

# Agawam grad among state's '29 Who Shine'

Springfield Technical Community College student Lineisha Rosario has been named one of the state Department of Higher Education's "29 Who Shine," a program that recognizes one outstanding graduating student from each public college and university in Massachusetts.

Rosario, of Agawam, and her faculty mentor, physics professor Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, represented STCC during a ceremony on May 4 at the State House in Boston. Rosario is a member of STCC's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers, and McGinnis-Cavanaugh is its faculty advisor.

Each year, the state honors outstanding students who show promise as future leaders and demonstrate a strong record of academic achievement. Students also are chosen based on their intent to pursue a career in a field where there is a demonstrated need in Massachusetts, among other criteria.

McGinnis-Cavanaugh and Gary Masciadrelli, professor and chair of the Mechanical Engineering Technology program at STCC, submitted Rosario's name for the award.

Rosario and her family left Puerto Rico in 2015 and settled in Agawam, where she finished high school and then applied to STCC. She attended STCC's STEM Starter Academy, a summer program for new students interested in science, technology, engineering and math.

When she received her associate degree at STCC commencement on May 31, she will become the first member of her family to graduate from college.

"One of my biggest passions is to share my story with women who need encouragement to continue their pursuit of an engineering education and career," Rosario said. "I also want to tell the elementary and middle school girls who, like me, are curious about how things are made and how they work, that in the 21st century women will be engineering the world."

Passionate about inspiring girls to major in engineering, Rosario will continue to volunteer her time with STCC's Society of Women Engineers after graduation. She hopes to work full-time while she pursues a bachelor's degree in advanced manufacturing systems on site at STCC through the college's new partnership with Northeastern University.

Lineisha Rosario, center, with STCC physics professor Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, left, and college President John Cook.



STCC student Lineisha Rosario, from Agawam, stands with Gov. Charlie Baker during the "29 Who Shine" ceremony at the State House in Boston on May 4. SUBMITTED PHOTO