

[By Dawson Raspuzzi](#)

Community College of Vermont has been awarded a \$2.5 million job-training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor that will allow the college to focus on skills in demand for Vermont's businesses.

Three new programs

The grant, secured by the Vermont congressional delegation, will help CCV develop three new associate degree programs to prepare students for careers in high growth fields identified by Vermont employers. Those fields include health sciences, business, and information technology, CCV President Joyce Judy said.

"We gathered businesses across the state to talk about what are their needs for their incumbent workers and also future employees they would like to hire," Judy said.

"This grant allows CCV to do some things to reach out and serve businesses in ways we haven't been able to in the past," Judy said. "We work with a number of businesses in the Bennington County area and this will allow us to do more things and provide more services for Bennington's businesses."

The new programs will be available statewide in formats designed to allow students to complete their studies in an abbreviated time.

The grant will also allow the community college -- which has 12 locations, including one in Bennington -- to improve and expand its science laboratories at many of its locations.

"We have a huge need in lab science courses, but we've had to limit our ability to serve them

because of our lack of labs," Judy said.

CCV partnered with the Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Tech, and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the grant. CCV's partners will help deliver the new services.

The grant was supported by Vermont Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders, and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch.

"The Community College of Vermont has a proven record of effective service to students, communities, and employers in Vermont," the delegation said in a joint letter to U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis supporting the grant request.