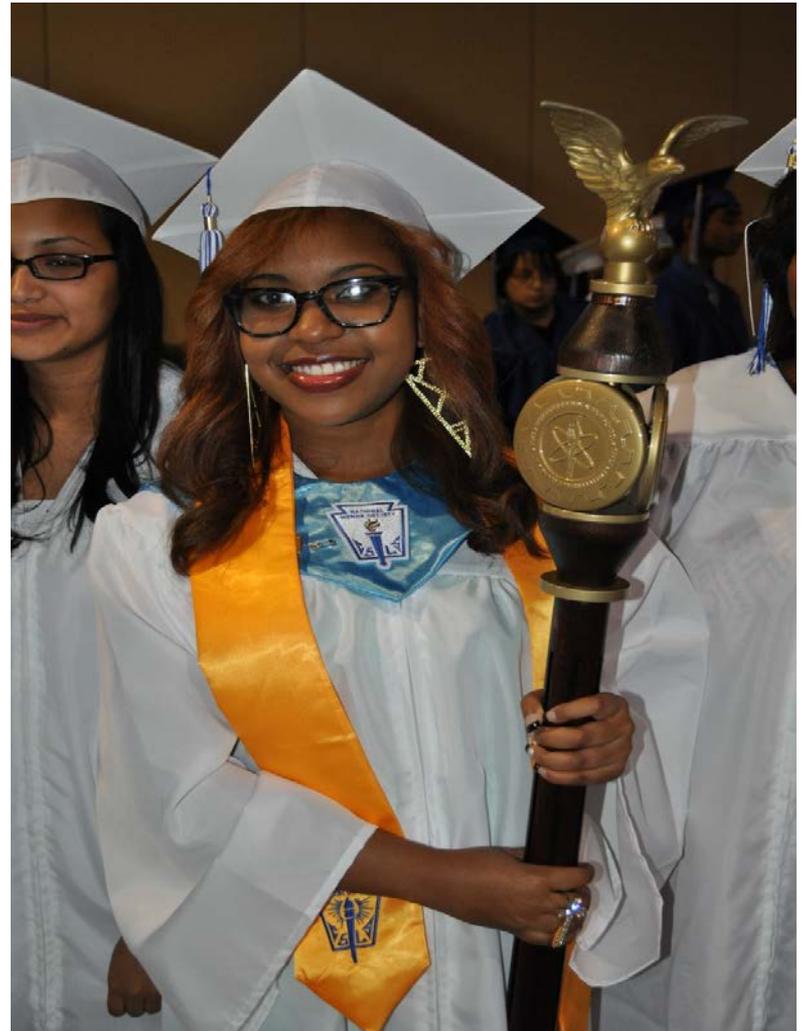
1400 Students

White	46 %
Hispanic	34 %
African American	13 %
Asian	6 %
Native American	0.6 %
Females	54 %
Males	46 %
Low Income	63 %
Special Needs	16 %
ELL	8 %



WTHS Graduation Rate 2013

- **Overall** **95.0 %**
2006 79.3 %
- African American 91.2 %
- Hispanic 93.1 %
- White 96.8 %
- Low Income 95.0 %
- Special Education 88.1%
- ELL 85.2 %
- **Dropout rate** **1.3 %**
2006 6.5 %



2013 Graduation Placement

2 & 4 Year College	82%
Career Job Placement	13%
Military	3%
Other	2%





Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Percentage of Students who are Proficient & Above

English Language Arts

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
13%	18%	23%	29%	27%	48%	56%	78%	70%	78%	88%	92%

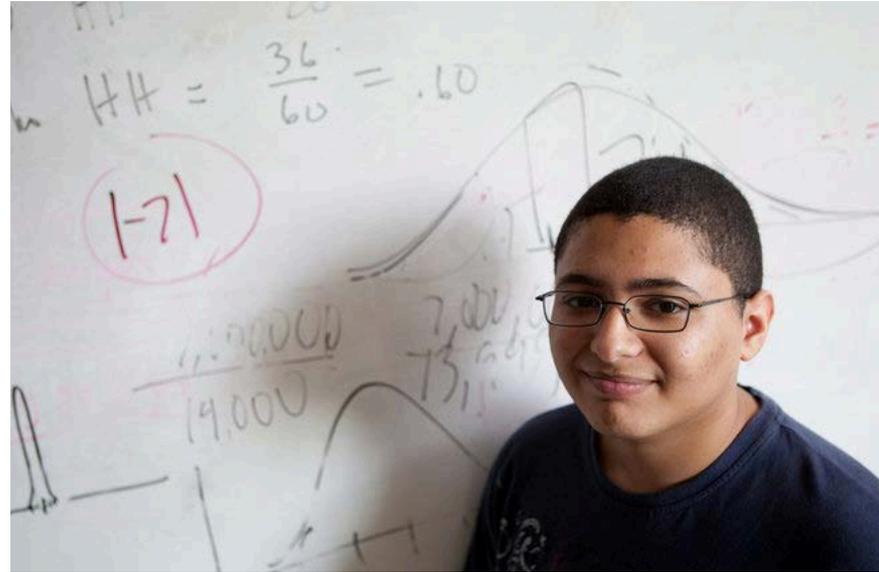
Mathematics

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4%	9%	21%	23%	35%	46%	57%	70%	70%	74%	78%	84%

Build In Rigorous Academic Courses

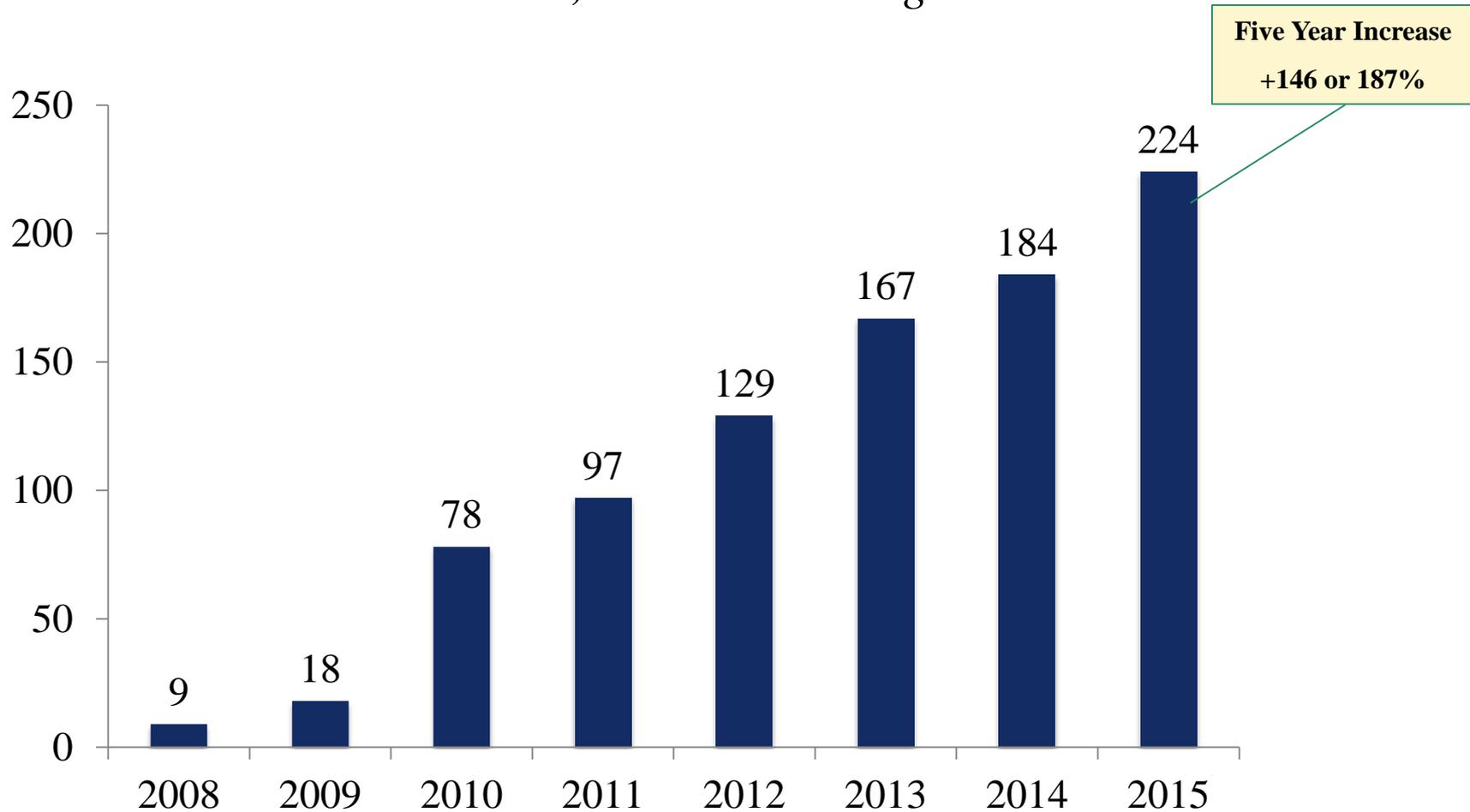
- AP Biology
- AP English Language
- AP English Lit. & Comp.
- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus
- AP Computer Science
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics
- Advanced Algebra* 3 College Credits
- Spanish 1* 3 College Credits
- Spanish 2* 3 College Credits

**Taught by the Community College as College Courses*



Worcester Tech. HS Enrollment

in AP math, science and English



College Readiness

Articulations

- *Over 30 articulation agreements*

Dual Enrollment

- *Numerous school and district dual enrollment opportunities with 10 local colleges*

Remedial College Courses

- *Vision Project for Math and English with the Community College*



Early College Credits & National Skill Standards

Biotechnology

- STEM Club
- Premier Advisory Board
- College Advisory/Pipeline
- \$825K donation UMMS
- Developing Articulations
- 100% 4-yr Placement

IT Students

- Earn up to 18 dual enrollment college credits with Northeastern University
- Cisco national exams in A+, wireless, networking & security



Early College Credits & National Skill Standards

Electrical

- LEEDS Certified Construction
- Photovoltaic/Wind
- Smart Grid Beta Testing
- National Grid Engineering Pipeline Program



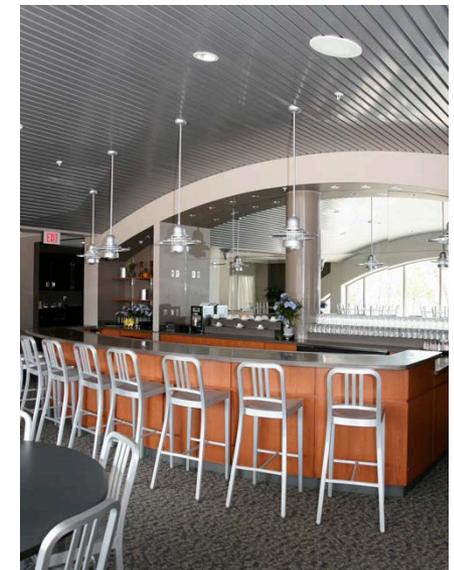
Electromechanical

- VEX Robotics Club
- 2013 VEX Robotics World Champions



Authentic Learning

- Community Veterinary Clinic
- 125 Seat Restaurant, Café/Bakery
- Full Service Salon
- 16 Bay Automotive Department
- Auto Collision Department
- State Approved Pre-School
- Web-based IT Help Desk
- Credit Union





Partnerships with Area Colleges & Universities

Solar Decathlon China

Datong, China – August 2013

- 1 of 23 teams selected from around the world to compete in the design/build of a zero-energy home.
- Collaborative effort of the U.S. Department of Energy and the China National Energy Administration.
- WTHS students provided the construction skills and labor.

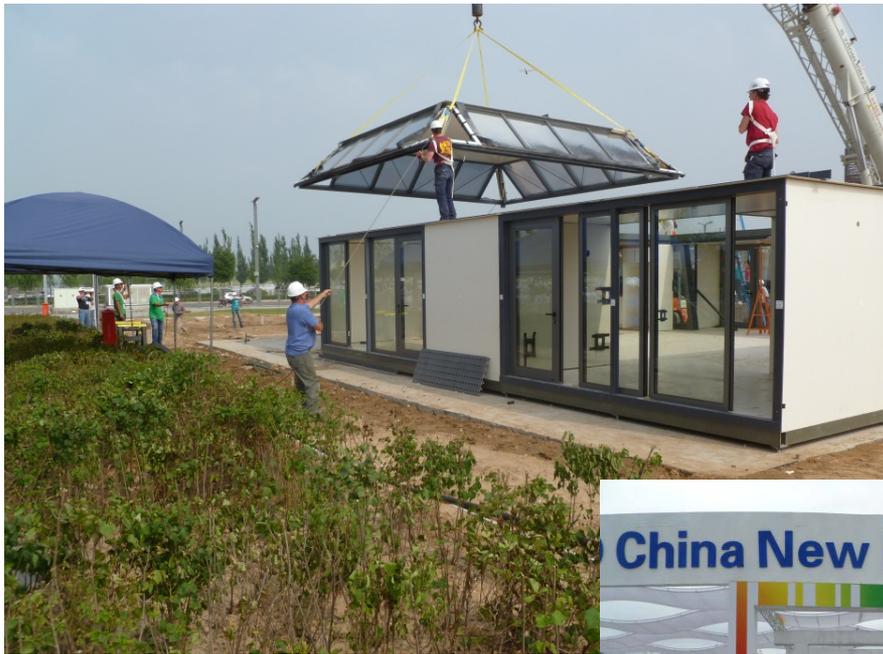


WPI

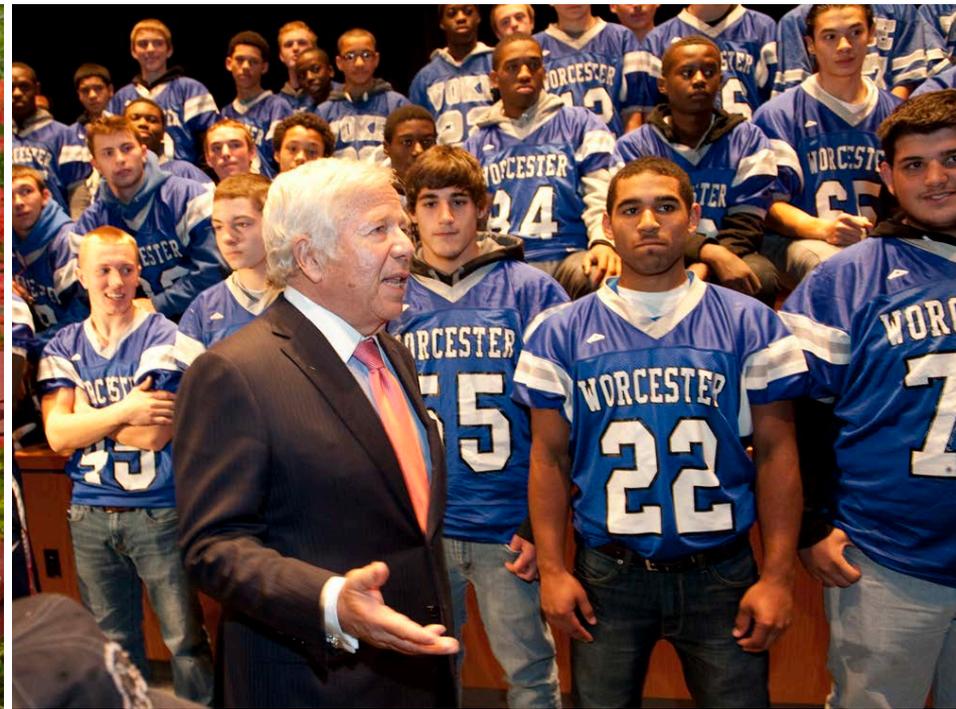


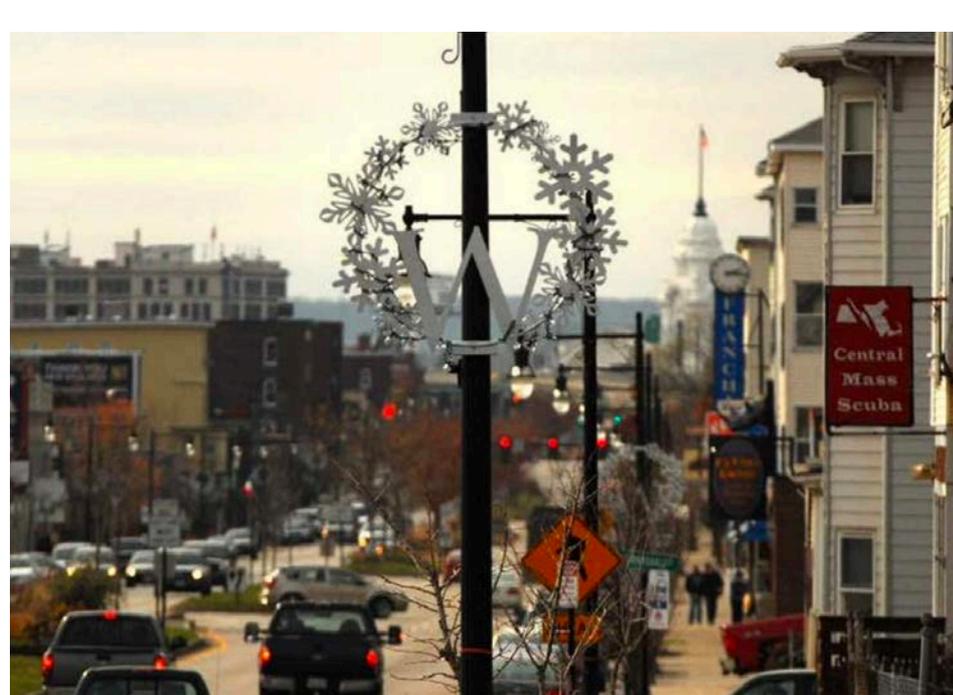
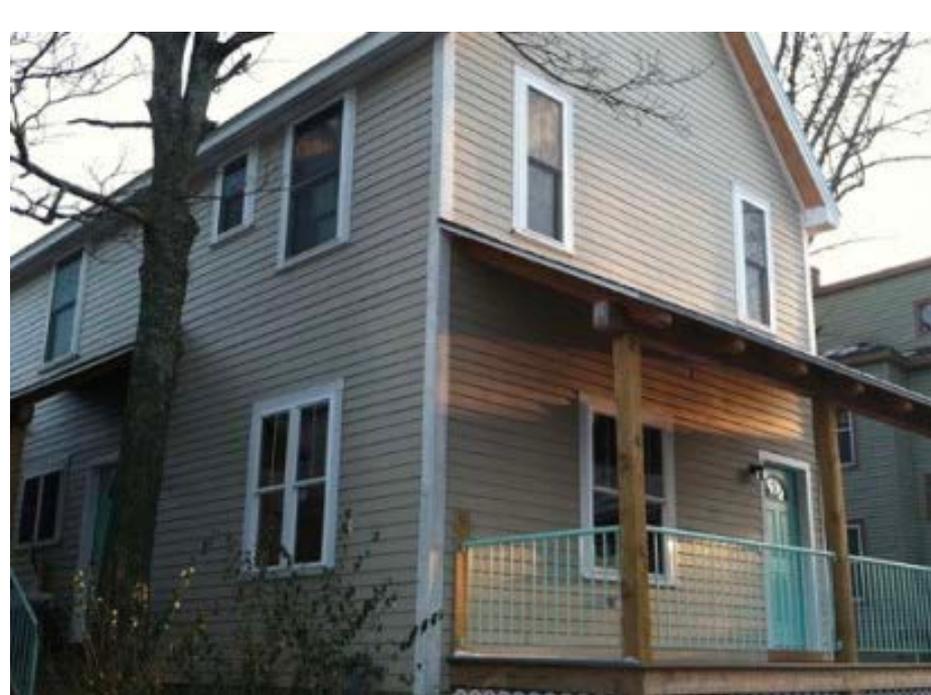
NYU·poly

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



R
Rigor
Relevance
Relationships
Responsibility





That's
impossible

Someone
like you

Just
give up.

**doubt
kills
more
dreams
than
failure
ever
will**

You can't
do that.

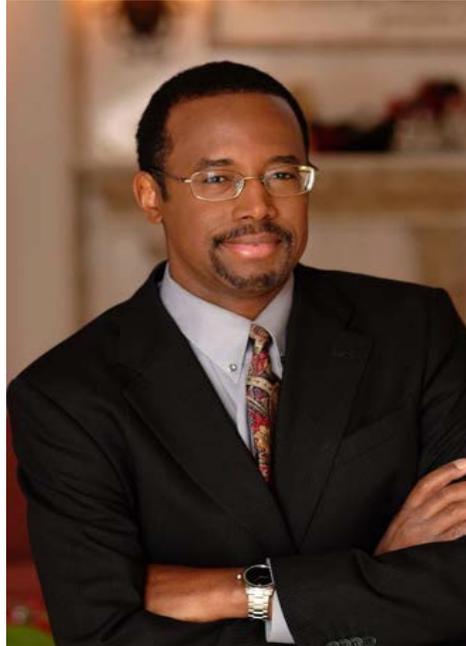
You can't
do it.

try.

WTHS Hosts Annual Motivational Speakers



Liz Murray
Homeless to Harvard
March 2009

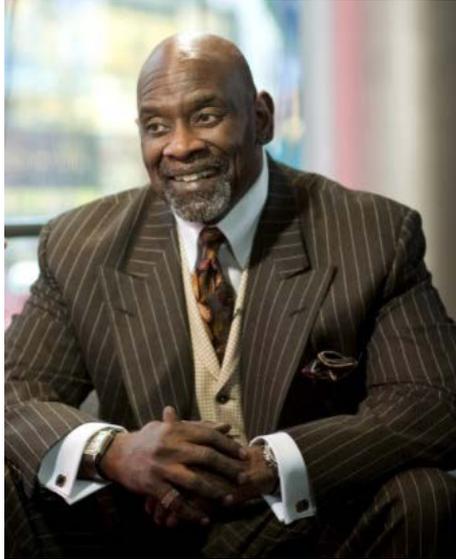


Dr. Ben Carson
Gifted Hands
March 2010



Erin Gruwell
Freedom Writers
March 2011

WTHS Hosts Annual Motivational Speakers



Chris Gardner
The Pursuit of Happyness
March 2012

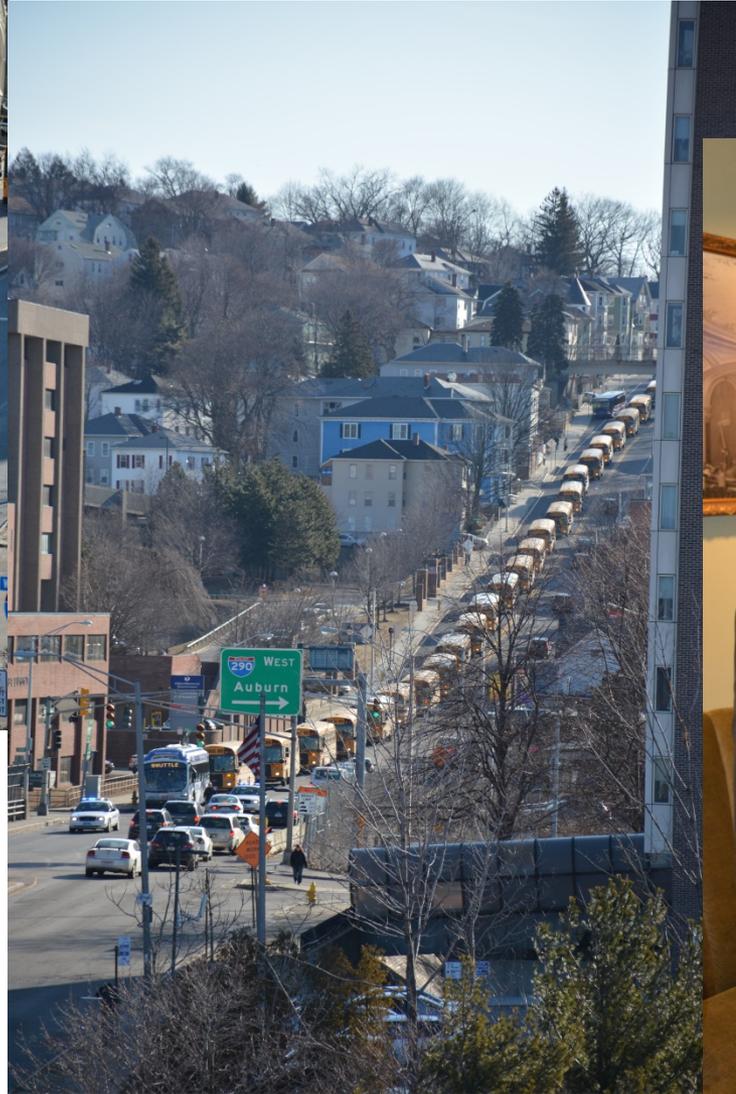


The Three Doctors –
Dr. Rameck Hunt, Dr. Sampson Davis,
and Dr. George Jenkins
May 2013



General Colin Powell,
USA (Ret.)
March 2014

General Colin Powell, U.S. Army (Ret.)



General Colin Powell, U.S. Army (Ret.)



New England Town Hall with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan





“...this school has demonstrated that regardless of whether or not you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth, regardless of what your parents’ income is, you can be extraordinarily successful if adults - as a team, not a school - an entire community rally behind them.”

Our Community Rallied Around Us...



And Our Community Was Rewarded



President Obama to WTHS Graduates: *“I want the nation to learn from Worcester Tech.”*



2014 Commencement









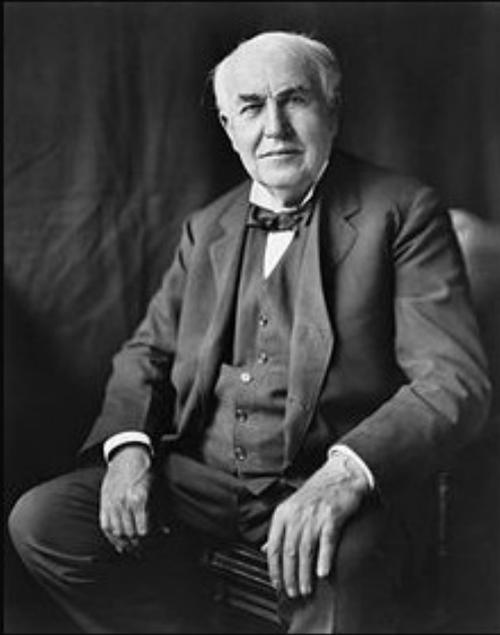






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Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

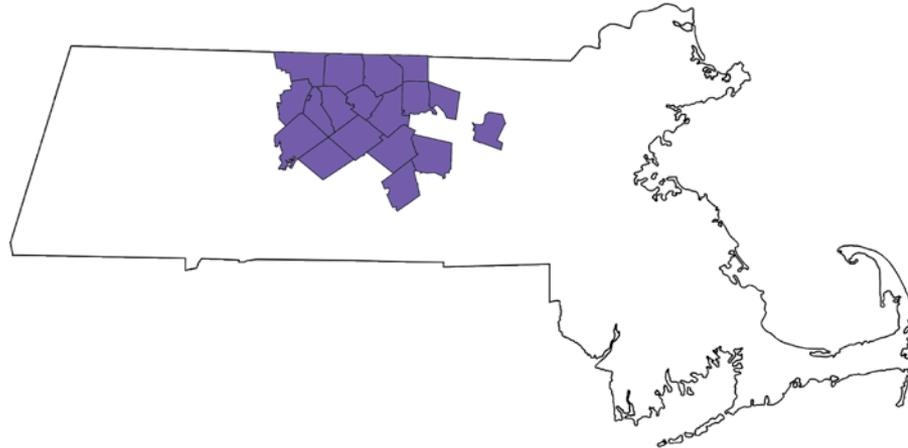
(Thomas Edison)

Opportunity Presented Itself

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District

Fitchburg, MA

- **25 Miles North of Worcester Tech**
- **Independent Regional Vocational-Technical School**
- **Serving Over 1,400 Students**
- **Eighteen Cities and Towns, Two Gateway Communities**
- **2nd Largest Regional School District in State, Geography**
- **3rd Largest Vocational School in the State, Number of Students**

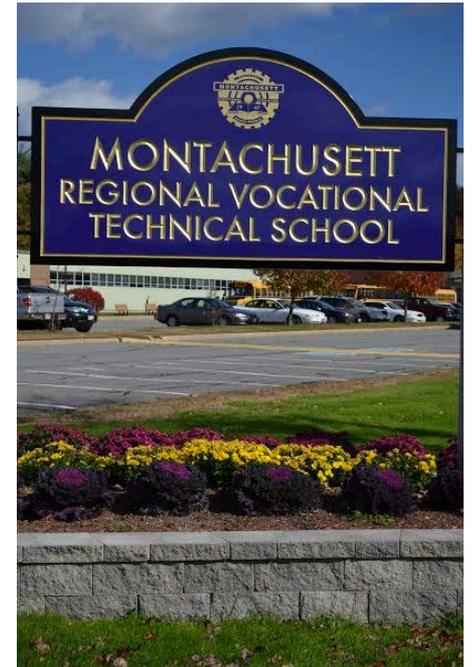


Initial Challenges

- Lack of Stable Leadership
 - *5 Superintendents in 4 years (2 Acting, 1 Interim, 2 Full-Time)*
- Climate of Mistrust
- Comfortable with Status Quo

We Needed To

- Build a Transformational Culture
- Create a Shared Vision
- Challenge the Status Quo, and Build in Rigor
- Prepare all Students to Graduate Career and College Ready
- Improve Student Outcomes



Replicate What Works

Authentic Learning Experiences & Industry Recognized Credentials

Business Technology

- OSHA 10-hour General Industry Training Certification
- Microsoft Office Specialist
 - Word
 - Excel
 - Access
 - Outlook
 - PowerPoint
- Articulation Agreements with with 2 area colleges, totaling 25 college credits



Monty Tech, in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Banks and Workers' Credit Union, has established a full-service bank on the school campus.

The bank has hired and trained our students as Bank Tellers, and is providing additional training opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in finance.



Next Steps: *Embed 1st year of Associate's degree (Business/ Marketing) into high school program.*

Expand: Make a Good Program Even Better

Authentic Learning Experiences & Cutting Edge Technology

Health Occupations

- Medical Terminology Certificate
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour General Industry Certification
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification, American Heart Association
- First Aid Certificate, American Heart Association
- Certified Nursing Assistant License, American Red Cross
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Credential, National Healthcare Association
- EMT Certification
 - 8 College Credits
- Simulation Clinic
 - *SimMan*
 - *SimJr.*
 - *SimView*



Support Innovation

Information Technology & MCJROTC

- Comp TIA A+ Exam 801 Series
- Comp TIA A+ Exam 802 Series
- Cisco CCENT Exam Voucher
- C Programming Language
- CIW Web Design Certification
- Testout PC Pro Exam
- Security+
- Lunix
- Embed AP Computer Principles
- Articulation Agreements with with 17 colleges, totaling 24 college credits

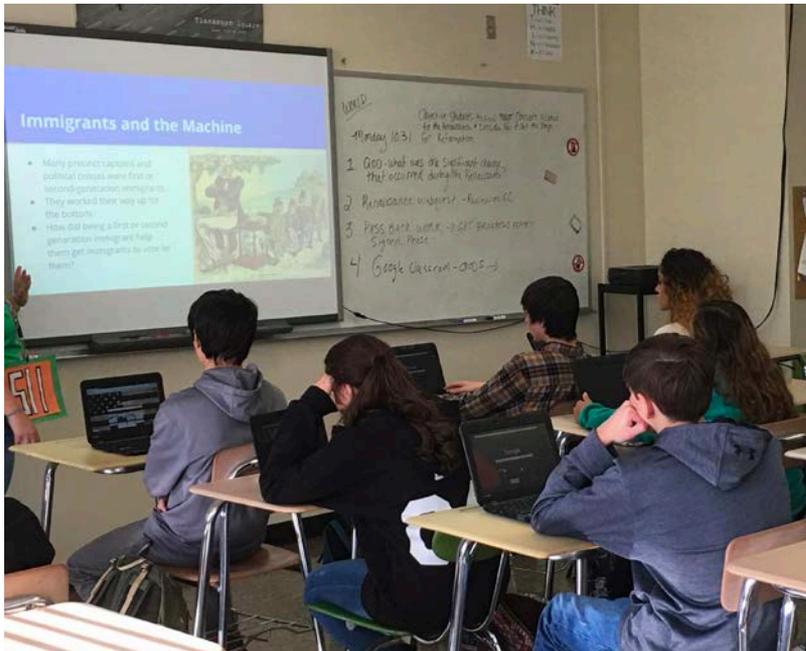


Embrace Technology & Create Meaningful Professional Development Programs



In 2015-2016, All teachers, paraprofessionals, and guidance counselors were provided with Chromebooks. Professional development programs were offered for teachers at every level.

In 2016-2017, we rolled out a full 1:1 initiative, providing all 1,145 students with Chromebooks. Professional development efforts continue to target increased use of technology in the classroom.



- 1** Chromebooks 101
Level: Beginner
- 2** Google Apps 101
Level: Beginner/ Intermediate
- 3** Designing a Google Classroom
Level: Beginner/ Intermediate
- 4** Chrome Apps & Extensions to Support Struggling Learners- Going Google!
Level: Beginner/ Intermediate
- 5** Google Apps for Administrative Assistants
Level: Beginner

Challenge the Status Quo: Build In Rigor

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Statistics
-  AP Chemistry
-  AP Environmental Science
-  AP Computer Science Principles
-  AP US History



	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Students Enrolled in AP Course	57	89	145	144
# AP Exams	62	116	187	July 2017
# Courses Offered	2	3	5	6

And When You Are Ready... Do Something BIG!



FUTURE HOME OF
Monty Tech
Veterinary Science Training Center



- Monty Tech program will serve pets from low-income families, providing well-visits, diagnostic services, immunizations, minor surgeries – all at a reduced rate
- Collaborate with post-secondary partner, Becker College
 - Students will earn a minimum of 6 college credits while still in high school, at no cost to the student
 - Becker College has offered a \$100K annual endowment for the doctor of veterinary medicine overseeing the clinic
- Program will be NAVTA accredited
- Monty Tech students and instructors are building the 7,500 sq. ft. facility, saving the district more than \$1M in labor costs

Rely On Your Partners...Big and Small

PHASE I: Design & Construction

TOTAL PROJECTED COST: \$2,250,000
(7,500 sq. ft. - \$300 per sq. ft.)

PHASE II: Equipment, Supplies and Materials

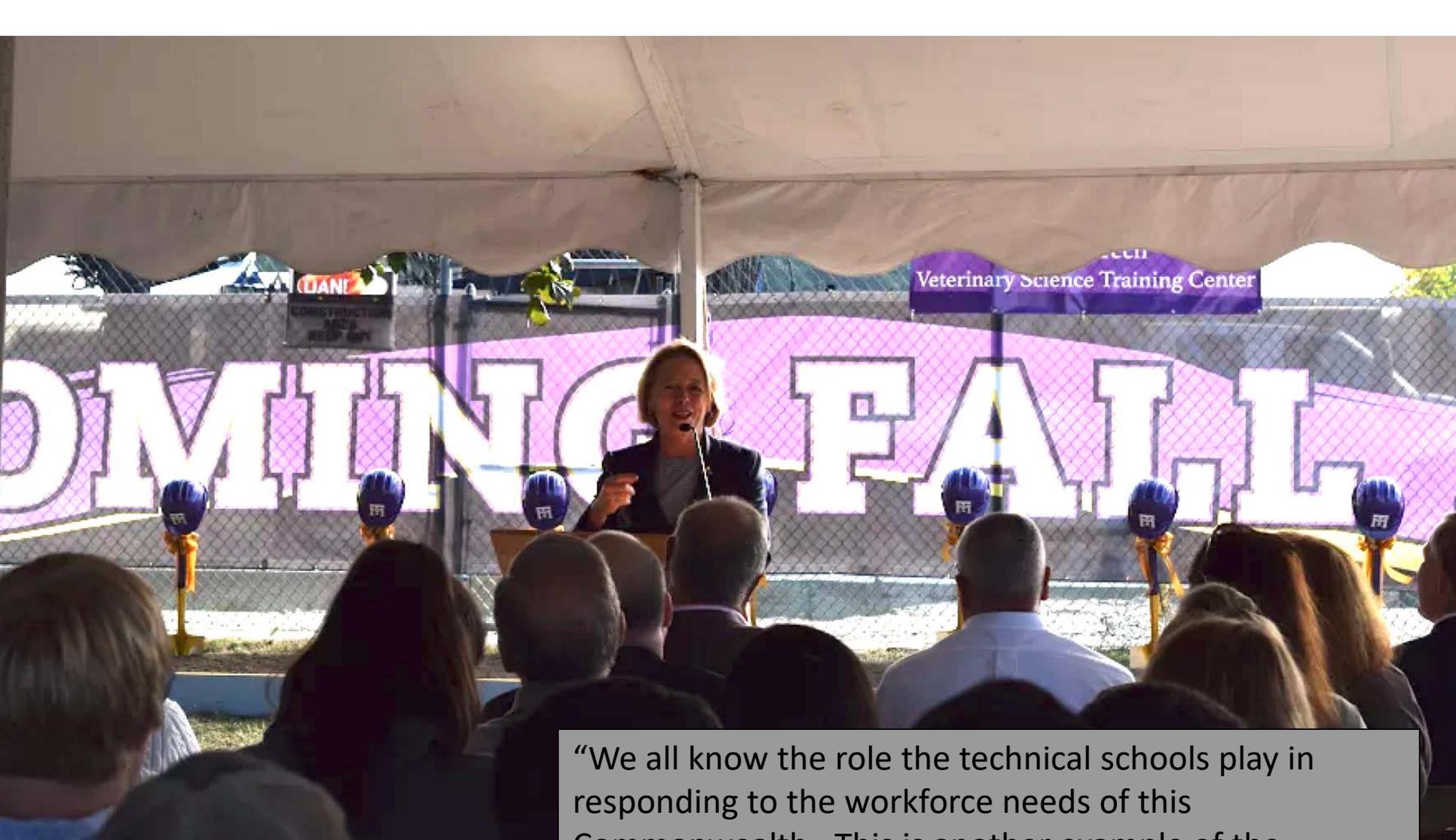
TOTAL PROJECTED COST: \$502,797



Project Made Possible By:

- Grants, Public & Private
- Individual Donations
- Corporate Sponsorships
- In-Kind Services & Discounts





“We all know the role the technical schools play in responding to the workforce needs of this Commonwealth. This is another example of the tremendous innovation that is taking place here, that the Vet Tech program responded to an emerging need - the growing need for veterinary assistants.”

- Congresswoman Niki Tsongas













2% OF THE POPULATION

GOING FOR
YOUR DREAMS

EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN

98% OF THE
POPULATION

EXCITEMENT

CONFIDENCE

BEING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

LIKING CHANGE

INSECURE

SURVIVING

YOUR COMFORT ZONE

LIVING WITHOUT
LIMITS

EXPLORING
NEW THINGS

FEAR

JUST GETTING BY

ABUNDANCE

A DULL LIFE

PLAY IT SAFE

CHOOSING
HAPPINESS

PROCRASTINATION

REGRET

ACT IN SPITE
OF FEAR

SETTLING FOR LESS

FULFILLMENT

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LIFE

Life After National Blue Ribbon

- Responsibility comes with Effective Leadership -

- Call to action: never be content
- Be the kind of leader you would follow
- Support creativity
- Give others room to grow and dream and achieve
- Reach out to help a neighboring school/ district
- Share best practices
- Represent your educational community on boards, committees, foundations, etc.
- Present your story at local, state, and national conferences- share your success
- Never forget to recognize and celebrate achievement
- Seek creative and meaningful ways to evolve and change
- Continue to develop personally and professionally so when the next great opportunity presents itself, you are **READY!**



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

- President Barack Obama