



UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacquie Moloney and Rep. Brian S. Dempsey during a Friday morning announcement at Harbor Place, Merrimack Street. (WHAV News photograph.)

As UMass Lowell's satellite campus in Haverhill moves next year to Harbor Place downtown, so will a new business incubator, or "innovation hub," based on its model in Lowell.

UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacquie Moloney was joined Friday by Rep. Brian S. Dempsey, Mayor James J. Fiorentini and others as she unveiled plans for a business incubator to provide technology startups a range of services including co-working and private office space, access to expertise of UMass Lowell faculty and conference space available to businesses and the community.

"And prototype maker space that is so cutting-edge – something that we see a lot. We've heard a lot about Cambridge. Well. We'd love to see Haverhill become the next Cambridge and go-to-place," Moloney said.

The university plans to move its current satellite from Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, to its permanent home at Harbor Place in time for the fall, 2017 semester. Moloney said the downtown location helps the university expand partnerships and forge new relationships to be "even more responsive to the needs of local employers and entrepreneurs."

Dempsey, credited by Moloney with helping bring a state-of-the-art facility, said the vision several years ago to have UMass Lowell as an anchor that would help move Haverhill in a different direction has gone from an idea to reality.

"The university brings much more than its prestigious reputation. Cutting-edge research and development that's engaged in exactly the type of expertise we're going to need to unlock the economic development and job creation opportunities of the future," Dempsey said. "Additionally, we know that the critical role in partnership UMass Lowell plays with the great asset we have—Northern Essex Community College—is important to continue to move Haverhill forward."



Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini addresses a small audience gathered at Harbor Place. (WHAV News photograph.)



Northern Essex Community College President Lane A. Glenn. (WHAV News photograph.)

Northern Essex President Lane A. Glenn added the college is proud to be part of the “ingredients” leading to recognition from other gateway cities, college presidents, lawmakers and economic development leaders at a function he attended Thursday night in Boston.

“Everybody wants to know, ‘What’s the secret up there in Haverhill?’ I mean, this is the place. It’s happening right here along the waterfront. I said, ‘It’s very simple. You find a Chairman Dempsey, you find a Mayor Fiorentini, you find a (Greater) Haverhill Foundation, you find a Chancellor Moloney.’ I mean, these are the ingredients that it takes,” Glenn said.

Fiorentini said the new technology hub was more than just about the downtown, but to connect it with industrial park employers in hiring workers.

“They can’t find the right people to bring in. And this technology hub with UMass Lowell is going to help with that. And the second thing they talk about is training. Training for their employees so that we can become the Cambridge of tomorrow, so that we can become the innovation hub of Massachusetts,” Fiorentini said.

UMass Lowell, with the move to Harbor Place, 2 Merrimack St., will also expand satellite campus program options, academic services and launch a new executive education program for mid-level and senior managers through its Division of Online and Continuing Education.

Others on hand at the news conference, held in the lobby at Harbor Place, included Sally Cerasuolo O’Rourke of Greater Haverhill Foundation, Rep. Diana DiZoglio of Methuen and Planning Office for Urban Affairs President Lisa B. Alberghini.

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