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PRESS RELEASE

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Gobi, Whipps Lee Announce Athol Learning Center Grant Award

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Representative Susannah M. Whipps Lee (R-Athol) have announced a \$145,000 grant awarded to the Athol Community Elementary School for after school and summer programming at the Athol Area YMCA.

“The Town of Athol and YMCA continue to offer a variety of learning experiences to our youth,” said Senator Gobi. “Learning does not end with a bell or school year; it continues. This grant will allow educational opportunities throughout the summer and outside of normal school hours.”

"Many families are at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing learning opportunities outside of school, and this grant is a chance to bridge that gap," said Rep. Whipps Lee. "This out of school time will help reinforce and complement the regular academic programming, while providing an alternative learning experience which is both engaging and motivational."

The funding was announced early this week by Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants assist districts and organizations to offer an extended day for all students and/or enrichment programs after school and during the summer.

Funding may be used for salaries, stipends, contracts, instructional materials, and other expenses associated with offering academic enrichment programming during expanded learning time (ELT) or out-of-school time (OST) programming.

The Athol Community Elementary School is one of only fifteen schools to receive grant funding through this highly competitive program.

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