



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BART Proudly Announces Plans for New MakerSpace**

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BART was recently awarded a \$14,992 Creativity and Innovation grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This two-year grant provides funding to purchase equipment for a new digital fabrication lab or makerspace, and for the design and implementation of a new high school course, “Discover, Design and Build”.

“Discover, Design and Build” is a yearlong, cross-disciplinary course, that BART will offer starting in the 2015-16 school year. Students will learn how to use digital tools that include a 3-D printer, 3-D scanner, laser cutter, large format printer and design and modeling software. As members of a team students will work with a high level of autonomy and independence in a class that will combine mathematics, engineering, physics and digital media.

The curriculum for the class will create a direct link between community organizations, businesses, and BART students. Students will work with community leaders in North Adams and Adams, and with engineers from General Dynamics. Students will meet with city council members and town administrators to discuss issues that are mutually important to city leaders and the young people of the community. Student teams will then be tasked to choose one of the challenges facing the community and begin the process of developing a solution to the problem. This course will help to prepare our students to be successful in our technology-driven workplace.

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART’s graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in,

or employment in its services, programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, homelessness or age.