

New England Water Treatment Training (NEWTT) Program Grant # 1601840
\$602,000 2016 – Present (Currently in a second No-Cost Extension Year)

Major Goal: To produce training programs and develop educational pathways that develop operators for the Drinking Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Industries. We are also working to bring underrepresented populations into the industry, including women, minorities, and veterans

Accomplishments:

- We have developed an extensive Industry and Regulatory Agency Advisory Board and produced DACUMS for Drinking Water and Wastewater careers in our region
- We created a Drinking Water Quality Professional/Technician and a Clean Water Quality Professional/Technician Certificate Program including 5 new courses.
- We developed the Blue Center for Water Technologies, which is a hands-on training facility designed to develop Drinking Water, Wastewater (Clean Water) Operators and Water Quality Technicians and offered free courses through the grant.
- We have created a mechanism for students to receive college credit through Prior Learning Experiences for state certifications
- We have teamed with our colleges Adult Basic Education Program on an \$80,000 Bridge to Clean Water Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education Training Grant
- Our outreach programs and courses have impacted a total of 1464 people since 2017 including 862 Adults, 142 Community College students, 223 high school students and 237 middle school students. COVID-19 has limited current outreach efforts.
- We have increased our student numbers by 50% and increased our women in the program by 400% and increased the participation of students of color by 400% in the last two years

Best Practices:

- We serve on several High School Environmental Technology Advisory Boards and participate in Career Center recruitment programs
- We provide presentations at state, regional and national conferences to bring awareness of the Water industry needs and our programs
- We participate in various career awareness programs such as career days, STEM boot camps, STEM Starter Academy events, The CHICA Project of Boston, and programs with our Adult Basic Education Program and our on-campus Veterans Center
- Provide informational and hands-on training to area high school students through 3-4 hr. laboratory programs at the college. On hold now due to COVID-19
- Provide hands on training in the essential basic equipment used by operators in the field in our Blue Center for Water Technologies
- We work with other community colleges and training organizations in the New England states to assist with the development of new or existing programs

Contact: Robert S Rak, Principal Investigator

Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA

Robert.Rak@bristolcc.edu 774-357-2771

Blue Center Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/bccbluecenter>