

News

Patrick touts state's support for business



Gov. Deval L. Patrick shakes hands with Pamela W. Goldberg, CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, at Gateway Park in Worcester Monday. T&G Staff/RICK CINCLAIR

By John Monahan, TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

WORCESTER — Gov. Deval L. Patrick spent Monday morning talking about ways to grow innovation businesses in Central Massachusetts, and also announced a major expansion at Quinsigamond Community College and a state grant for a new Worcester Regional Transit Authority garage that will support electric buses.

During a breakfast meeting with members of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, the governor recounted numerous state investments in education, life sciences, clean energy and transportation that were made in the region in his first seven years in office,

He mentioned the increase in commuter rail service from Worcester, which will soon reach 20 trains per day to Boston; the start of JetBlue passenger service from Worcester Regional Airport next month; redevelopment of the downtown with the CitySquare project; and construction of the Albert Sherman Research Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. In addition, he cited Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Gateway Park innovation center as an example of the state's growth strategy paying off.



"And we are not done yet," he said.

"Growth requires investment, and investments in our community college campuses and our public transportation needs will help catalyze growth in Worcester and beyond," Mr. Patrick said.

"If we want to expand opportunity in our commonwealth, this is what government must do and do well," he said. "Education, innovation and infrastructure. That's our growth strategy. And it is working."

The governor also joined Gururaj Deshpande, cofounder of Sycamore Networks based in Chelmsford and the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to lead a discussion about ways to expand innovation enterprises in the region.

Considered a global expert on innovation, Mr. Deshpande said the state's gateway cities such as Worcester have opportunities to grow by developing new companies in technology-related fields. "There are hundreds of opportunities in the gateway cities," he said.

Mr. Patrick said the Central Massachusetts region should have been recognized sooner for its potential for the life sciences industry, which has now become the leading growth industry in the region. "It had been a mistake not to think of Worcester as part of the life science corridor," Mr. Patrick said of prior administrations.