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**PATRICK ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$10 MILLION  
IN NEW WORKFORCE GRANTS**

*Sector training will target critical industries vital to state's economy*

**BROCKTON---June 7, 2007**—During a visit to Massasoit Community College, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump today announced that 20 projects representing 112 employers and 3,500 employees across the Commonwealth will receive grant funding totaling \$10 million.

Funds, divided among regions, range from \$25,000 for planning grants up to \$500,000 for implementation grants, and are part of the state's new Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, a sector initiative created by the Workforce Solutions Act of 2006.

The Fund is designed to support industry-sector projects targeting a particular industry of importance to each region, such as healthcare and travel and tourism. Critical industries are defined as those that employ large numbers of people within a given region, have high job vacancy rates and have shown growth and/or have a high number of employers.

Bump recognized one of the 20 projects called Jobs in Boating, led by Massasoit Community College, which is receiving a grant of more than \$400,000 over a three year period. The project will work to increase the pipeline of skilled workers in the Marine Trades industry, which generates nearly \$2 billion in statewide spending annually, but faces a shortage of skilled workers.

“Jobs in Boating is one of 20 initiatives that represent a major step forward in addressing the skills gap in Massachusetts,” said Bump. “I commend President Charles Wall at Massasoit Community College and other partners who have come together in the spirit of collaboration to tackle our most pressing workforce needs.”

“The awarding of this generous grant to Massasoit Community College will allow us to expand upon our existing successful offerings in the marine technical areas,” said Charles Wall, President of Massasoit Community College. “This will mean not only expanded educational opportunities for the public, but will also help us to provide a trained and motivated workforce for the highly important Marine Trades industry of southeastern Massachusetts.”

A complete listing of award recipients is attached. For information on the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Funds, visit [www.commcorp.org](http://www.commcorp.org).

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