

STCC workers earn state honors

Four Springfield Technical Community College facilities workers recently earned certificates after completing safety and new technology training session webinars which prepare them to maintain and repair state-of-the-art heating and air conditioning systems.

The certificates were awarded to Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Department employees Gilbert Ocasio, utility plant operator, and refrigeration mechanics Zosimo Torres, Andrew Durand and Stephen Grader.

Three of the men attended a commencement ceremony at the Statehouse in Boston on Nov. 4. One stayed on campus to handle any potential heating, ventilation or air conditioning issues. Commissioner Carol Gladstone of the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and administration and finance secretary Michael J. Heffernan awarded certificates during the ceremony.

"We're really pleased to see the entire team at STCC take advantage of the programs being offered. We congratulate the recent graduates and the facilities team at the college," Gladstone said.

Maureen Socha, assistant vice president of administration and facilities at the college, congratulated the four employees for their effort. They completed about 15 hours of training to earn the certificates.

"Congratulations to our dedicated staff in the HVAC department," Socha said. "They work hard day in and day out. They're on the front lines taking care of preventative maintenance and addressing any unexpected issues that come up. I'm proud of them for taking the



Members of the Springfield Technical Community College Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Department, from left, Stephen Grader, Andrew Durand, Zosimo Torres and Gilbert Ocasio, display the certificates they received for completing safety and new technology training session webinars which prepare them to maintain and repair state-of-the-art heating and air conditioning systems. The honors were presented last month at a ceremony at the Statehouse in Boston. (SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHOTO)

time to enhance their skills."

Socha said the certification will prove helpful as the college gets ready to open the Ira H. Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons, also known as Building 19. The historic building, which has undergone a renovation, will use energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems.

"This certification is important as we get ready for the technology coming in for Building 19," Socha said. "It not only helps them get ready for that technology, but the training is a terrific educational opportunity. It keeps everybody fresh."

Torres and Durand are graduates of the college's HVAC program.

