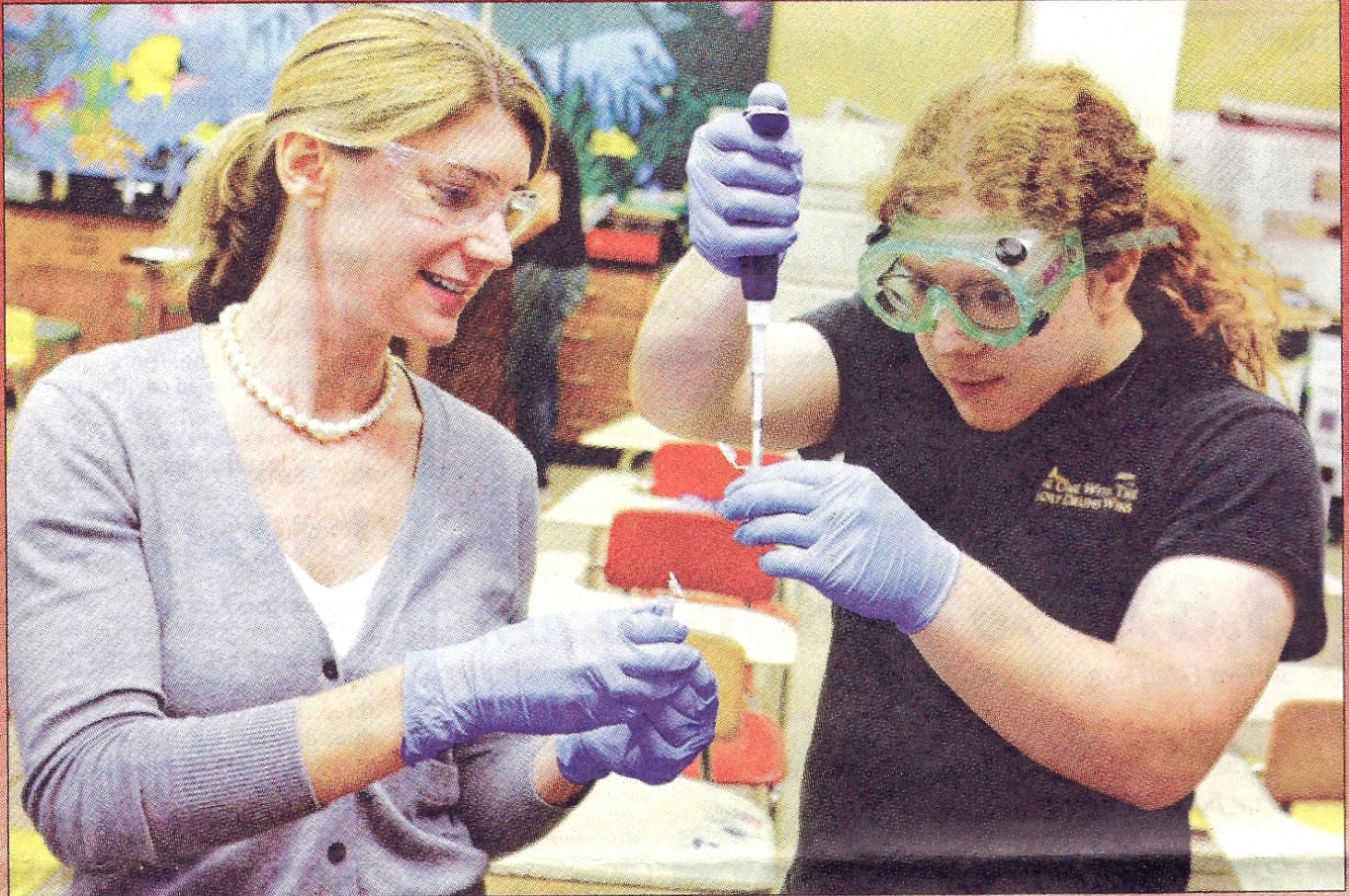


# SCIENTIFIC METHOD



Submitted Photo

Coventry High School science teacher Julie Pankowicz guides student Patrick Shea through a forensic science exercise using equipment provided by URI through a grant from the Amgen Foundation's Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program.

## LOCAL FIRM, URI HELP SUPPLY COVENTRY H.S. WITH LAB EQUIPMENT THROUGH GRANT

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COVENTRY — With the help of a grant from the Amgen Foundation, high school students will continue to get a hands-on experience in the growing field of biotechnology.

The University of Rhode Island (URI) was awarded the \$94,000 grant to offer, for the sixth year, the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program at high

schools throughout the state. More than 5,000 students and 100 teachers in Rhode Island participate in the program, including Coventry High School.

Julie Pankowicz, a science teacher at Coventry High School, explained that in 2009 the biotechnology class at the high school was dwindling, with a total of six students enrolled.

She said that once she began teaching the semester-long course, she rewrote the curriculum and joined the Amgen program,

where they trained her to use the kit at the biotechnology manufacturing laboratory at the URI Providence campus. She said she also uses the equipment to teach forensics, biology and physical science.

It may not be a coincidence that the school's science curriculum has blossomed since. Pankowicz explained that in the upcoming school year she will be teaching three full-time biotechnology classes, which is the most Coventry High School

See GRANT, Page A-2

# Grant money helps at CHS

*Continued from Page A-1*

has ever seen, and a full-time biotechnology II class.

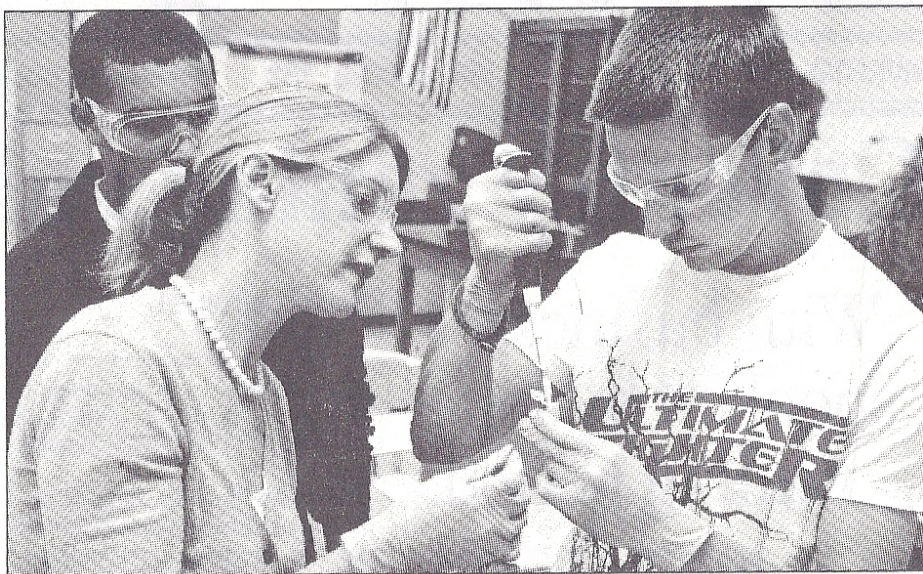
She explained that last year her forensic science students used the instruments provided to learn how to do DNA fingerprinting.

The Amgen lab program gives science teachers and students interested in biotechnology, the opportunity to use \$20,000 worth of professional research equipment in the classroom.

The type of equipment given to the students mirrors what is used in the biotechnology industry, including electrophoresis equipment for DNA separation, centrifuges, micropipettes, consumables for growing bacteria and an incubator.

"I'd never be able to support this curriculum without these materials," she said. "They're using materials I didn't get to use until I was in college. And my students love it. The opportunities it has opened up for them are unimaginable. They're exposed to careers and jobs that a biotechnology education can bring you."

Pankowicz said that West Greenwich-based Amgen drops off the equipment to the loading dock at the high school whenever she schedules it. Also, all the supplies



Submitted Photo

**Pankowicz, here with student Matt Salvas, has helped overhaul Coventry High's science curriculum.**

and training given to the teacher are at no cost to the school district.

"The Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Lab Program is a shining example of the Amgen Foundation's commitment to advancing science education and increasing science literacy in our communi-

ties," said Tony Pankau, Amgen's Vice President of Rhode Island Operations in a press release. "This program leverages Amgen's more than 30 years of experience in recombinant DNA technology and brings to life for thousands of students."