

# CHAPTER SEVEN

# SCHOOLS

Reports of the Athol Royalston  
Regional School District &  
Montachusett Regional Vocational  
Technical School



**ATHOL-ROYALSTON  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR (FY15)**

The Athol-Royalston Regional School District (ARRSD) presents this report to the citizens of Athol and Royalston. This report will be organized in a slightly different format that it has been in the past. The report will have three main sections: Students, Curriculum & Instruction, and Finance & Facilities. This format has been chosen in an effort to best communicate who we serve, how we serve them, and the resources used to do so.

**STUDENTS**

**THE CLASS OF 2015**

The graduating class of 2015 represents the results of the cumulative efforts of the school system and the community. Seventy-three (73) students graduated from Athol High School (AHS) on June 7, 2015. Of these 73 graduates, 58 of them (80%) went on to attend either a two or four year college. The following is a list of the colleges in which AHS students were accepted with colleges AHS students attended in bold:

Anna Maria College	Franklin Pierce College	<b>Southern Vermont College</b>
Assumption College	Green Mountain College	Springfield College
<b>Babson College</b>	<b>Greenfield Community College</b>	Stonehill College
Becker College	Hollins University	University of Maryland
Bentley College	<b>Maine Maritime Academy</b>	University of Hartford
Bowdoin College	<b>Merrimack College</b>	University of Hawaii
<b>Bridgewater State College</b>	<b>Montserrat College of Art</b>	<b>University of Maine</b>
Bryant University	<b>Mount Wachusett Community College</b>	<b>University of Massachusetts - Amherst</b>
Champlain College	<b>Mt. Holyoke College</b>	<b>University of Massachusetts - Boston</b>
Clark University	Mt. Ida College	<b>University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth</b>
Colby College	<b>Nichols College</b>	University of Massachusetts - Lowell
<b>College of the Holy Cross</b>	North Eastern University	<b>University of New Hampshire</b>
Curry College	<b>Northpoint Bible College</b>	University of Vermont
Eastern Nazarene	Pennsylvania State University	<b>Wentworth Institute of Technology</b>
Eastern University	Purdue University	<b>Western New England University</b>
<b>Emerson College</b>	<b>Rochester Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Westfield State University</b>
Endicott College	<b>Sacred Heart College</b>	Westminster College
Fisher College	<b>St. Anselm College</b>	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Fitchburg State University	<b>Salem State University</b>	<b>Worcester State University</b>
<b>Framingham State University</b>	Simmons College	

## **THE STUDENT POPULATION**

The district enrollment in FY15 was 1,412 students. This was a decrease of 25 students from FY14. This figure represents 82.14% of the students in Athol and Royalston who count towards the district's foundation budget. In FY15 the number of students who elected to choice out to another district increased from 335 to 367. However, the number of students who elected to choice into the district also increased from 39 to 57. This resulted in a net choice out of 310 students in FY15.

During the 2014-2015 school year, 43.7 percent of the student body was classified as economically disadvantaged. This number represents 617 students who are classified in this category based on qualifying for free or reduced lunch or because they receive a qualified support service through the state.

### **Special Education Students**

The District served 394 students with special needs age 3 to 22 during the 2014-2015 school year. This represents 27.6 percent of the total student population. The District follows all state and federal regulations requiring a full continuum of services for students to ensure access to the general education curriculum. Approximately 47 students are served in Out of District (OOD) placements due to their intensive instructional, physical and/or emotional needs. Extended year services for approximately 50 students prevent significant regression in their academic and/or social-emotional skills over the summer break.

### **English Language Learners**

During the 2014-2015 school year, ARRSD had 21 students (1.5%), grades pre-k – 12, spread over 5 schools, who qualify for direct English language instruction according to state and federal laws. For the majority, Spanish is the first language, but Portuguese, Gujarati, Chinese and Vietnamese are also represented. These students receive services from a licensed E.S.L. teacher. There are also several students who have exited the English language learner program and are monitored to make sure they are succeeding socially and academically in grade level courses. Student progress is formally measured by the annual ACCESS test as well as the MCAS test, and while there are sizable individual fluctuations in growth rates, there is general growth.

For the past 3 years, the district has been a participant in the RETELL initiative. It has offered several DESE funded, on-site, graduate-level courses for all math, social studies, reading, special education, English/language arts and science teachers in the district. These courses stress best practices for teaching the limited English students at all levels of fluency in their classrooms. Over 65 teachers and administrators in the district have taken the training. Not only are these strategies shown to be excellent for English Language Learners, they are also excellent for all students who enter school with limited vocabulary and insufficient expressive language. These methods dovetail well with the Common Core requirements and other district initiatives, such as Reader's Workshop and Loony Math. Through the RETELL initiative, all teachers are now consciously language teachers while they teach their content, which should benefit many language-limited students in the ARRSD.

The ELL program continues to incorporate the assets which multi-language speakers bring to our schools. During the past winter it ran a recess Spanish Club at Riverbend School where the Spanish speaking students were the "teachers." There is an English class for parents and community members as well where adult speakers of other languages can network and connect to the schools and greater community. The annual Multicultural Festival at the middle school, where classes and families celebrate heritage and investigate global issues, will be held on June 9 from 6:30 - 8 pm.

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

For the 2014-2015 school year, ARRSD was classified as a level 4 district. The Riverbend-Sanders Street School was classified as a level 4 school and thus the district becomes level 4. All of the other schools in the district were level 3 schools. Level 3 schools are those schools in the lowest 20% of the state. While the district's MCAS scores were still below the state average, the district-wide growth for students was in the normal range (43<sup>rd</sup> percentile for ELA and 44<sup>th</sup> percentile for Math)

Almost 49 percent of the class of 2015 took at least one AP course; this is higher than the state average of 39.7 percent. Overall, 70 students at AHS took a total of 128 AP exams. Two AHS students were recognized as AP scholars in 2015 and one AHS student was recognized as an AP scholar with distinction. The 2015 AHS SAT scores were 480 on the Reading, 463 on the Writing, and 483 on the math. These are below the state averages of 508, 497, and 521 respectively.

### **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES**

In 2014-2015 AHS began an honors academy. This is a program that focuses on community service and college readiness by working with students to have them research, propose, and implement a community service project during their high school career. Eighth grade students were able to apply for entrance into the honors academy. The initial class had 16 students accepted and enrolled in the honors academy.

The 2014-2015 school year was also the first year for the Athol Early College Experience. This program is a partnership between Athol and Mount Wachusett Community College in which a limited number of AHS students could apply to become full-time dual enrollment students at MWCC working on both their associates degree and high school diploma. While participating in this program students are still enrolled at AHS and are able to participate in AHS extra-curricular activities. Upon completion, they will receive an AHS diploma.

The new AHS schedule implement in 2014-2015 created an intervention period to help provide time to meet individual student needs as well as an advisory and a fixed last period of the day. The goal of the fixed last period is to increase the ability of the school to interact with the community and expand the amount of vocational and internship opportunities available to the students.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

During the 2014-2015 school year there were two drama productions at AHS. The fall play was *A Play about a Dragon*, and the spring musical was *The Wedding Singer*. Additionally, in June the drama club assisted with the elementary production of *Xanadu Junior*.

In addition to the drama club at AHS, there are a variety of other clubs such as: A-Z Club (G.S.A.), best buddies, catalyst group, environmental club, math team, national honor society, student council, training active bystanders, and the 84 group. Additionally, Chris Herron visited AHS in 2014 and that led to AHS's participation in Project Purple.

In terms of athletics, there were not many changes during the 2014-2015 school year. A full list of participation including the records of each team and if they qualified for the post season tournament can be found following this report.

## **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

ARRSD is taking major steps to work towards improving the academic achievement of the students and improve the overall quality of education that we offer. The following are some of the steps that have been taken to facilitate our improvement efforts.

### **Strategic Plan**

Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and students met to develop a new five year strategic plan for the district. This plan was voted on and accepted by the school committee in June of 2015. The strategic plan is broken down into the following areas: Student Achievement, Funding and Finance, Community Partnerships, Facilities, Leadership and Human Resources, Climate and Culture, and Technology. This plan will guide our work as we continue to move forward as a district as we enter the 2015-2016 school year.

### **Turnaround Plan**

The turnaround plan for Riverbend-Sanders Street was written at the end of the 2013-2014 school year and saw its first full year of implementation during the 2014-2015 school year. This plan called for radically changing the way

in which the district approached both literacy and math instruction at the elementary level. The steps in the turnaround plan were adopted as the school improvement plans for each of the elementary schools to ensure consistency across the district.

### **Literacy Professional Development**

To improve the way in which we teach literacy, Teachers for Teachers was contracted as our literacy consultant. Teachers for Teachers worked with the staff regularly throughout the entire 2014-2015 school year to begin working on how to assess students reading levels and how to implement the Readers Workshop model from both a curriculum and instructional standpoint. This work has continued into the 2015-2016 school year and will continue at least through the 2016-2017 school year.

### **Math Professional Development**

In order to address the way we were teaching math, Looney Math Consulting was contracted as our mathematics consultant. Looney math consultants met with the elementary staff on a regular basis during the 2014-2015 school year to focus on both the content and instructional strategies for teaching the content in the curriculum frameworks. The Eureka math program was adopted as the program to support our mathematics curriculum. A parent night was held in the fall of 2014 to help explain the components of the new math program. Additionally, in the spring of 2015, consultants from Looney Math began working in the middle school as well, to help begin the process of vertical alignment in the math curriculum.

### **District and School Assistance Centers**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) District and School Assistance Centers (DSAC) are also key partners in our continued improvement efforts. Working with DSAC we began to implement learning walks and to focus on tiered systems of support. DSAC assists the district at all levels. DSAC is the assistance branch of the DESE, and we work with them to help us identify areas of concern and then to build the capacity to address these areas.

### **Technology**

In preparing students to meet the demands of the core curriculum and the state standards for integrating technology in education, the ARRSB technology department updated its goals based on classroom needs and creative use of available hardware and software. Technology serves students, teachers and administration as a necessary tool in accomplishing their daily work in a cost effective manner. The goals leverage the way in which new and donated equipment can best be utilized to support the diverse and varied learning and teaching environment.

The technology department has partnered with many resources across the northeast for additional computers, monitors, interactive whiteboards, projectors, printers, WiFi and other equipment on a donation basis. Many donations are brought up to current performance specifications through modifying and adding internal components. Additionally, grants have been secured to purchase ninety (90) new laptops for elementary student use. These are used daily for math and ELA instruction among other curriculum pieces. They also serve for on-line assessments. Older computers and operating systems are being phased out and replaced by newer and faster effective systems.

The beginning of the academic year saw the implementation of MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments for grades K-11 that measure academic progress of students' learning through an on-line portal three times a year. These "snapshots" are able to give teachers and administrators more immediate feedback guiding how curriculum delivery should be adjusted to meet the students' needs and can translate to better student learning.

Teachers continue to use tablet technology to gather evidence of their teaching practice and gather examples and evidence for the teacher evaluation system. Administration is able to meet and work with teachers using feedback through this technology.

The Family Portal website continues to be a source of immediate student information for family members and encourages interactivity between families and teachers. This past year, more families have been connected to their students' assignments, projects and grades on a timely basis.

We need to note that the District has little to no funds in its annual budget to buy, lease or refresh technology. All technology improvements are the result of donations and grants, when available, to the District.

## **FINANCE & FACILITIES**

### **Finances**

The operating budget for FY15 was approved at \$23,252,470. This was presented as a balanced budget in which anticipated revenues and expenses would match. The actual expenditures were \$22,247,177 and the actual revenues were \$23,522,811. This resulted in a positive balance that the district was able to carry forward in the excess and deficiency account. Overall, the FY15 budget represented an increase of 3.18% from the FY14 budget. This increase covered contractual increases and rising costs in health care. There were also some savings realized from the drop in oil prices. There were also significant changes to the amount of prep time that teachers received that were implemented during the FY15 school year. These changes allowed for more efficient use of staff and resulted in some reductions in force as a consequence. Complete FY15 financial statements and salaries will follow this report.

### **Grants**

In addition to the operating budget, ARRSD receives additional grant funding. Last year ARRSD received \$1,006,634 in entitlement allocations. These funds were primarily used for special education services, title I interventions, and professional development. All of these funds must be spent according to the restrictions placed on them by the particular grant. Grant funds must be used to supplement the budget, not to supplant existing expenses that the district has for its regular programming.

### **Facilities**

Construction at the new Athol Community Elementary School (ACES) began during FY15. This school is going to be a state of the art modern facility completely outfitted with modern technology. This building is scheduled to open in August of 2016 and it will replace all of the existing Athol elementary schools. The opening of this school will reduce the buildings in the district to four. Three of these four buildings can be classified as modern facilities that promote student learning. Athol High School is the facility that will need to be the focus of our improvements and renovations once ACES opens.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Please go to the ARRSD website at [www.arrsd.org](http://www.arrsd.org) for more information. You can find recent news, contact information, reports from the state and other agencies, and school committee agendas and minutes there. Additionally, you can follow the ARRSD on our Facebook Page: go to <https://www.facebook.com> and search for Athol-Royalston Regional School District. Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office of the superintendent at (978) 249-2400.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy Melbourne, Chair, ARRSD School Committee



Steven C. Meyer, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, ASSRD

Athol-Royalston Regional School District  
2014-2015 School Year  
Athletic Department Report

**INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS**

	<b>VARSITY</b>	Participants	Paid Coaches	Volunteer Coaches	Record	Tournament Appearance
1	Football	18	2	0	5-6	No
2	Boys Soccer	15	1	1	9-9-2	Yes
3	Girls Soccer	18	1	0	8-9-2	Yes
4	** Girls Volleyball	11	1	0	18-4	Yes
5	Field Hockey	13	1	0	0-18	No
6	Football Cheerleading	12	1	0	n/a	n/a
7	Boys Basketball	9	1	0	3-17	No
8	** Girls Basketball	10	1	0	18-5	Yes
9	Wrestling	17	1	1	7-16-1	n/a
10	Winter Cheerleading	13	1	0	n/a	n/a
11	Boys Indoor Track	16	1	0	1-8	n/a
12	Girls Indoor Track	16	1	0	2-8	n/a
13	Baseball	11	1	1	5-15	No
14	Softball	12	1	1	14-7	Yes
15	** Boys Volleyball	14	1	1	16-4	Yes
16	Boys Track and Field	23	2	0	0-9	n/a
17	Girls Track and Field	14	1	0	1-7	n/a
**	<b>League Champions</b>	220	18	7		

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

1	Football	15	1	0		
2	Boys Soccer	16	1	0		
3	Girls Soccer	16	1	0		
4	Girls Volleyball	14	1	0		
5	Field Hockey	0	0	0		
6	Boys Basketball	11	1	0		
7	Girls Basketball	15	1	0		
8	Baseball	13	1	0		
9	Softball	13	1	0		
10	Boys Volleyball	12	1	0		
		116	10	0		

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1	Football	38	2	1		
2	Boys Soccer	13	1	0		
3	Girls Soccer	18	1	0		
4	Field Hockey	14	1	0		
5	Boys Basketball	16	1	0		
6	Girls Basketball	12	1	1		
7	Winter Cheerleading	13	1	0		
8	Baseball	15	1	0		
9	Softball	15	1	0		
10	Track and Field	28	1	0		
		182	11	2		

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**BALANCE SHEET**

JUNE 30, 2015

	<u>General</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 4,298,275	\$ 805,714	\$ 5,103,989
Investments	-	24,254	24,254
Receivables:			
Intergovernmental	59,489	293,804	353,293
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,357,764</b>	<b>\$ 1,123,772</b>	<b>\$ 5,481,536</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Warrants payable	\$ 504,779	\$ 106,829	\$ 611,608
Accrued payroll and withholdings	1,505,981	-	1,505,981
Other liabilities	281	-	281
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,011,041</b>	<b>106,829</b>	<b>2,117,870</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Nonspendable	339,516	-	339,516
Restricted:	-		1,028,737
Circuit Breaker		346,594	346,594
School Lunch		2,180	2,180
School Choice		475,079	475,079
Out of District Tuition		71,254	71,254
Athletic Revolving		58,828	58,828
Miscellaneous Revolving		43,989	43,989
Bonded Projects		4,488	4,488
Expendable Permanent Funds		26,325	26,325
Assigned:		-	
For Next Year's Expenditures	500,000		500,000
Encumbrances	411,837		411,837
Unassigned	1,095,370	(11,794)	1,083,576
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>2,346,723</b>	<b>1,016,943</b>	<b>3,363,666</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 4,357,764</b>	<b>\$ 1,123,772</b>	<b>\$ 5,481,536</b>

Name (FY15)	Gross Wages
ADAMS, JENNIFER L	\$ 675.00
ALLEN, EILEEN R	\$ 62,122.81
ALLEN, TERESA M	\$ 25,999.65
ALVAREZ, ANNETTE	\$ 3,255.07
AMES, JENNIFER L	\$ 69,371.48
ANDERSON, BARBARA L	\$ 53,904.06
ANDERSON, KURT M	\$ 56,009.40
ARES, DANIELLE J	\$ 3,288.41
ARNOLD, ELEANOR M.J.	\$ 38,614.38
ARPIDE, JENNIFER L	\$ 54,669.67
BACIGALUPO, BONNIE L	\$ 21,716.41
BAILEY, CHRISTINE M	\$ 1,320.00
BALZARINI, HENRY L	\$ 5,415.00
BANNISTER, COLLEEN A	\$ 3,459.25
BARRUS, SHIRLEY M	\$ 375.00
BARTLETT, LYDIA L	\$ 61,865.80
BASSO, JENNIFER A	\$ 190.00
BELDEN, DEVIN A	\$ 225.00
BELLUARDO-COBB, SUZANNE E	\$ 975.00
BENJAMIN, BONNIE B	\$ 89,181.70
BERGERON, DEBRA M	\$ 71,095.75
BERGQUIST DARLING, LORI S	\$ 11,675.94
BERLINGER, JOHN A	\$ 44,519.44
BERNARD, LORRAINE M	\$ 75.00
BERRY, JILL E	\$ 9,551.57
BERTHIAUME, NANCY E	\$ 2,860.00
BERTRAND, LAUREEN G	\$ 73,155.53
BEVIS, DANIEL R	\$ 60,650.88
BEZIO, JOYCE I	\$ 14,390.72
BIANCHI, HEATHER J	\$ 3,959.38
BILLINGHAM, DIANE L	\$ 39,463.20
BILLINGHAM, GEOFFREY J	\$ 2,119.58
BLAKE, KATHLEEN M	\$ 40,111.40
BLANKENSHIP, ANDREA M	\$ 76.35
BLASCO, MAUREEN G	\$ 1,935.30
BODINE, BONNIE J	\$ 66,815.06
BOORE, MONICA R	\$ 34,263.97
BOUCHER, BRIAN D	\$ 2,206.85
BOUDREAU, SAMANTHA A	\$ 2,583.36
BOUTELL, DONNA	\$ 22,366.20

BRAILEY, JENNIFER MARIE	\$ 6,751.92
BRENNAN, LINDA A	\$ 6,875.78
BRIGGS, DONNA M	\$ 30,681.54
BRIGHENTI, MARY J	\$ 6,655.75
BROUILLET, ERICA S	\$ 2,336.70
BROWN, CAROLYN A	\$ 19,464.63
BULGER, CHERILYN A	\$ 19,595.65
BUTLAND, BRENDA A	\$ 44,273.35
BYARS, BIANCA J	\$ 375.00
BYRNE-BEGIN, KATHERINE T	\$ 74,159.95
CALDWELL, WILLIAM J	\$ 39,975.81
CALVI, MYRA J	\$ 76,051.95
CARANFA, PAMELA M	\$ 150.00
CARNIE, MARY C	\$ 8,259.50
CARR, AARON D	\$ 693.92
CASELLA, MARY K	\$ 18,785.39
CASTONGUAY, MARCIA A	\$ 17,605.46
CASTONGUAY, SARA L	\$ 5,066.42
CETTO, HOLLY A	\$ 60,808.09
CHADWICK, CASEY L	\$ 40,034.01
CHAGNON, MELISSA L	\$ 3,360.00
CHAMBERLAIN, JESSEE J	\$ 3,761.02
CHAMBERLAIN, RACHAEL M	\$ 38,419.20
CHANAKI, KAREN G	\$ 43,557.68
CHASE, ELLEN M	\$ 22,685.44
CHAUVETTE, SHARON A	\$ 29,422.05
CHIASSON, SCOTT A	\$ 41,176.50
CLARK, SARAH A	\$ 225.00
CLEVELAND, TIMOTHY L	\$ 3,459.25
CLIFFORD, PAUL P	\$ 7,175.55
COLE, HOLLY S	\$ 49,062.21
COLEMAN, ALISHA M	\$ 44,979.40
COLMENARES, KATHY J	\$ 79,573.75
CROSBY, LAURA I	\$ 23,764.21
CROSS, STEPHANIE C	\$ 4,371.26
CURRIE, SARAH C	\$ 150.00
CUTLER, MONA L	\$ 1,304.84
DEASY, MICHAEL J	\$ 73,962.66
DEVAULT, BUNI B	\$ 22,297.94
DEVAULT, JOSHUA L	\$ 2,512.50
DEVENEAU, ANGELA J	\$ 23,810.93

DEWITT, JESSICA M	\$ 2,793.37
DICKSON, ROBERT	\$ 72,550.48
DIVOLL, REBECCA J	\$ 21,204.71
DOBSON, RYAN E	\$ 1,399.86
DONOVAN, JASON P	\$ 3,992.53
DONOVAN, LAUREN E	\$ 32,859.76
DRAZEK, ALLISON M	\$ 573.75
DREW, CYNTHIA L	\$ 72,157.82
DROUIN, CINDY E	\$ 74,080.32
DUFOUR, KATHLEEN C	\$ 7,700.37
DUGAS, DIANNA E	\$ 1,734.28
DUPLESSIS, SCOTT A	\$ 40,085.25
EASTMAN, DEBRA A	\$ 74,757.47
EDMONDS, GRACEMARIE S	\$ 18,933.80
EGAN MD, RONALD D	\$ 5,387.00
ELIASZ, CHRISTINE L	\$ 72,751.95
ELLIS, DIANNE M	\$ 92,901.60
ELLIS, LISA M	\$ 20,239.08
ELLISON, NICHOLAS S	\$ 750.00
ERICKSON, KRISTIN M	\$ 8,056.56
ERICKSON, PATRICIA	\$ 39,463.20
ERVIN, ELIZABETH N	\$ 120,000.00
EUVRARD, SHARON L	\$ 55,891.70
FERRANTI, JEFFREY L	\$ 109,273.00
FISHER, NATHAN	\$ 1,399.86
FLAGG, APRIL L	\$ 2,786.22
FOSTER, THERESA L	\$ 24,145.88
FRANCK, BARBARA	\$ 69,443.44
FRASER, GENEVIEVE C	\$ 1,987.50
FRASER, RACHELLE	\$ 4,145.00
GABRENAS, JOSHUA P	\$ 36,690.16
GABRENAS, JOYCE	\$ 32,366.22
GAIGNARD, HYMELED E	\$ 1,425.00
GAMBILL, TRACY L	\$ 7,273.87
GATAUTIS, SUSAN R	\$ 2,523.75
GATES, TABATHA E	\$ 933.60
GAUVIN, MATTHEW	\$ 10,423.09
GESNER, LAURA A	\$ 46,892.33
GIANCATERINO, JENNIFER L	\$ 45,109.21
GIROUARD, ERIN J	\$ 59,468.73
GLADDEN, COLLEEN R	\$ 22,461.08

GLATCZAK, BRITTANY R	\$ 1,259.87
GODIN, DEBBIE J	\$ 51,612.89
GOLDTHWAITE, DARLENE E	\$ 74,988.09
GOSPODAREK, ELIZABETH A	\$ 66,693.12
GRAHAM, MELISSA S	\$ 52,800.87
GRAHAM, SHEILA L	\$ 2,748.75
GRANQUIST, JOSHUA M	\$ 1,200.00
GROSKY, ANNE E	\$ 19,233.69
GRUTCHFIELD, MARY SCHISSEL	\$ 70,780.17
GUILBAULT, PETER B	\$ 23,149.31
HACHEY, HEATHER MARIE	\$ 5,662.50
HAGER, CYNTHIA C	\$ 24,800.20
HAINS, FRANK E	\$ 85,438.18
HALL, GARRETT H	\$ 1,399.86
HALL, SHEILA D	\$ 60,834.15
HANDY, MARIE JANE	\$ 105,328.00
HAUSE, BENJAMIN J	\$ 34,171.80
HAYDOCY, TERRI-LYNNE	\$ 21,406.66
HEATH, TRAVIS K	\$ 1,399.86
HERK, BRADLEY F	\$ 385.11
HERK, HEIDI A	\$ 11,984.64
HERK, TIMOTHY M	\$ 2,102.82
HEUER, HEIDI S	\$ 70,881.05
HEYMANN, KIMBERLY M	\$ 36,058.44
HOLDEN, JENNIFER A	\$ 900.00
HOPKINS, BRENDA J	\$ 19,120.46
HORRIGAN, KATHLEEN E	\$ 16,325.99
HUBBLE, JENNIFER C	\$ 8,165.14
HUGHES, CYNTHIA A	\$ 40,813.20
HUGHES, MARGERY E	\$ 62,750.61
HUME, ELIZABETH A	\$ 9,351.66
HUME, JAIME D	\$ 42,499.84
HUME, LORNE K	\$ 20,499.55
HUNTER, ELLY T	\$ 70,902.72
HUNTER, SCOTT A	\$ 71,812.63
JACKSON, LINDA A	\$ 6,796.42
JASKOVIK, LINDA L	\$ 73,990.17
JEFFERY, BRANDON J	\$ 3,866.28
JELLEY, CHERYL A	\$ 61,474.09
JENNINGS, LAURIE J	\$ 8,145.50
JOHNSON, TRACY E	\$ 59,277.26

JOHNSON, VICKI L	\$ 4,924.76
JOHNSTONE, SHERRY A	\$ 24,176.43
JOLLY, TREFFLE J	\$ 2,962.50
JONES, LEAH M	\$ 72,555.63
JOYCE, ALISON L	\$ 13,581.25
KILHART, KATHLYN L	\$ 570.00
KIMBALL, RICHARD E JR	\$ 46,469.27
KING, AMANDA M	\$ 7,230.88
KING, DAVID P	\$ 108,535.44
KING, DENISE M	\$ 11,353.10
KING, SARAH S	\$ 62,624.11
KITZMILLER, ANGELA C	\$ 33,524.80
KLANSEK, THOMAS W	\$ 36,388.75
KNECHTEL, SALLI A	\$ 38,770.05
KOLICK, JOANN	\$ 1,924.04
KOZIAK, AMY-BETH	\$ 67,266.70
KOZIOL, DEBORAH A	\$ 4,400.00
LABOMBARDE, PATRICIA A	\$ 91,459.64
LAFOUNTAIN, LAURA P	\$ 2,043.64
LAJOIE, DONNA R	\$ 76,167.00
LAJOIE, MARIE A	\$ 32,054.40
LAROCHE, JENNIFER	\$ 64,976.21
LAROSE, WILLIAM P	\$ 80,115.21
LATHAM, KAYLA A	\$ 11,417.10
LATOUR, JANET P	\$ 11,353.75
LAWRENCE, ROSE I	\$ 32,366.22
LAWTON, MARLENE A	\$ 48,384.90
LEANDER, MICHAEL S	\$ 13,846.16
LEBLANC, DIAN M	\$ 6,675.00
LEBLANC, NICOLE C	\$ 4,013.77
LEESHA, KIMBERLY M	\$ 55,568.93
LEWANDOWSKI-HARDING, TINA M	\$ 72,467.57
LIDDY, JEAN M	\$ 26,164.90
LITCHFIELD, NANCY L	\$ 10,226.10
MACKINNON, KERI A	\$ 65,986.46
MAGAZU, AIMEE	\$ 76,467.47
MAGEE, ROSEMARY	\$ 76,951.95
MAILLET, VICKI M	\$ 58,981.10
MALLET, DAYNA R	\$ 19,281.04
MANN, THERESA L	\$ 23,501.12
MARTIN, SUZANNE L	\$ 25,178.63

MARYNOK, JULIE M	\$ 60,595.83
MAY, GINGER L	\$ 300.00
MCBRIDE, TAMMY	\$ 31,285.46
MCCARTHY, DONNA M	\$ 63,121.98
MCDONALD, SHARON S	\$ 69,573.67
MCGRATH, PAMELA J	\$ 23,744.96
MCGUIRK, BETTY J	\$ 7,994.57
MCLAUGHLIN, MARYELLEN A	\$ 71,206.35
MCSWEENEY, VIRGINIA M	\$ 183.24
MELANSON, CORINNE M	\$ 61.08
MELANSON, DEANNA M	\$ 20,332.33
MELANSON, VICTOR G	\$ 27,888.82
MELUS, CATELYNN D	\$ 7,018.99
MERRON, BERNADETTE H	\$ 68,533.15
MERRON, KYLE M	\$ 3,087.75
MERWIN, LINDA M	\$ 26,528.10
MEUNIER, LUKE D	\$ 2,962.50
MEYER, STEVEN C	\$ 122,376.00
MILLER, MARY ANN	\$ 76,561.70
MOOMAW, CHRISTINA GRACE	\$ 8,717.78
MORRIS, CLAIRE A	\$ 24,592.13
MOSALL, ALISON M	\$ 52,420.31
MOSQUERA, NADINE A	\$ 1,043.45
MUZZY, MELISSA A	\$ 28,554.92
NEEDLE, JENNIFER E	\$ 366.48
NEEDLE, JOSEPH G	\$ 51,290.50
NEEDLE, KELLYANN	\$ 5,486.79
NEWTON, BONNEY J	\$ 26,857.64
NYE, AMANDA J	\$ 600.00
OLSEN, JEANNE M	\$ 19,658.97
OTTO, KAREN S	\$ 72,141.77
PAGAR WEIN, AMANDA BETH	\$ 64,663.17
PANDISCIO, NATALIE J	\$ 375.00
PARKER, AMBER M	\$ 5,555.81
PARKER, CHERYL A	\$ 28,300.54
PARKER, RENEE A	\$ 20,455.25
PARKER, SAMANTHA L	\$ 300.00
PARKER, STEPHANIE A	\$ 34,139.59
PARKER, TERRY L	\$ 4,312.50
PARTRIDGE, JEAN S	\$ 10,492.86
PATRIA, BRIAN E	\$ 2,102.82

PEREZ, MELISSA J	\$ 82,883.54
PEREZ, SHAYNA A	\$ 331.25
PIERCE, SUSAN M	\$ 57,293.53
PIEROPAN DETHIER, MARIA D	\$ 76,330.78
PIRAGIS, DEBORAH M	\$ 63,212.70
PISCITELLO, ALECIA M	\$ 66,838.11
PISTORINO, JULIE	\$ 69,035.94
PLOTKIN, CORLENA M	\$ 70,056.25
POLITO, ANTHONY T	\$ 177,650.00
POLLARD, JUDITH M	\$ 18,899.59
PORTER, BRENDA J	\$ 7,169.27
POWERS, ANN M	\$ 1,800.00
PROGEN, SHAWN T	\$ 38,520.60
PROVENCHER, KATHLEEN	\$ 16,698.27
PROVOST, LOIS C	\$ 11,003.94
QUINTON, JOSEPH P	\$ 76,836.23
QUINTON, SALLY A	\$ 69,861.05
RANUCCI, CATHERINE H	\$ 3,264.94
RATHBURN, KELLY L	\$ 800.25
RATHBURN, MARK A	\$ 24,484.96
RAYMOND, CAROL	\$ 1,145.00
REARDON, ELAINE A	\$ 70,060.99
REED, GRACE M	\$ 19,663.90
REXROAD, KAREN	\$ 25,174.57
RIBEIRO, JASMINE L	\$ 50,211.00
RICHARDSON, JANET R	\$ 73,907.57
RIX, DENISE M	\$ 24,919.64
ROBERTS, ANN-MARIE	\$ 33,832.48
ROBERTSON, ANDREA C	\$ 10,415.78
ROBERTSON, ROBERT E	\$ 3,459.25
ROBERTSON, ROBYN C	\$ 69,664.94
ROBERTSON, RUTH K	\$ 2,924.96
ROBIDEAU, RACHEL M	\$ 1,464.57
ROBINSON, LAURA L	\$ 71,571.75
ROBINSON, LINDA A	\$ 75,714.87
ROGERS, CAROL	\$ 34,151.22
ROGERS, KEVIN A	\$ 67,263.34
ROLSKI, DEBORAH L	\$ 10,462.50
ROSS, DEBRA A	\$ 73,522.47
ROULEAU, CHRISTINE M	\$ 18,807.05
ROULEAU, MICHAEL R	\$ 450.00

ROULEAU, ROBERT G	\$ 49,667.52
ROULEAU, THERESA A	\$ 21,177.72
ROY, ANNE M	\$ 14,090.85
RUSSELL, AMANDA B	\$ 225.00
SAISA, PHILLIP E	\$ 4,434.91
SANDRELLI, CATHERINE L	\$ 75.00
SAWIN, JOY D	\$ 21,748.90
SCHWAB REHORKA, RACHEL A	\$ 69,860.83
SEPPALA, CARL W	\$ 66,749.20
SHAUGHNESSY, MEGAN E	\$ 1,556.42
SHERIDAN, DENIELLE K	\$ 4,225.84
SHERIDAN, ROBERT L II	\$ 24,672.17
SILVAR, CHRISTINE A	\$ 35,310.53
SIMKEWICZ, LAUREN J	\$ 67,145.95
SINTO, MICHAEL G	\$ 150.00
SKUTNIK, EDWARD W	\$ 94,860.00
SMITH, JULIE M	\$ 23,026.96
SMOLINSKI, KELLEY M	\$ 34,398.30
SNELL, BRIAN E	\$ 64,064.99
SONN, CONSTANCE J	\$ 11,403.99
SONNABEND, JEANNE M	\$ 330.00
ST.CYR, AMY L	\$ 16,445.69
STANLEY, JULIE A	\$ 62,365.04
STARKEY, CHARLES D	\$ 41,845.80
STEVE, KATHRYN A	\$ 77,046.25
STEWART, ASHLEY TM	\$ 2,287.50
STIMSON, CYNTHIA C	\$ 70,931.75
STJEAN, DAVID D	\$ 76,451.77
STJEAN, EILEEN M	\$ 74,542.10
STONE, BARBARA C	\$ 506.25
STONE, SALLY A	\$ 76,626.95
STOPEN, LYNNE E	\$ 73,679.71
STROM, NANCY L	\$ 254.50
SUPERCHI, MOLLY J	\$ 77,483.00
TADDEO, ANTHONY S	\$ 41,707.15
TALBOT, GWEN L	\$ 24,205.61
TALBOT, JOSHUA M	\$ 3,053.23
TAMULEVICH, CHRISTOPHER W	\$ 32,602.63
TANDY SONGER, SUSAN R	\$ 73,169.76
TARBELL, LISA A	\$ 18,288.29
TARGETT, KELLEY M	\$ 61,489.64

TAYLOR, AMIE L	\$ 3,900.00
TELICKI, THOMAS D	\$ 97,500.00
TENNEY, LISA A	\$ 69,861.05
THOMPSON, MICHELE E	\$ 75.00
THURBER MORIN, MIKAELA A	\$ 73,191.95
TORAIN, CHANTELE L	\$ 3,048.00
TRASK, JANICE M	\$ 26,432.84
TRIFILO, RAE-ANN E	\$ 22,080.00
TRIOZZI, DAVID M	\$ 71,535.15
TRIOZZI, JACQUELINE	\$ 72,532.47
TRUEHART, ALLISON J	\$ 525.00
TRUEHART, CAITLYN M	\$ 17,119.46
TRUEHART, MADISON P	\$ 3,355.00
TURNER, DAWNA L	\$ 9,291.61
VAIDULAS, KENNETH A	\$ 7,562.70
VALLEY, TINA M	\$ 150.00
VARGELETIS, VIVIAN K	\$ 50,535.58
VEROCK, JESSICA M	\$ 58,397.29
VITELLO, MARIA L	\$ 22,499.38

VOUTILA, CYNTHIA A	\$ 59,996.28
WALLACE, SEAN A	\$ 60,117.14
WALSH, RUTH E	\$ 10,185.08
WARD, VIRGINIA LF	\$ 16,347.09
WEBB, SHEILA M	\$ 67,261.43
WENTZ, ANGELA C	\$ 8,734.80
WESOLOWSKI, KATE E	\$ 300.00
WESTON, JEFF	\$ 67,094.54
WHITE, JOSEFINA	\$ 150.00
WHITESTONE, JANICE A	\$ 9,311.23
WHITMORE, PETER D	\$ 69,614.94
WILLHITE, JESSICA L	\$ 55,851.23
WILLIAMS, JANETH H	\$ 103,000.00
WILLIAMS, KEITH W	\$ 82,139.83
WINTERS, PATRICIA E	\$ 50,824.81
WINTERS, SUSAN J	\$ 25,322.83
WOESSNER, MICHAEL D	\$ 70,707.65
YORK, JENNIFER L	\$ 2,482.50
ZIGULOSKI, JAMIE L	\$ 18,593.16

# Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

1050 Westminster Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
(978) 345-9200  
[www.montytech.net](http://www.montytech.net)



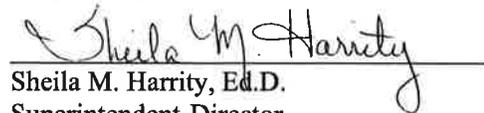
The 2014-2015 school year seemed to come and go in a minute, and yet I would be remiss if I did not take time to reflect upon the numerous achievements our talented students, faculty and staff accomplished throughout the school year. These awards, recognitions, and distinctions are the result of *years* of high quality education and vocational-technical training. They are the hallmark of a Monty Tech education, earned by both individuals and team efforts. While they are, in deed, an honor, they are simply a snapshot of the wonderful experiences happening on a day-to-day basis here at Monty Tech. I am delighted to present the district's 2014-2015 annual report to you, highlighting some of the year's most notable achievements, including:

- A talented team of three Monty Tech Engineering students won the gold medal for Engineering Technology and Design at the SkillsUSA national competitions held in Louisville, KY. Nicholas Wicker of Fitchburg, Leon Gaulin of Winchendon and Devan Kumar, also of Winchendon, led by instructor Dennis Cormier, created a portable game console designed with retro gaming in mind. The team has developed patents on their prize-winning efforts, and continues to expand their business and engineering acumen.
- The Machine Technology program aligned curriculum to MASSMEP (Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership) standards, and as a result students are now able to earn Level 1 and Level 2 Applied Manufacturing Technology Pathway Certifications. Having these certifications will ensure program graduates stand-out when they enter the workforce upon graduation, as employers are better able to verify technical skills and expertise with this widely accepted training model. Also, our instructors are now able to access to manufacturing curriculum developed through Worcester Polytechnic Institute, adding rigor and relevance to our very popular Machine Technology program.
- The Monty Tech Auto Body/ Collision Repair Department was featured in the April 2015 edition of the New England Automotive Report, applauded for its dedication to excellence. Molly Brodeur, President of Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, Massachusetts cited the program's innovative technologies, spacious facilities, and specialized equipment as among the best in New England.
- Outpacing more than 1,000 teams across the United States, and competing in three categories: network security, digital forensics, and Cisco networking, a team of six talented students captured first place at the CyberPatriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association.
- Students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement. In the spring of 2015, Monty Tech's passing rate on the MCAS English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 98%, and Biology 98%.

We are so proud of the educational programs offered here at Monty Tech, yet we continually strive to improve upon them. Collaborating with area colleges and universities, we are ensuring our curriculum and instruction is rigorous and relevant. Sharing best practices with vocational-technical colleagues from across the state – and nation – we give and take some of the best ideas, with one thing in mind – what is best for our students. And what is best, I believe, is preparing students for both college *and* career.

We hope you will find this report a comprehensive review of the quality education you have come to know and expect from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. You may notice that each of the eighteen member cities and towns are reflected in this report, and that students performed services in almost every community last year. Providing our students with an opportunity to give back to the communities that support them – and support our school – is a pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.  
Superintendent-Director

### **Our Mission**

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

### **Our District**

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of:

Ashburnham  
Ashby  
Athol  
Barre  
Fitchburg  
Gardner

Harvard  
Holden  
Hubbardston  
Lunenburg  
Petersham  
Phillipston

Princeton  
Royalston  
Sterling  
Templeton  
Westminster  
Winchendon

### **Leadership**

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the Superintendent and Principal, the team has been able to transform the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

*Sheila M. Harrity, Superintendent-Director*  
*Tom Browne, Principal*  
*Tammy Crockett, Business Manager*  
*Kim Curry, Dean of Admissions*  
*Francine Duncan, Director of Technology*

*Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs*  
*Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs*  
*Richard Ikonen, Director of Facilities*  
*Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator*  
*Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services*

### **Enrollment**

On June 1, 2015, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,418 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district: Ashburnham (61), Ashby (35), Athol (88), Barre (37), Fitchburg (368), Gardner (146), Harvard (5), Holden (71), Hubbardston (62), Lunenburg (78), Petersham (4), Phillipston (18), Princeton (20), Royalston (18), Sterling (61), Templeton (93), Westminster (81), and Winchendon (146). The remaining 26 students were from out-of-district towns, including Ayer, Clinton, Lancaster, Leominster, Orange, Shirley, Webster and Worcester.

Throughout 2014-2015, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2014, approximately 1,000 district eighth graders participated in the annual "Tour Day" event. Students toured our twenty-vocational/technical areas and learned about the school's challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return in the evening with their family members, to further explore the facilities and talk with staff members.

Each year, the Dean of Admissions conducts school visits, student interviews, and accepts applications for admissions. 2014-2015 proved to be an exceptionally busy year for her, as the school received 631 applications for admission. Of those, 575 were from students hoping to enter our incoming freshman class. The balance of the applications came from students hoping to enter the school as upperclassmen. Because there are only a limited number of students the school can accept each year, 338 freshmen and 3 upperclassmen were admitted.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) offers area seventh and eighth grade students the chance to visit Monty Tech after school, and participate in hands-on learning experiences across a variety of vocational/technical areas. The program continued to attract a large number of students during the 2014-2015 school year, serving approximately 600 area students.

### **Class of 2015 Awards**

Members of the Class of 2015 were awarded approximately \$55,000 in scholarships. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$35,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$200 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$6,000 to the practical nursing graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves, are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. Approximately 54% of the graduating class of 2015 reported plans to enroll at either a 2-year college, 4-year college/university, or a technical/trade school upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will benefit by saving both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

### **Financial Report**

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2014-2015 Educational Plan totaled \$25,640,833, which represents a 3.5% increase over the 2013-2014 Educational Plan. The District's FY15 budget, once again, only meets the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70.

The District was audited in August 2015 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and a very good report is anticipated.

### **Grants and Contracts**

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds assist in providing many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2015, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$866,668. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Social Intervention and Mediation, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, and Perkins Postsecondary Education. Using these allocation funds, the school was able to purchase a variety of instructional technology, equipment and supplies to enhance the learning experience across both academic and vocational programs.

### **Academic Achievement**

In 2014-2015, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable MCAS scores in English Language Arts, Mathematics and

Biology. For Spring 2015, Monty Tech’s passing rate on the English Language Arts was 100%, Mathematics 98%, Biology 98%.

The district is particularly proud of the number of students earning Advanced scores, and is pleased to report significant increases in this category. On the English Language Arts exam, students scoring Advanced increased by 16% from 2014. On the Math exam, we saw a 10% increase in Advanced from 2014, and on the Grade 10 Biology exam, there was a 3% increase in students scoring Advanced.

English Language Arts	2013	2014	2015
Students Tested	352	364	374
Passing	99%	100%	100%
Advanced/ Proficient	95%	95%	96%
Needs Improvement	5%	5%	4%
Failing	1%	0%	0%

Mathematics	2013	2014	2015
Students Tested	352	366	375
Passing	98%	98%	98%
Advanced/Proficient	80%	84%	87%
Needs Improvement	18%	14%	11%
Failing	2%	2%	2%

Biology	2013	2014	2015
Students Tested	398	351	347
Passing	97%	99%	98%
Advanced/ Proficient	73%	74%	77%
Needs Improvement	24%	25%	21%
Failing	3%	1%	2%

The district continues to make progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps. Students in all subgroups have met their progress and performance targets, continuing the school’s Level 1 Status distinction.

### *Vocational Projects in the District Communities*

Unlike students in traditional, comprehensive high schools, students at Monty Tech are asked to put their education into practice on a daily basis. Students across the twenty different vocational-technical education programs are building homes, reconstructing damaged properties, repairing service vehicles, making walkways more accessible, and performing countless community services.

The 2014-2015 school year was a busy one for our vocational educators, as each trade aimed to provide practical, hands-on learning experiences for our students, while helping to improve each of the eighteen member communities.

Auto Body: Collision Repair Technology: A highlight of the 2014-2015 school year was the addition of new instructor, Michael Forhan, who brings wonderful industry experience and expertise to the popular Auto Body program. The program received an I-CAR Education Foundation Grant, and as a result, sophomores and

juniors will receive a Level I I-CAR certification. Students detailed, repaired, and repainted more than eighty automobiles and trucks, including a dump truck for the Winchendon Housing Authority. Six ski chairs were coated for the Johnny Appleseed Trail Association, and trail brackets were painted for Baldwinville Department of Conservation. A state of the art fresh air system was installed for our spray booth, providing our students with clean air while working in the booth, eliminating the need for respirators. (Total enrollment: 62; 34 males, 28 females)

**Automotive Technology:** As in the past years, the Automotive Technology program continues to service a variety of vehicles for faculty, staff, municipalities, and district residents. 2014-2015 proved to be a very busy year for the program, as more than 400 vehicles were serviced by talented students and instructors. The Automotive Technology program continues to work to align instruction to the 2014 CVTE frameworks, as well as the recently revised NATEF standards. Instructors are pleased to report an increase in student enrollment, and offer congratulations to Senior student, Cody Caley, who placed third at the State SkillsUSA competition. A total of seven students participated in the co-op program, applying their technical skills in real work settings. (Total enrollment: 67; 54 males, 13 females)

**Business Technology:** Students graduating from Monty Tech's Business Technology program may qualify for up to nine college credits, taking advantage of articulation agreements from either Mount Wachusett Community College or New England Institute of Technology. Recognizing the work that these students have done throughout their high school year, college officials have agreed to provide qualified Business Technology students with college credits, at no charge, saving the students time and money as they pursue higher education. During the 2014-2015 school year, four students participated in the school's popular co-operative education program. Additionally, Business Technology stand-out Rebecca Parker was named SkillsUSA National Voting Delegate, and traveled to Louisville in June 2015. Business Technology students continue to post the daily menu on the Monty Tech website for the Mountain Room, distribute, collect, and maintain the Community Service database for all shops, and run a successful school store, the Gear House, refining their skills in cash handling, customer service, organization, and marketing. (Total enrollment: 66; 15 males, 51 females)

**Cabinetmaking:** Throughout 2014-2015, Monty Tech's Cabinetmaking instructors and students built and installed custom cabinetry and casework in the Westminster Senior and Community Center, the City of Gardner Mayor's Office, and in each of the school's three house-building projects. At the Westminster Senior Center, the talented Cabinetmaking students were charged with finishing all interior architectural woodworking, and did a beautiful job on that project. More than \$20,000 in materials and five months of labor was devoted to that job, saving the Town of Westminster a substantial amount of money. In addition, eleven Cabinetmaking students participated in the school's co-op program. (Total enrollment: 70; 51 males, 19 females)

**Cosmetology:** The Monty Tech Cosmetology program introduced students to a talented new instructor, Lirazol Alie, who brings tremendous industry experience, expertise, and enthusiasm to the popular program. 2014-2015 also brought new educational initiatives, including computer literacy objectives. Programs such as Quizlet, Remind, and Google Classroom were introduced, and have been providing additional avenues for students and instructors to communicate and share ideas. The program accepted twenty-four Freshmen, all first choice students. In addition to serving more than 1,500 clients throughout the 2014-2015 school year, students provided mothers from the Head Start in Athol with a complimentary "Day of Beauty" in honor of Mother's Day. Also in line with the program's commitment to community service, a portion of all fees collected from October through March were donated to support Horizons for Homeless. More than half of the graduates from the Cosmetology program reported plans to work in the trade, while the remaining graduates went on to pursue higher education. (Total enrollment: 91, 0 males, 91 females)

**Culinary Arts:** Students and instructors in the Monty Tech Culinary Arts program are among the busiest in our school. In addition to operating a full-service dining room and bakery, serving more than one hundred patrons daily, culinary students showcase their talents throughout the year at various catering events and trade shows

in our sending districts, and at meetings and workshops within the school. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, Culinary Arts students and staff prepared food for: United Way Day of Caring (150 people), Advisory Dinner/Meetings (Over 600 people), Monty Tech Homecoming Dance (500 people), Monty Tech Retirees Holiday Buffet (90 people), Women in Technology Event (150 people), Graduation reception (125 people), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting (25 people), four Monty Tech Foundation breakfast meetings, the annual Superintendent's Dinner, and all school committee and subcommittee meetings. Additionally, we participated in the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce Chowder & Chili fest, and hosted private events for Gardner AARP, Chairtown Lumber, and Montachusett Home Care. (Total enrollment: 101; 34 males, 67 females)

**Dental Assisting:** During 2014-2015, the Dental Assisting program placed 1 student in a co-operative educational placement, working with an area dentist. Twenty-one students earned externships, while seven students participated in affiliation. All sophomore, junior, and senior students attended the Yankee Dental Convention in Boston, and learned about the most current trends and practices in the field. While national passing averages for Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exams range from 69% - 78%, the Monty Tech dental students earned a 100% passing rate on the Infection Control exam and an outstanding 100% passing rate on the Radiology exam. For the fifth consecutive year, Monty Tech welcomed Community Health Connections, a school-based dental hygiene program whose goal is to provide dental services to students in need. Through this initiative, more than thirty students were examined by a dentist, had their teeth cleaned, and had sealants or temporary fillings applied as needed. Monty Tech Dental Assisting students were given hands-on, practical experience, as they assisted the staff from CHC during each dental procedure that was performed. (Total enrollment: 57; 5 males, 52 females)

**Drafting:** The 2014-2015 school year was a busy one for Drafting Technology students and instructors. A total of five students (three Juniors and two Seniors) participated in the school's cooperative education program, and ten students advanced to the SkillsUSA state competitions. Instructors are pleased to report that a vast majority of the graduating seniors intend to pursue careers in the field of drafting. Like most programs in the school, the Drafting Technology program is committed to community service, and throughout the year worked to provide food and household products for a family in the community. The students and instructors also gathered items to donate for Project Shoebox, which provides personal care items to children in the foster care system, offered design services to the Lunenburg Cemetery Building project, and designed landscape and general layout for Railroad Park in Fitchburg. Students also created countless banners and signage for area community organizations and Monty Tech's graduation, college fair, greenhouse, JROTC, and Drama Club, to name a few. (Total enrollment: 56; 33 males, 23 females)

**Early Childhood Education:** The Early Childhood Education program began the 2014-2015 school year with a dynamic new instructor, Karla Boudreau. The program received three new Baby Care Parent Simulation dolls, each with car seat detectors, as well as temperature detectors. Also, two new cameras were purchased to document students' work for individual professional portfolios. The program participated in the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children's Recognition Dinner, and in preparation for the event, students created thirty games for this recognition dinner. Students and instructors worked to raise critical funds for Lucy's Love Bus, an agency that provides grants for children with cancer who are not covered by health insurance, and contributed to a number of other child-centered causes, including: SkillsUSA Change for Children, Salvation Army Christmas Angel, and the school's National Honor Society food and supplies drive. All of the program's graduating seniors are college bound and report plans to continue in the field of education. (Total enrollment: 62; 2 males, 60 females)

**Electrical:** The Electrical program continues to be one of the busiest trades in the school. During 2014-2015, students completed more than 90 work orders throughout the building, including wiring the following: a new CNC milling machine in Cabinetmaking, new milling machines in machine shop, new lifts in Auto Technology, a new grinder in HVAC & Property Maintenance, a new smart board in Drafting, a new shear in Welding/ Metal Fabrication, new shapers and chop saws in Cabinetmaking, a new scoreboard in the gym, new office space for both the Vice Principal and the Dean of Admissions, and new charger outlets for calculators in

an academic room. Students also rewired the Engineering department's storage room and relocated much of their equipment, and a new Prototrak machine in Machine Technology. In addition to wiring equipment, students performed numerous repairs and installations throughout the school as needed, including lights, outlets, computers, sensors, and CATV jacks. The Electrical program was instrumental in ensuring the school responded to all aspects in the most recent Coordinated Program Review's safety audit, and completed each of the recommended findings in a very timely manner. Students and instructors participated in the two house building projects in 2014-2015, again ensuring their work was done in a timely and efficient manner. The program's instructional space was updated to create a more conducive learning environment. Finally twelve students were awarded co-op positions, and more than half of the graduating senior class entered the workforce upon graduation, continuing into the electrical apprenticeship. (Total enrollment: 92; 76 males, 16 females)

**Engineering Technology:** The Monty Tech Engineering Technology program continued to enhance their curriculum and instruction by embedding four Project Lead the Way courses into the already rigorous vocational-technical curriculum. Students performed well on the end of course assessments affiliated with the Project Lead the Way coursework, with four students earning college credit in Principles of Engineering, eleven students earning college credit in Introduction to Engineering Design, and six students earning credit in Computer Integrated Manufacturing. These students may apply these credits at colleges and universities across the country. The exploratory program during the 2014-2015 school year yielded positive results for the program, with 12 students selecting Engineering Technology as their first choice and one as second choice. All sixteen seniors graduated, and a majority reported plans to continue their education or continue working in the engineering field. The instructors are pleased with the work done in their instructional space, citing better organization and increased safety. Some of the major improvements included a dropped ceiling, new work benches and stools, insulated front wall and fresh paint and the installation of a second SMART board. The Junior class went on a field trip to EASTEC, in Springfield to see the latest technology in manufacturing technologies and techniques. All Freshmen and Sophomores completed OSHA 10 hour training, and earned an OSHA 10 card. Six Seniors presented capstone projects to sponsors, parents and fellow students, demonstrating individual creativity and a deep understanding of engineering principles. Finally, the Monty Tech Engineering students were top performers at SkillsUSA contests throughout the year. At the district competitions, students earned two gold, two silver, and six bronze medals. At the state competitions, three gold and two bronze medals were captured. And at the national competitions held in Louisville, KY, a talented team of three Monty Tech Engineering students won the gold medal for Engineering Technology and Design. (Total enrollment: 55; 42 males, 13 females)

**Graphic Communications:** Instructors in Monty Tech's Graphic Communications program are pleased to report that all graduating seniors were into college, and many are pursuing advanced degrees in the field. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, the shop continued to produce large quantities of print projects for district towns and community service organizations, completing more than 300 print projects. Because Graphic Communications provides print and design services at deep discounts to local agencies, instructors report saving these offices more than \$100,000 this school year. Students and instructors also completed numerous in-house jobs, resulting in a savings to the school district of more than \$220,000 from black and white copies, wide format printing, yearbook print and production. Three students were placed in co-op experiences, applying and refining their technical skills in local businesses. The program also received six new iMac computers with CS6 Software, and the computer lab was reconfigured and equipped with new desks and a new smart board. (Total enrollment: 86; 32 males, 54 females)

**Health Occupations:** The Health Occupations program at Monty Tech continues to educate a large number of students, providing a rigorous education grounded in current medical knowledge and practice. During the 2014-2015 school year, students and instructors organized a large baby shower, benefiting Battered Womens' Resources, Inc. All items collected through that event were donated to expectant mothers living in the shelter. Students and instructors also participated in Pediatric Day, in conjunction with the school's Early Childhood Education program. The Health Occupations program was awarded a grant of \$42,400, which was used to purchase simulation devices for advanced training and simulated patient scenarios and case studies. Fifteen

seniors passed the National Healthcare Association (CCMA) exam, while the program continues to offer students opportunities to earn an array of industry-recognized credentials, including: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour certification; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Certificate through the American Heart Association; and Certified Nursing Assistant License through the American Red Cross. Finally, Health Occupations students performed quite well throughout the year at various SkillsUSA competitions, earning a silver medal in Medical Assisting and a bronze medal in Freshman Commentary. Two students were also named State Officer Elect and National Voting Delegate, representing the school and program well. Twenty-three of the graduating seniors in 2015 reported plans to enroll in college, and a majority intend to stay close to the medical field. (Total enrollment: 106; 7 males, 99 females)

**House Carpentry:** Unlike other vocational-technical programs at Monty Tech, a majority of the work done by students and instructors in the House Carpentry program is completed off-campus, completing renovation, building, and repair work for member communities. Last year was no exception, as students and instructors worked together to complete the following projects: a duplex in Fitchburg for Habitat for Humanity, a two-story colonial home in Ashburnham for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc (MEC), a chicken coop for a Gardner resident, a set of exterior stairs for a Fitchburg resident, a set of stairs in the school's Plumbing department, and a six-sided wishing well for an Ashburnham resident. Mr. Morrison, the most recent addition to the House Carpentry staff, and Mr. Pearson, a Monty Tech science teacher, completed an Academic/Vocational Integration project, in an effort to further connect academic elements to practical, real-world applications. The result of the unique lesson was twenty-five bluebird houses, handcrafted by each student, and taken home to share with families and friends. (Total enrollment: 57; 40 males, 17 females)

**HVAC & Property Maintenance:** The 2014-2015 school year saw some changes in the HVAC & Property Maintenance Program. For many years this program had been named Industrial Technology, but when the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education outlined changes in the program's curriculum frameworks in 2014, it seemed an appropriate time to update the name of the program and refine curriculum so that students and graduates will be better prepared to pursue a variety of career pathways in the Building & Property Maintenance and HVAC fields. Combining elements from both programs, the instructors have developed a broad curriculum that continues to engage students and impress area business owners. Throughout the year, students and instructors collaborated with other Monty Tech programs to complete a number of "outside jobs", including: installing sheetrock and vinyl siding on a duplex home for Habitat for Humanity in Fitchburg, installing installed siding and wood molding products in a single family home in Ashburnham, and installing brackets for the Holden Recreation Department snowmobile trail. The program was proud to have thirteen students (6 seniors and 7 juniors) participate in the school's popular co-operative education program – more students than in any other program at Monty Tech! (Total enrollment: 64; 57 males, 7 females)

**Information Technology:** As with any school, Information Technology provides key services to the educational community. In addition to the critical in-house Help Desk services offered by the program, students and instructors performed in excess of 400 hours of repair, upgrading, and troubleshooting computer problems for Monty Tech community members. Competing in the Cyber Patriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association, Information Technology and Engineering students, led by program instructor Richard Duncan, captured first place at the March competition. A team of twelve Information Technology students participated in the Fitchburg State University Programming Competition, and there our students placed 13<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> from the 32 teams in attendance. To ensure program graduates are armed with valuable industry-recognized certifications, program instructors offer students the following certification opportunities: TestOut PC Pro certification, IC3 Certification, Cisco IT Essential Course for Computer Repair and Maintenance, and Cisco Introduction to Networking. (100% passing rate for Sophomores). Instructors are proud to report a 98% passing rate for the juniors who took the first test of the CIW Web Foundation certification exams. Two students applied their skills, working with area non-profit agencies, building user-friendly websites for the following: Big Cheese 5K Road Race for the town of Athol, Community Health Connections website, and Fitchburg East Rotary website. Two talented students, Derick Kay and Ryan Perenzin, earned gold medals at the SkillsUSA District competitions, traveled to the

state event and continued their winning streak with another gold medal. The pair earned the right to travel and compete on the national level in June 2015, for the third time in their high school career. (Total enrollment: 61; 60 males, 1 female)

**Machine Technology:** Machine Technology students and instructors had the opportunity to take part in several field trips throughout 2014-2015, including: MTD in Charlton, NyproMold in Clinton, Rocheleau Tool & Die in Fitchburg, LS Starrett in Athol, and the EASTEC show in Springfield. These field trips provided students with opportunities to see how their education connects to local industry, as well as some of the emerging technologies in the machining field. Students were also fortunate to hear from local experts, including a guest speaker from LS Starrett, who discussed proper band saw blade selection. Perhaps one of the program's greatest accomplishments was aligning curriculum to MASSMEP (Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership) training efforts. This exciting new relationship will provide our students opportunities to earn level 1 and level 2 machinist certifications, and will grant the instructors access to manufacturing curriculum developed through Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Finally, students successfully completed a number of machining jobs to benefit the school and community offices, which included: plaques for the "Ride of your Life" suicide prevention fundraiser, plaques for the school's space shuttle mission, gifts for various visitors and guests, memorial tile engraving, parts for engineering technology projects, dental base components, for plumbing projects, and parts needed to repair the district's field lawn mowers. (Total enrollment: 60; 57 males, 3 females)

**Masonry:** The Masonry program introduced a new instructor, Christopher Giardina to the program in 2014-2015. Students and instructors continued to focus on a number of community projects, including: brick steps and tiles for Habitat for Humanity House in Fitchburg; tile and concrete floor for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC) house in Ashburnham; brick step repairs and concrete floor for Sterling Municipal Light; stone veneer and tile for the Westminster Senior Center; block dug outs for Gardner Little League; stone wall repair for St. Bernard's Elementary School; and, repointed brick for Winchendon Senior Center. When the students weren't busy in our district communities, they were preparing for and competing in the Massachusetts Trowel Trades Association (MTTA) competition, where they earned top recognitions and awards. (Total enrollment: 68; 57 males, 11 females)

**Plumbing:** The Monty Tech Plumbing program, like other trades throughout the school, is committed to community service. As a result, students and instructors worked throughout the year to complete a duplex house in Fitchburg for Habitat for Humanity and a single-family home in Ashburnham for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC). Both projects included lessons in high efficiency heating and cooling systems. The students successfully installed gas piping for the homes, as well. A senior student was named Vocational Technical All-Star from the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association of Massachusetts, and as a result he received tools and a scholarship for continuing his education in the plumbing licensure program. Another stand-out student was recognized by the Central Massachusetts Plumbing & Gas Fitting Inspectors Association, and was also awarded a scholarship to continue his education in the field. Instructors are proud to partner with a number of local companies that have committed to hiring program graduates, and throughout the 2014-2015 school year, the program saw eight students (5 seniors and 3 juniors) earn co-op jobs, where they were challenged to take their technical skills to a new level. On campus, students repaired leaks, cleaned drains, replaced a hot water heater, worked on water coolers, and repaired and maintained the plumbing system throughout the school. The teachers' area within the shop was improved with custom made desks and a counter top, designed and crafted by Monty Tech's Cabinetmaking students. (Total enrollment: 71; 69 males, 2 females)

**Welding/Metal Fabrication:** Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, the Welding/Metal Fabrication program successfully completed numerous projects on the Monty Tech campus, and more than eighty projects for residents of our community. Some of the more notable community service projects included: fabricating and welding a twenty-one foot tall, multi-section statue for the Fitchburg Art Museum, which is now the focal point to their main entrance; repairing a band cart for Fitchburg High school; fabricating and welding panels for Winchendon Housing Authority's dump truck; fabricating and welding trail marking brackets for the

Department of Conservation & Recreation of Winchendon; fabricating and welding stainless steel counter tops and trim at the Westminster Senior Center; and repairing net for Templeton, Narragansett Youth Baseball. In addition, the program benefited from added technology, including a portable fume extractor donated by industry partner Airgas East, and various portable power hand tools donated by Tractor Supply, Inc. The program's hydraulic power shear blades were also rotated and adjusted to specifications. Two juniors and eight seniors participated in the school's popular co-operative education program, applying and refining their technical skills in area businesses. (Total enrollment: 64; 55 males, 9 females)

### **Special Services**

During the 2015-2016 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special services to approximately three hundred and fifteen students – measuring progress of over two hundred students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and just under one hundred students adhering to individualized Section 504 plans. While the Student Support Services (SSS) Department encompasses special education, the department provides support and is available to all Monty Tech students.

The department includes a full-time nursing staff that administers medications, performs state-mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the special education team for a student's IEP meeting. The department benefits from a full-time school social worker who participates in departmental meetings and assists students who have needs concerning finances, family issues, homelessness, maternity, health issues, and proper food and clothing. The school is also fortunate to have on staff a full-time psychologist, whose role it is to evaluate all students referred for an initial evaluation or who require a three-year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full-time speech pathologist, who is available to assist students with disabilities, assess these students and consult with teachers. Our students also have access to the services of a full-time adjustment counselor and part-time school psychologist. All of these individuals are available for scheduled counseling sessions and mental health emergency treatment, as well as crisis intervention.

The school's Director of Student Support Services oversees the district's Special Education Program, which is reviewed annually in May, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The comprehensive review and evaluation are done in collaboration with the Parent Advisory Council, and the results of the evaluation are used to improve the special education procedures and programs in place at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

### **Technology**

In 2014-2015 Monty Tech continued the process of improving our network infrastructure to meet future needs. Additional access points were added to our wireless network to broaden connectivity. Internet bandwidth was increased, and multiple carriers were contracted to reduce the possibility of Internet downtime. A back up generator was installed and connected to our network servers to decrease the possibility of unexpected shutdown of vital equipment.

Monty Tech successfully completed two Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education initiatives involving technology. Pilot testing for PARCC, an online student assessment program, was conducted in Spring 2015, and state reporting of SIMS (student data) and SCS (student course schedule data) via SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework) commenced in March 2015.

Monty Tech continued the process of enhancing and automating procedures. Teachers began using x2 Aspen's Teacher Recommendations to enter student course requests, and the school improved parent communication by including email addresses as part of our parent/student notification system. The school also initiated improvements to technical support through the automation of computer builds and updates.

Monty Tech began the transition of becoming a Google for Education school by changing our email system to Gmail for staff and students. Three Chromebook mobile labs were purchased late in the school year and will be ready for classroom use in 2015-2016. Monty Tech will plan professional development and support for additional Google apps as they are introduced during 2015-2016, and will consider a Chromebook 1:1 initiative.

### *SkillsUSA*

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America had a skilled workforce. Through our association with Skills USA, our students develop job skills, leadership and professional skills, as well as provide community service.

The 2014-2015 school year was an extraordinary one for the Monty Tech chapter of Skills USA. The students met the challenges of the district competitions, performed well at the state level, and winners advanced to the coveted National Conference in June 2015. Co-advisors Kelsey Moskiwitz (English Instructor), Anne Marie Cataldo (Early Childhood Education Instructor), and Brad Pelletier (Special Education Instructor), helped students successfully complete several community service projects, raising money for selected charitable organizations. Highlights of the year include:

- In November, fifteen students, consisting of chapter officers and Leadership Team members attended a three-day Annual Fall State Leadership Conference, developed leadership skills and performed community service at an area YMCA Day Camp. They also donated nonperishable food items for the local food bank, as well as hats, mittens, and books for underprivileged children.
- The local competition was held in December 2014, and spanned three weeks consisting of a variety of shop, skill and leadership events.
- In March 2015, qualified Monty Tech students traveled to Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School to compete at the SkillsUSA District Competition. There, Monty Tech students were awarded 44 medals, including: 12 gold, 11 silver and 21 bronze medals. Additionally, Grace Kirrane qualified to run for the State Executive Council.
- Rebecca Parker, a Class of 2015 Business technology students, and Cassandra Campbell, a Class of 2016 Drafting Technology student, served on the State Advisory Committee to help aid in the planning of the State Conference.
- Twenty-three district medalists and qualifiers, sixteen local leadership and occupational related event contestants, one state officer candidate, and twenty-three voting delegates - a total of 63 students - attended the State Leadership and Skills Conference, held April 30 – May 2, 2015, at Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School and the Best Western Royal Plaza (Marlboro). Monty Tech finished the competition with fourteen medals. Seven students were awarded gold medals and earned the right to compete at the National Leadership & Skills Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky in late June. Grace Kirrane was elected to the State Executive Council and will serve as a National Voting Delegate in Louisville along with Alyanna Giuliano, Cassandra Campbell, and Rebecca Parker who were also selected to serve.
- Twelve students and five instructors attended the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Louisville, KY. from June 22 – 27, 2015.
- A team of three talented Engineering Technology students received a Gold Medal for their performance at the National Engineering Technology/Design Contest. Working closely with their

instructor, Dennis Cormier, Nicolas Wicker (Class of 2015), Leon Gaulin (Class of 2017), and Devan Kumar (Class of 2017) brought home this well-deserved honor.

- Taryne Swan and Cassandra Campbell were also recognized at the National Conference, receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, Gold Standard
- Throughout the year, students participated in a number of community service projects, including: a "Change for Children" Campaign; a holiday party and celebration for children in the Fitchburg area; Salvation Army "Christmas Angels" were distributed to collect toys and gifts for underprivileged children; Raffle to benefit Be Like Brit Foundation and The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

### **Marine Corps JROTC**

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) had a sensational school year. All program objectives for the 2014-2015 school year were achieved, most notable was the JROTC Cyber Security Team, led by First Sergeant Paul Jornet and Information Technology Instructor Richard Duncan, once again capturing national recognition by placing first in the Air Force Association's National Cyber Security Competition held in Washington, DC.

The 2014-2015 Corps of Cadets completed over eighty-eight hundred hours (8800+) of community service throughout the district. The corps conducted a major canned food drive, worked side-by-side with the Marine Corps Reserve in a national Toys 4 Tots campaign, and spent four weekends working with the local Salvation Army helping to raise over \$26,000 for needy families. The cadets conducted their annual 10 mile "March-A-Thon" to support NEADS (National Education of Assistance Dogs Services) from Princeton, MA, raising \$25,000 for their Service Dogs for Veterans program.

Sixty Monty Tech cadets attended a leadership camp at the Citadel in Charleston, SC. The camp provided cadets with individual and team development opportunities, as well as the opportunity to visit many historical sites.

During the summer of 2015, our Cadet Cyber Team was again asked to support a Cyber STEM camp for the National Marine Corps JROTC program. The Cyber Team coordinated the 12-day camp that focused on defending cyber networks from attacks. The camp also offered an introduction to robotics programming using the VEX Robotics System. The camp was attended by 200 students, representing thirty-five states.

The Cyber team along with community financial support and a group of Monty Tech staff volunteers also conducted a week-long Cyber Security camp for 50 middle school students. The camp, which was offered at no cost to the students, focused on computer operating systems, security and cyber ethics. In partnership with Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College, the students also had an opportunity to visit both campuses to explore STEM pathways.

The Monty Tech JROTC program received an incredible honor, having been named a Marine Corps Honor School by the Commanding General Marine Corps Training & Education Command. Only ten percent of Marine Corps JROTC programs nationwide receive this recognition. The selection was based on several criteria, including cadet citizenship, the percentage of cadets involved in student government organizations, the number of cadets active in school activities and clubs, the number of community service hours for the unit as a whole and per cadet, the number of organizations assisted by the unit, and scholastic achievements including the number of academic awards and scholarships given to cadets. The units were also measured by participation in public affairs events, drill team competitions, rifle team competitions, physical fitness team competitions, and field trips.

Because of this prestigious status, we are pleased to announce that the Monty Tech JROTC instructors unit will now have the opportunity to make nomination recommendations to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Military Academy at West Point under the Honor School Category.

### *Women in Technology*

Monty Tech is one of the original members of the North Central Massachusetts Women In Technology Program and the 2014-2015 school year marked the school's 13<sup>th</sup> year in this innovative school-to-business partnership. The highly successful collaborative program continues to grow with membership including students from six area high schools, introducing female students to well-paying careers in business and technology. Participants spend two days a month working on real-world work projects under the mentorship of company managers at SimplexGrinnell and Tyco Safety Products in Westminster, subsidiaries of Tyco International, a Fortune 500 company.

The program has been so successful in its mission of providing a proven pathway to corporate America, that it was recently recognized as one of the region's premier experience-based educational programs of its kind. Affiliation with the program, and skills acquired through participation, open doors to career opportunities not otherwise available to high school students. Graduates of the program are also equipped with a foundation to better meet the challenges of an ever-changing and demanding work force.

Each year, graduates of the program go on to rewarding and well-paying careers, made possible by this unique experience.

### *Student Athletics*

The Monty Tech athletic program continues to expand in scope and skill each year. More students and teams compete every season. In fact, during the 2014-2015 school year, the Monty Tech Athletic program saw a record number of student athletes participating in competitive sports programs, more than 614 participants! During the fall of 2014, Monty Tech was well-represented by seventeen teams. In the winter months, there were fourteen teams, and wrapping up the year, spring saw another fourteen teams come together at Monty Tech.

In the Fall of 2014, the Monty Tech Varsity Football team finished with a record of 2 – 9, but with a lot of younger players, the coaches expect a rebound in 2015. The JV Football team was 2 – 6 - 1 and the Freshmen Football team was 2 – 4. The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished at 11 – 5 – 2 and qualified for the post-season tournament. They finished third in the Colonial Athletic League with a 6 – 4 – 2 record. The JV Boys Soccer team was 7 – 4 – 2. The Varsity Golf team was 4 – 12, and the JV Golf team played in three tournaments getting much valuable experience on the links. The Varsity Field Hockey team was 13 - 3 - 3, qualifying for the Central Mass Tournament for the fifth consecutive year. They lost to Grafton, 1 – 0 in an exciting match. The JV Field Hockey team finished at 5 – 3 – 1. The Boys Cross Country team was 7 - 8 and finished 3rd in the Colonial Athletic League with a 4 – 3 record. The Girls Cross Country team was 6 – 5 overall and 2 – 2 in the Colonial Athletic League, finishing 2nd. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team went 8 – 12. The team hosted its annual Bump-Set-Spike competition, to fight Breast Cancer, in October 2014, and raised over \$3,000. The JV Girls Volleyball team was 18 - 1 and the Freshmen Girls team continued to improve with a 6 – 6 record. The Varsity Girls Soccer team was 11 – 6 – 1 and qualified for the post-season, where they lost to Northbridge 6 – 0. The JV Girls Soccer team finished at 12 – 2 and will send some fine players to the varsity next year.

The Girls Varsity Basketball finished at 7 – 13 on the season, while the Junior Varsity Girls were 12 - 4 and the Freshmen Girls finished with a record of 8 – 3. The Varsity Boys Basketball team finished at 14 – 9 and

qualified for both the State Vocational Tournament and the Districts. They lost to Worcester Tech in the first round of the Voc. Tournament and beat Ayer in the first game of the Districts before losing to Hopedale in the quarterfinals. The JV Boys Basketball team was 16 – 2, and the Freshmen Boys were 2 – 16. The Co-Op Wrestling team, a group of student-athletes from Fitchburg, Oakmont and Murdock, participated in many dual meets and tournaments finishing at 3 – 11. The Co-Op Boys Ice Hockey team, a partnership with Fitchburg High School, finished at 11 – 9 and qualified for the Districts, where they beat Littleton in the first round and lost to Worcester in the semi-finals. The Junior Varsity Ice Hockey team played very well, and is expected to send some talent up to the varsity in 2015-2016. Monty Tech also participated in a Co-op Swim team with Leominster, North Middlesex and Oakmont (in partnership with Fitchburg State University) and had 7 swimmers participating. Indoor Track & Field for both boys and girls participated in the Dual Valley Conference this year, as a guest. Both teams finished with a record of 2 – 3 on the season.

In the spring of 2015, the Monty Tech Varsity Softball team qualified for the Central Mass Tournament for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year with an 11 - 9 record. There, they lost a tight match against Maynard 7 - 6. Coach Reid is just 6 wins shy of 600 for his career at Monty Tech. The JV Softball team was 6 – 8. The Varsity Boys Volleyball team was 15 – 8 and 8 – 2 in the Colonial Athletic League. They beat Assabet 3 - 1 in the first round of the State Vocational Tournament before losing to Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School 3 – 0 in the finals. The boys also lost to Wachusett 3 – 1 in the District Tournament. The JV Boys Volleyball team played strong all year and finished with a record of 8 – 8. The Varsity Baseball team finished at 5 – 15, while the JV Baseball team was 10 – 4 and the Freshmen Baseball team was 3 – 9. Both the Varsity and JV teams played a majority of their home games on the Fitchburg State University and Oakmont fields, while the freshmen played a number of their games at the Westminster Babe Ruth field, as the conditions of our baseball fields were not acceptable due to the very wet spring. The Boys Track & Field team was 6 - 2, finishing 3rd in the Colonial Athletic league, and the Girls Track & Field team was 5 – 3, with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Colonial Athletic League. The Varsity Boys Lacrosse team played in 16 games going 7 – 9, missing the playoffs by only one win. The JV Boys Lacrosse was 7 – 4 – 3, and are expecting improved results in the coming years. The Girls Lacrosse team was a Co-Op with North Central Charter Essential School (Sizer). There were fifteen girls from Monty Tech on the team, and the district hopes to form its own team by 2017. Finally, there were seven total students (2 boys and 5 girls) playing in a Co-Op Tennis program with Fitchburg High School.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Male and Female athletes for 2014-2015, Kyle Morris and Kaitlyn MacAlister.

### **Postgraduate and Continuing Studies**

The Post Graduate and Continuing Studies Program, also known as Monty Tech Nites, continues to update and add courses that emphasize a commitment to excellence by offering affordable, quality, and enjoyable educational experiences. For the Fall of 2014, Monty Tech offered 78 in-house classes with 626 registrations. We also offered a number of online course options, with a total of 27 registrations. For the Spring 2015 semester, we offered 73 in-house courses with 568 registrations and an additional 47 registrations for online programs.

In March 2014 the postgraduate program successfully graduated our third class of nine Emergency Medical Technicians. The very successful EMT program is pleased to report increased acceptance/ enrollment numbers, as the program accepted a class of 16 students for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Director of the Postgraduate & Continuing Studies Program actively seeks information to develop new (and expand existing) certificate and licensure programs that align with regional workforce needs and employment trends.

## **Practical Nursing Program**

The Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare graduates to practice safely, ethically and in a caring manner for patients who are experiencing common variations in health status in diverse health care settings. This mission, which is consistent with the philosophy and goals of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, accomplishes the following:

- Identifies a strong relationship between academic and vocational preparation
- Stresses the importance of developing critical thinking skills to function safely, effectively, and productively in an ever-changing technical and diverse society
- Supports the maintenance of a positive and caring learning and practice environment

On June 18, 2015, the Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program saw one of its largest graduating classes - forty (40) students - complete the Practical Nursing Program and enter the nursing profession. The class achieved an initial NCLEX pass rate of 88%, and just over 75% of the 2015 graduates are currently working in the North Central area, in various health care settings including long-term care, sub-acute care, clinics, medical offices, and prison health care.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to develop the "LPN to BSN Bridge" relationship with Fitchburg State University. Both institutions were awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, supporting the "Nurse of the Future" initiative. The grant funding will assist veterans hoping to transition from military to civilian healthcare fields, granting academic credits for previous military training and experience in related military specialties.

In January, the program added a technology component called Shadow Health, a virtual patient-centered clinical experience software package. Students were asked to complete assignments at home, and were assessed according to their patient/student interaction and clinical practice interactions. The added technology proved to be beneficial, allowing the educational program to continue despite the challenging weather and school closings.

Finally, the Monty Tech PN Class of 2015 completed a meaningful community service project, adopting a Monty Tech family in need referred by the school's Student Support Services Department. The nursing students purchased holiday gifts and food for the family, making sure they were consistent with the family requests or needs.

## **Looking Ahead**

While the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District educational community is certainly proud of the achievements of our talented students, faculty, and staff, we continue to have an eye toward the future, always committed to improving our vocational and academic programming, strengthening key partnerships, and maintaining facilities that contribute to student success and achievement. As we look ahead, there are a number of programs and initiatives that we expect will have a positive impact on our school and students for years to come.

Expand partnerships with area businesses: To support the school's popular Business Technology program, specifically addressing the financial elements found within the program's frameworks, school leaders began exploring opportunities to bring banking to Monty Tech students. In collaboration with Workers' Credit Union, school officials are pleased to announce a developing partnership that will result in a full-service branch located on the school's campus, offering students opportunities to develop authentic financial literacy skills and experience while still in high school. Additionally, students studying in the school's Business

Technology program will be trained as bank tellers, effectively preparing them for entry level jobs in banking institutions across north Central Massachusetts.

Expand partnerships with area colleges and universities: Students in Monty Tech's very busy Health Occupations program may just be getting busier in the coming years. While the program already offered a number of industry-recognized credentials, school leaders began working with college partner, Mount Wachusett Community College, to determine if a college-level Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program could be embedded into the senior year of study. We are pleased to announce that this collaboration has resulted in an agreement that will effectively allow seniors to earn 8 college credits, at no charge, and the opportunity to sit for the certification exam in June 2016. By providing additional career pathways in the medical field, and access to college level coursework while still enrolled in high school, school administrators and teachers are confident that program graduates will not only be more qualified for entry level positions, they will be more apt to find an area of interest within the medical field, and continue to refine the technical skills they developed while at Monty Tech.

Expand Access to Instructional Technology: A Monty Tech education is effective because efforts are made to continually access our programming, instructional equipment, and our educational resources. Through this assessment, it has become clear that while so many students have access to technology away from the school, many do not. It is important, then, to arm every student with the tools necessary to succeed not only in the workplace, but in the classroom, as well. The district is pleased to announce a large-scale technology initiative that began in August 2015, when every educator at Monty Tech was provided with a Chromebook and individualized professional development on how to best incorporate this added technology into daily instruction. So many teachers have embraced the concept, and continued to explore learning opportunities that have resulted in classroom instruction that better reflects our 21<sup>st</sup> Century school. The Monty Tech technology initiative continues, and in August 2016, every student at Monty Tech will also be provided with a Chromebook to support his/her learning, more efficiently communicate with teachers, and to promote collaboration among student peers.

Expand vocational-technical educational opportunities: As you know, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is home to twenty vocational-technical programs, and currently serves over 1,400 students from eighteen cities and towns in North Central Massachusetts. We are so proud of our students and accomplishments, and every year we strive to provide only the best educational programs, both academic and vocational, to each and every student. As we review our student demographic, the regional workforce data, and feedback we have received from students interested in attending our school, we consider the benefits of adding new vocational programs. We are pleased to announce that Monty Tech is in the development stages of bringing a new program – our 21<sup>st</sup> program – to the school – Animal/Veterinary Science. The new program will respond to much-needed workforce training and community services, and will effectively prepare students to enter both college and career pathways upon graduation. Students and instructors, in collaboration with program partner, Becker College, will effectively learn concepts associated with a high school veterinary assisting program, while running a fully-functioning veterinary clinic, designed to provide care for pets in low-income families. Students will have access to college level coursework, and earn industry-recognized credentials, so that they may either advance to related post-secondary programs, or enter into the workforce to fill the projected 25.32% growth in veterinary technician opportunities through 2022. While this program is only in its development stages, a great deal of work has already been done to assure its success. Student surveys have been collected, collaborative working groups have been established, and industry experts across North Central Massachusetts have been called upon to offer expertise to help ensure the innovative facility is designed with both education and service in mind, and that all equipment and services align with industry standards.

**The Monty Tech School Committee**

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee is comprised of twenty-two dedicated individuals, whose expertise proves invaluable in advising the district's operations, policies, and procedures.

Our students continue to benefit from the broad scope of their experience and varying perspectives, and we are thankful to the following members of the 2014-2015 School Committee for their outstanding service.

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Respectfully Submitted By:

Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.  
Superintendent-Director  
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School  
January 20, 2016

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