

The Herald News

EDUCATION

How this Durfee program is preparing students for 'blue and green economy'

Audrey Cooney The Herald News



FALL RIVER — A fledgling program at B.M.C. Durfee High School is working to prepare students for careers in the “blue and green economy” as the environmental industry expands.

“I’m just excited to get these kids opportunities and broaden their horizons,” said Tess Bradley.

Bradley is the instructor for Durfee’s environmental science and technology program, which is part of the school’s Career, Vocational and Technical Education department.

Currently, 24 students are in the environmental science and technology program, a number Bradley says she hopes to double next year.

When Bradley arrived at Durfee last year, she became determined to refine and revamp the school’s environmental science program. It’s been in existence for seven years but lacked a finely developed, written curriculum, she said.



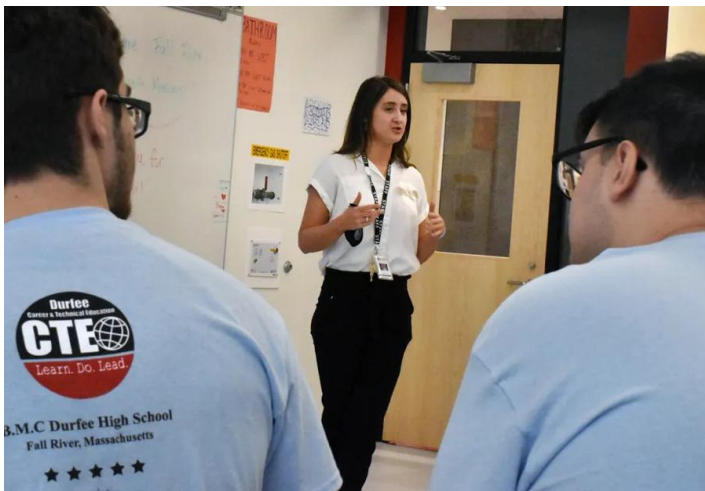
And most importantly, the program lacked enough tangible, career-oriented goals for vocational students in the program. Students could work

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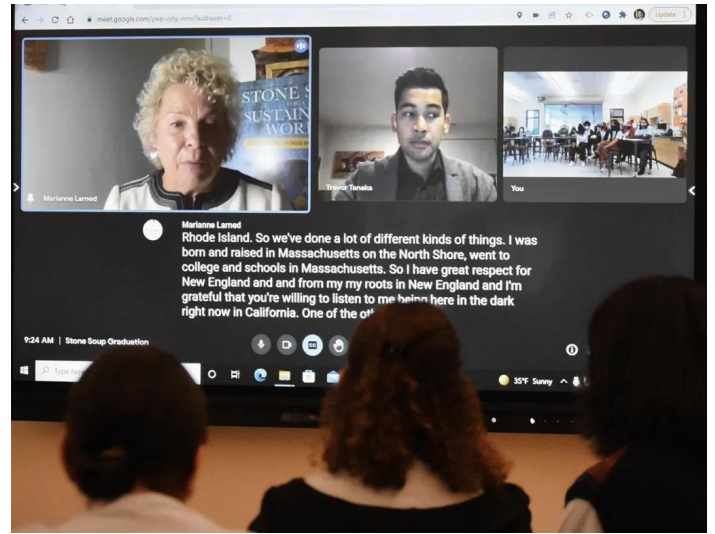
toward becoming certified to be a wastewater operator, but that was it.

“Every CTE program has an ending. With cosmetology, you get your license,” she said.

Bradley worked with Bristol Community College to identify about 10 different professional certifications the students could achieve and is currently working on setting up a dual enrollment program with the college.



Her goal is to give students the opportunity to work toward certifications in things like offshore wind power technology, sustainable agriculture, solar energy and geographic information systems. The program is intentionally focusing on



the “blue and green economy,” which Bradley described as businesses and industries focused on protecting the environment and increasing sustainability.

The program partnered with Stone Soup Leadership Institute, a non-profit founded on Martha’s Vineyard that works to inspire students to work on projects related to environmental sustainability, through things like a guided curriculum and connections with business leaders. On Wednesday, the program held a small ceremony to celebrate students finishing the non-profit’s five-week course.

“It’s really helped my kids think about what they want to do,” Bradley said.