

The Commonwealth of Massachus::tts House of Representatives Itato House, Boston 02133-1054

TODD M. SMOLA REPRESENTATIVE **1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT** 

BRIMFIELD • HOLLAND • PALMER STURBRIDGE • WALES • WARE • WARREN

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 25, 2016

**Contact: Conor Welch** 617-722-2100

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 124 TEL. (617) 722-2100

FAX: (617) 722-2390

www.reptoddsmola.org Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov Conor.Welch@mahouse.gov

## **Representative Smola Announces Workforce Capital Skills Grant Awarded to Tantasqua High School**

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School has been awarded \$98,899 as part of the Workforce Skills Capital Grant Program. This is a new initiative which seeks to align education, workforce and economic development strategies across the state. These funds are intended to develop policies to improve economic and job training opportunities for residents of the Commonwealth.

Tantasqua plans to use their allocation to purchase new machine tooling equipment which will enable students to train on the same advanced tooling equipment used by area machine shops, creating direct career pipelines.

"I am very pleased to hear that the students at Tantasqua will have the opportunity learn and develop their skills on this new equipment" said Representative Smola. "It's imperative that we give our students every opportunity to succeed after graduation. I want to congratulate Dr. Nosek and her team for their outstanding work in securing this important funding."

The Workforce Skills Capital Grant program received 68 applications from high schools, community colleges and vocational training providers across the Commonwealth for vocational-technical education and training equipment purchases that connect Massachusetts students and residents to economic opportunities in high-demand industries. Tantasqua was ultimately one of 35 programs selected to receive funding.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.