



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Offers Scholarships
for Online Water Treatment Course at STCC**

*Commission Encouraging Those Seeking New Careers in 2021
to Consider Drinking Water Treatment*

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is excited to announce that it is offering three scholarships to cover the tuition for an upcoming online water treatment course at Springfield Technical Community College. The course, *Concepts and Practices of Basic Drinking Water Treatment*, runs from February 8 – April 26, 2021 and was developed by Springfield Technical Community College and the Massachusetts Water Works Association with support from the Commission. Registration is currently open until January 15, 2021.

While the course is free for all matriculated Massachusetts community college students, the scholarships offered by the Commission cover the \$829 tuition and cost of books for three non-matriculated students. Scholarship applicants must be current residents of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties, with preference given to Hampden County residents. Interested applicants must fill out a brief application form by January 6, 2021, with decisions provided by January 8, 2021.

About Drinking Water Treatment Operator Careers

There is currently a high demand for new drinking water treatment plant operators both in the Springfield region and throughout the state. Drinking water treatment operators run and maintain drinking water treatment plants through the operation of computerized treatment systems as well as hands-on maintenance of mechanical components. Drinking water treatment is a rewarding profession that is ever-responding to new conditions such as climate change, scientific and technological advances, and new governmental regulations. Residents of Western Massachusetts considering or seeking a new career in 2021 can also look to drinking water treatment as an essential, non-outsourcable profession that offers competitive pay and robust benefits while serving on the front lines for the local community.



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“Due to a wave of upcoming retirements, drinking water treatment operators are in greater need than ever,” said Executive Director Josh Schimmel. “This wave of retirements speaks to the fact that the drinking water profession is incredibly rewarding as well as reliable, with many current drinking water operators having spent decades growing and advancing, sometimes into leadership roles. Not only that, but operators can also earn excellent pay, paid vacation, comprehensive health insurance and a pension without necessarily obtaining a four-year degree. Through this scholarship the Commission is eager to welcome the next generation of water professionals that will contribute to the evolution of drinking water treatment in their community.”

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires all drinking water treatment operators to acquire up to four levels of licenses, depending on the type of plant they are operating. Upon completion of the online course, students will be eligible to sit for the Level 2 exam. More information about the training and licensing process for drinking water treatment operators is available at <https://waterandsewer.org/training-and-licensure/>.

How to Apply for the Scholarship and Register for the Course

Scholarship applicants should obtain an application at <https://waterandsewer.org/scholarships/> and submit it by email (preferred) or mail to the contacts provided on the form. The application requires a brief statement on work history and why the applicant is interested in the water profession. Only current residents of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties are eligible, with residents of Hampden County receiving preference.

Applications are due by close of business January 6, 2021, and applicants will be notified by January 8, 2021. Tuition will be paid to STCC by the Commission on behalf of the successful scholarship recipients upon their registration for the course by January 15, 2021.

More information about the STCC course and course registration instructions are available at <https://www.stcc.edu/wdc/descriptions/wtrd-005-drinking-water-treatment/>.

Potential course registrants or scholarship applicants from Western Massachusetts with questions about the scholarship or about the drinking water treatment operator profession in general are encouraged to call the Commission at 413-452-1300 or email admin.mgr@waterandsewer.org.

About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, regional public utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to approximately 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow, and wholesale drinking water to Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow, as well as emergency/peak service to several other communities. The Commission provides retail wastewater service to Springfield and wholesale wastewater service to West Springfield, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Ludlow.

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