

## **Whittier co-recipient of Chamber of Commerce Community Spirit Award**

HAVERTHILL – The Community Spirit Award this year goes to ... vocational technical education! Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce has named Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School and Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical High School as co-recipients of their annual award.

“The technical schools offer a lot of what the business community needs out of education,” said Will Carpenter, vice-president of the chamber. “They have become an increasingly important contribution to the work force.”

Vo-tech high schools not only provide students with a specialty such as carpentry, plumbing, telecommunications or culinary arts, but also satisfy the state requirements for academics, he said. “We feel the kids are getting double the education because they are learning both their trade and all the academic subjects,” said Mr. Carpenter.

The recognition is given to community-based organizations, individuals and companies which have “demonstrated outstanding contributions to the well-being of the communities they serve,” according to the award letter Whittier School Superintendent William P. DeRosa received from Chamber President Joseph J. Bevilacqua.

“We are thrilled to receive the recognition,” said Mr. DeRosa. “Vocational-technical education is getting the credit we lacked in the past. We are extremely proud of our students’ accomplishments and our varied and many contributions to the 11 cities and towns we serve.”

The award will be presented at the Chamber’s 2009 Annual Dinner April 29 at Diburro’s Function Hall.