

# Edison Tech unveils renovations, new equipment

**Justin Murphy**

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA  
TODAY NETWORK

Edison Tech High School this week unveiled a suite of state-of-the-art studios and shop areas for its career and technology pathways, including television and audio studios and renovated manufacturing and automotive areas.

The \$56 million project was part of the state Facilities Modernization Program. While other schools in the city were entirely renovated, Edison instead had its improvements focused on one wing of the building and the equipment its students use to prepare for a career.

Among the new features at the school, according to materials distributed by Edison students concentrating on advertising:

- An interactive media design area including a professional audio recording studio
- A television studio with industrystandard equipment and lighting
- A maker space with several sorts of advanced technology tools
- A reorganized manufacturing, engineering, automotive and welding area
- A second automotive shop with two new car lifts and other features.

know: We see you, we care about you, and we're going to see that you get what you need to do your very, very best," Mayor Lovely Warren said Thursday. "What is happening at Edison needs to happen all across the district."

Edison is the largest school in Monroe County, with more than 1,800 students. That includes students in PTECH, a six-year program culminating in a no-cost associate's degree.

The school has a proud history — many of its alumni were on hand for the ribbon-cutting, led by Principal Jacob Scott — but has stumbled in recent years as it attempts to keep its career pathways aligned with state standards and workplace demand.

A pair of reports in 2014 sharply criticized Edison and the district's CTE offerings in general for failing to prepare students for either college or a career. At the time the campus was home to two separate high schools, and many of the "pathways" on offer were not in compliance with state regulations.

"It's definitely not what it used to be," the district's CTE director at the time, Keith Babuszcak, said. "We've lost the plot."

Across the district, enrollment in CTE courses has risen exponentially, from 70 students in 2012-13 to 4,109 in 2016-17, according to Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino. Yet Edison remains a comprehensive high school, meaning not all its students are necessarily there for the CTE offerings.

school's reputation both with parents and with business partners.

"The thing I want parents to know is that we have the most options of any school," he said. "You can go to college ... or you can go right to work and make not just a good living, but a *great* living."

Contact staff writer Justin Murphy at [jmurphy7@gannett.com](mailto:jmurphy7@gannett.com) or at 585-258-9886.



**Edison Tech principal Jacob Scott and Mayor Lovely Warren prepare for a student interview at Edison's new television production studio. JUSTIN MURPHY/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE**

“We’re letting the children

Edison was restored as a single campus in 2015-16, and Scott was named principal this year. One of his primary goals, he said, is to re-establish the