

Last Monday I attended SBA Deputy Administrator William Briggs visit to our campus for the formal check presentation of the \$1.43 million grant award. It's part of the SBA's broader [\\$50 million Empower to Grow initiative](#) which is a fantastic milestone for workforce development across Lehigh, Carbon, and Schuylkill counties. The grant will serve to bring hands-on instruction in advanced manufacturing, mechatronics, and smart manufacturing directly to local job sites via a mobile lab. This will make a tremendous difference for small and mid-sized manufacturers in our region.

LCCC is one of 11 technical schools across the country to receive the award.



SBA Director William Briggs



U.S. Representative Ryan Mackenzie



Check Presentation



LCCC Mobile Workforce Lab

Then on Thursday we were informed that we were awarded our Strengthening Institutions Grant program entitled "PATHWAYS" (Philanthropy and Academic Transformation for High-demand Workforce Advancement that Yields Success) Project." This is a 5-year, \$2,171,960 award.

Through this grant, LCCC will expand this model of creating noncredit-to-credit skilled trades pathways with emphasis on Electrician and Biotechnology, as these are two high-priority occupations and align with workforce trends for the next five years. Grant funding will be utilized to award a stipend to two noncredit and two credit instructors in skilled trades areas such as electrical, industrial automation, and biotechnology during Year 1 of the project. The instructors will work collaboratively to align the noncredit and credit programs and create sensible on- and off-ramps where noncredit students can enter and earn an industry-recognized credential, gain employment in the skilled trades workforce, and return to the college to complete additional coursework or enroll as a full- or part-time student. As the programs are developed, the instructors will revise curriculum to ensure it aligns with industry and workforce needs and ensure all courses have embedded industry credentials. Finally, the instructors will also explore alternative times and schedules for courses to meet noncredit students' unique needs, such as evenings and weekends.

With grant funding, LCCC will also hire a Project Coordinator to oversee the noncredit-to-credit course alignment and curriculum development. The Project Coordinator will work closely with instructors to embed industry-recognized credentials into the courses as a valued-added component.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our Lehigh Valley LCCC graduates Avery Bauder, Autumn Clewell (Magnum Cum Laude), Phillip Ebbert, Cameron Fisher, Carter Hontz (Cum Laude), Eryn Mertz, Katherin Power (Magnum Cum Laude) and Peter Reese I believe most if not all were enrolled in Early College Program.