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For immediate release

Local leaders celebrate Ellis Tech renovations

(Norwich Bulletin | October 22, 2014) On June 12, 2012, various state and local leaders gathered outside Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School for a ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of an ambitious \$84 million project aimed at expanding and renovating the 53-year-old Killingly school.

On Wednesday, many of those same people dodged the rain, walked past a towering, new granite sculpture near the building's entrance and gathered inside the school's multi-purpose room to celebrate the end of major construction at the school — eight months ahead of schedule.

"It was a difficult project, trying to run a school at the same time," said Principal Brian Mignault, Ph.D. "But this new building helps us reach our mission of achieving 100 percent student success. If I had only one wish, it would be that I'd love to come back here as a student."

The project renovated 121,000 square feet in the school and added 72,354 more square feet. A new gymnasium, media center and community cafe were built, along with a new classroom wing. Shops were overhauled and stocked with new tools and equipment, while athletic fields, halls and floors were re-done. A steel canopy greets visitors at the main entrance.



Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman addresses the crowd at Ellis Technical High School ribbon cutting event.

"This is all about you," Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman said to a crowd of students at the ceremony. "You are the future leaders and have more training than most kids at high schools."

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Many of the morning's speakers recalled the building's pre-renovation years, in which indoor barrels caught dripping rain water and warped gym floorboards gave students an unusual home team advantage.

"When you dribbled a basketball, depending on where the floor heaved, visiting teams didn't know where the ball would end up," Mignault said.



Above: Deputy Commission Pasquale Salemi addresses the crowd. Lt. Governor Wyman and friends cut the ribbon at Ellis Technical High School.

Jacob Piscia, a 17-year of Ellis Tech student from Hampton, was present throughout the construction work.

"The best part of this project is the morale it's added," said Piscia, president of the student council and National Honor Society. "Before in my manufacturing shop, half the machines didn't work. Now, we have state of the art equipment, the type of tools that are being used by the companies that might employ us."

Killingly Town Manager Sean Hendricks said schools like Ellis Tech were played a big part

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in his decision to move into Killingly.



A photo of the outside of the recently completed Ellis Technical High School

"I was recently looking over some agreements that had to do the construction of the town's new high school," he said. "I saw that the project included 37 Ellis Tech graduates."

Information above found on www.norwichbulletin.com

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