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Merrimack Company receives \$70,000 state job-training grant

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Merrimack- Governor John Lynch yesterday toured manufacturing sites at Kollsman Inc., an aviations and electro-optics company and announced a \$70,000 grant from the state Job Training Fund.

Jack McStravock, vice president of human resources and administration for Kollsman, said the company will use the matching grant to train 10 to 15 of its manufacturing assemblers over the course of 18 months for more technical skills that will enable the workers to understand systems and diagnosis of the products the company manufactures.

“We would have been able to fund this on our own, but not this rapidly, and speed is an important part of the state objectives,” McStravock said.

The Job Training Fund was operated in 2001 and 2002 before support declined for the state-funded program. Lynch helped to reintroduce the grant last year to ensure the state was developing a work force for companies to use, said Michael Power of the Workforce Opportunity Council.

Kollsman employees will undergo training twice a wee for 18 months and receive 43 credits toward a 65-credit associate’s degree at Nashua Community College, college President Lucille Jordan said.

The Job Training Fund so far has distributed \$295,893 to nine companies in the state and has a budget of \$1 million during the fiscal year, Power said.

“This is a great example of government, educators and private industry working together,” Power said.

Lynch commended Kollsman for its company structure, which breaks employees into teams for production and oversight of specific products and enables employees to participate in profit sharing.