

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

GOVERNOR MURPHY PRAISES PASSAIC COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S INVESTMENT IN NEW DIANA C. LOBOSCO STEM ACADEMY

WAYNE - Lauding the importance of investing in STEM education, Governor Phil Murphy today participated in a ribbon cutting for the Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy at the Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI). Governor Murphy is committed to expanding STEM education in New Jersey, investing in the "Computer Science for All" initiative, providing support for STEM early college programs, and promoting paid STEM internships to encourage and provide greater access to science education opportunities for students across the Garden State.

"New Jersey's economic future is going to be built on the back of innovation and technology," **said Governor Murphy**. "Not only will we see tomorrow's workforce go through the doors of the Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy, but every one of the 1,200 students who leaves this academy will contribute to the diversification of an innovation economy, the broadening-out of economic opportunity, and the growth of community-transforming jobs."

The newly constructed state-of-the-art facility at PCTI includes common collaborative learning spaces, CTE & science laboratories, open classrooms, presentation and seminar halls and small group instruction areas.

PCTI focuses on an interdisciplinary STEM approach with collaboration as the fundamental structure of the program. Students will learn about three fields of study -- Biomedical and Life Sciences, Computer Science, and Engineering -- and will utilize the latest scientific and technical equipment found in research labs and design facilities.

Through the County Vocational School District Partnership Grant Program, the New Jersey Department of Education recently awarded nearly \$3 million in grants to seven county vocational systems, including PCTI. The state-funded program supports county vocational-technical school districts that partner with business and industry, comprehensive K-12 school districts, and postsecondary institutions to expand high school students' access to and participation in career and technical education (CTE) programs. PCTI received a grant in the amount of \$486,852 for its Computer Science Futures program.

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