

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



*Preparing All Children for College and Career
Together We Can*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERINTENDENT SHAFER THANKS GOVERNOR MURPHY FOR GROUNDBREAKING P-TECH GRANT OF \$300,000

Funding will establish new STEM program enabling students to earn high school & college diplomas, begin science-related careers

PATERSON – Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer welcomed New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy today at PANTHER Academy and expressed her gratitude for the \$300,000 Pathways in Technology and Early College High School (P-TECH) grant he announced today.

“The significance of the P-Tech grant is that Paterson’s young people have the chance to lead our nation in the innovations and discoveries that can change the world for the rest of the century and beyond. And that is a tremendous opportunity for the young people of the great City of Paterson,” Shafer said. “And so I say, thank you to Governor Murphy, Passaic County Community College President Dr. Steven Rose, our Board of Education, Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron, everyone who made this grant possible, and everyone who will be involved in educating the students of Paterson in this great endeavor.”

The New Jersey Department of Education provided the P-TECH grant to support the creation of a high school program at PANTHER Academy that offers early opportunities to earn college credits and graduate students that are ready for entry-level positions in the emerging technology sector in local markets. In keeping with the grant’s requirements, a collaborative relationship will be maintained among Paterson Public Schools, Passaic County Community College and an industry partner (IBM Corporation).

P-TECH is a new type of high school that combines the core elements of high school, college coursework and opportunities to participate in the professional world. This school model enables students to begin their college and professional lives more quickly and with more support than the typical school-to-work pathway. Graduates of P-TECH earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) field and leave the school with the skills and knowledge they need to continue their studies or step seamlessly into competitive jobs within STEM industries. The program also includes special opportunities to intern and interview for entry level positions at the IBM Corporation. The total cost of the program for the first two-years is \$561,549.62. The remaining dollars will come from other funding sources.

“Frankly, I cannot think of a better place than Paterson to establish this endeavor,” Shafer added. “It was in this city where someone harnessed to the power of the Passaic River and the Great Falls to launch the industrial revolution. It was in this city where the prototypes of submarines were developed, enabling people to explore what lies beneath the ocean’s surface. And it was in this city, where the engine was developed that propelled Charles Lindbergh across the Atlantic Ocean.”

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In her remarks, Superintendent Shafer also thanked New Jersey State Commissioner of Education Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Todd Sorber, Passaic County Community College's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, Paterson Public Schools (PPS) Board of Education President Oshin Castillo, Vice President Nakima Redmon, Commissioner Emanuel Capers, Commissioner Dr. Jonathan Hodges, Commissioner Manuel Martinez, Commissioner Jessica Schutte, Commissioner Vincent Arrington, Commissioner Kenneth Simmons, Commissioner Joel Ramirez, PPS Assistant Superintendent David Cozart, PPS Business Administration Richard Matthews Associate Chief Academic Officer Eric Crespo, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Joanna Tsimpedes, District Supervisor of Science Sarah Sterling-Laldee, the Facilities Department, PANTHER Academy Principal Dr. Charla Holder, PANTHER Academy Planetarium Manager Gary Swagin, and Bruno Associates.

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