

BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 3, 2019

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION _____

Board Agenda: Yes ___

No _____

FROM: Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction
Sherri W. Chapman, CTE Coordinator

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Governor's Innovative Equipment Grant Award

SUMMARY

Governor Northam announced \$600,000 in competitive grants to 16 high schools and technical centers to upgrade equipment in career and technical education programs (CTE). Alexandria City Public Schools was one of the recipients, receiving \$37,500 to purchase new equipment for the Governor's Health Sciences Academy at T.C. Williams High School. Examples of equipment that will be purchased include hemocytometer and microcentrifuge equipment for processing DNA protein electrophoresis. The grant request covers equipment for the five new plans of study, which will be added by 2020, and include biomedical informatics, sports medicine, pharmacy technician, emergency medical services, and medical laboratory sciences.

"Technology is ever-changing, and our career and technical education programs must have the up-to-date equipment necessary to prepare Virginia students for the jobs of tomorrow, which includes industries like high-tech manufacturing, bioengineering, health care, and skilled trades," said Governor Northam. "With this funding, we are making critical investments in our young people, giving them the tools and training they need to be competitive in our 21st-century economy."

"CTE programs prepare students for career opportunities in fields that are important to their communities," said Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane. "Replacing outdated equipment and purchasing the technology needed to support instruction in new career pathways are essential for CTE programs to remain relevant and ensure that graduates are ready for the 21st-century workplace."

The competitive grant program was approved by the 2016 General Assembly, with the first grants to schools and technical centers awarded in 2017. The grant program gives priority to challenged schools, Governor's STEM Academies, and Governor's Health Science Academies.

BACKGROUND

The Governor's Health Sciences Academy at T.C. Williams High School became official in June 2018. The first freshman class began this year with 99 students accepted. All health and medical sciences courses in this Academy are dual-enrolled with George Washington University (GWU).

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends the School Board review the above information in this brief.

IMPACT

New equipment will be crucial as planning for the seven pathways in this Academy has begun. Equipment needs to be in place when the first cohort of students becomes juniors in the fall of 2020.

CONTACT

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