

HCC Receives \$240,000 Grant for Veterinary Technician Program

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College (HCC) has received a \$240,743 state grant to expand and improve the outdoor instructional kennel used for its Veterinary Technician program.

The allocation was part of the Skills Capital Grants awarded last month by Gov. Charlie Baker's Workforce Skills Cabinet. The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the state.

"Skills Capital Grants help preserve the Commonwealth's talent pipeline by funding expanded enrollment and equipment upgrades at educational institutions to

provide more students with in-demand skills sought by employers," Baker said in announcing the awards.

HCC is planning to use the money to increase the size of its kennel to better facilitate instruction and add modern updates, including a new security system, more lighting, and an overhang to protect the dogs housed there.

The college will also be adding a one-year Veterinary Assistant certificate program for the fall 2020 semester to go along with its two-year associate degree Veterinary Technician program. HCC's Veterinary Technician program is the only one in Western Mass. accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Assoc.



HCC Vet Tech Instructor Jennifer York examines Bandit during a wellness check with help from student Briana Diaz.