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QCC receives \$171K in state funding to boost healthcare training programs



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Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester

By Mica Kanner-Mascolo

Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester will now be able to upgrade to industry-standard lab equipment for its nursing assistant (CNA) certificate program and surgical technology associate degree program, as the institution has received \$171,016 through the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program.

The state grant initiative works to provide funding for the purchase and installation of equipment for vocational and technical training in high-demand fields, according to the grant program's website.

In addition to the purchase of updated equipment, the award will enable QCC to expand its CNA program that currently enrolls about 140 students per year, according to a Monday press release from QCC.

"This funding will be instrumental in helping to educate more students to meet the growing demand of skilled healthcare workers that are needed locally, regionally and globally," Luis Pedraja, QCC president, said in the release.

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The funds will allow QCC to replace electrical beds, vital sign machines, and headwalls used to manage patient care accessories and purchase manikins for its nursing assistant labs while adding a full surgical setup, including a surgical table, camera, laparoscopic mocks kit, and a manakin for its surgical technology program.

"Technology changes quickly, and QCC responds swiftly to these changes. This grant allows us to upgrade our equipment so students can learn using the latest technology available," Shanan Stratis, QCC assistant dean of the school of healthcare, said in the release. "This is crucial for helping students transition smoothly into the workforce upon completing their program, as they will have already spent months practicing on the equipment in our labs and clinical settings."