

CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION
CT Center for Advanced Technology
222 Pitkin Street, East Hartford
March 12, 2014

MINUTES

Present: Donald Shubert (Chair); Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman (Vice-Chair); John Harrity (Secretary-Treasurer); Thomas Burns; Elliot Ginsberg; James Ieronimo; John Olsen; Deborah Monahan; Sharon Palmer; JoAnn Ryan; Catherine Smith; Lyle Wray; Judy Resnick (for John Rathgeber); Raymond Singleton (for Roderick Bremby).

Governor's Report

Lt. Governor Wyman reported that the current state budget projects a modest year-end surplus and that Governor Malloy is proposing a package of tax rebates, funding for emergency reserves and funding to help meet pension obligations. The Lt. Governor briefly highlighted selected key initiatives, including the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Fund, UTC retention agreement, proposed minimum wage hike, Board of Regents/ConnSCU strategic plan and the status of Access Health CT enrollment efforts.

Presentation

Mark Maggi, Economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics New England Information Office made a presentation on "Conveying Value to Key Customers," explaining the role of BLS, its products and services, economic indicators and other data generated, targeted industries/groups, challenges with response rates in Connecticut and opportunities to collaborate in generating useful information going forward. The presentation will be posted at: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/OWC/CETC/CETC.htm>.

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Harrity, seconded by Ms. Monahan, the December 12, 2013 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

On behalf of the Campaign for a Working CT, Alice Pritchard commented on several items under consideration by the General Assembly, including expanded access to financial aid for students in non-degree certificate programs and the need to consolidate and focus efforts addressing contextualized learning.

Correspondence

Mr. Shubert reported on four noteworthy items since the December 12 CETC meeting, including: December 17 letter from Governor Malloy appointing Karen Eichstadt to the Connecticut Technical High School System Governing Board, nominated by CETC; December 18 letter from Mr. Shubert to Connecticut's Congressional delegation proposing extension of emergency unemployment benefits as a feature of the new national budget; and, February 18 letters from Mr. Shubert to Department of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Amy Porter and Connecticut Technical High School System Superintendent Nivea Torres, respectively, concerning their participation on CETC in an ex-officio capacity.

State Agency Updates

CTDOL Commissioner Palmer reported on recent efforts to promote contextualized learning strategies and to improve access to workforce services for military veterans. DECD Commissioner Smith discussed components

(For CETC Action 6.5.14)

of the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Fund and the proposed agreement with UTC to build a new Pratt and Whitney headquarters in East Hartford and expand manufacturing operations and aerospace production in Connecticut. DSS Deputy Commissioner Singleton addressed operational efforts to improve customer services generally; automation enhancements to speed-up Access Health CT eligibility determination; a TANF “re-set” emphasizing the entire family unit, including building on the *Couples Advancing Together* and *My Brother’s Keeper* strategies; strengthened child support efforts; the *Fatherhood Initiative*; and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program) employment and training options. He indicated that he would provide data to CETC on these various efforts.

CT Workforce Development Council Update

On behalf of Connecticut’s regional workforce investment boards, William Villano reported on several items under consideration by the General Assembly, including proposed increased funding for the STEP-UP program, support for the P2E (*Platform to Employment*) initiative, and continued funding for the *Summer Youth Employment Program*. He reported that the \$4.5 million in State general fund support leveraged \$2.5 million in additional funding for 2013 summer youth employment efforts statewide, serving more than 5,000 youth, while more than 5,000 eligible youth went un-served due to limited resources. He noted a concern that the legislature is considering proposals to appropriate separate funding for youth summer jobs programs in selected urban centers, prompting discussion among members about the need for clear objectives, focus and evaluation of summer program outcomes.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Shubert reported that the 2013 USDOL Employment and Training Administration Regional Office’s review of WIA compliance in Connecticut produced a finding requiring CETC to approve the 2012-16 local plan adopted by The Workplace for the southwestern region. He noted that the plan had been forwarded to CETC members for review as an action item. Mr. Shubert indicated that CTDOL provided assurance that the southwest regional plan has been reviewed and meets relevant WIA requirements. On a motion by Mr. Ginsberg, seconded by Ms. Ryan, members voted unanimously to approve the *Southwest Connecticut Workforce Investment Board 2012-2016 Local Plan* as presented and requested CTDOL to so notify the USDOL Regional Office.

Members discussed the value of increased collaboration between CETC and the WIBs on workforce planning efforts going forward, to promote alignment between state-level and regional planning. Considerable support was expressed. Mr. Shubert indicated that options would be developed for further discussion and consideration at the June meeting.

Mr. Shubert reported that efforts are underway with the CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium to map out a coordinated approach on energy sector workforce policy and strategy, led by businesses and employers. A proposed approach will be presented at the June CETC meeting.

Committee Reports

Allied Health Workforce Policy Board

On behalf of Co-Chairs Frances Padilla and Stuart Rosenberg, Alice Pritchard reported that the Executive Summary of the *Allied Health Workforce Policy Board’s 2014 Legislative Report* had been shared with leadership and members of the legislature’s Higher Education, Public Health and Appropriations Committees. Copies of the executive summary were included in members’ meeting folders.

Career Advancement Committee

Co-Chair Deborah Monahan reported that the Committee met February 20 for updates on selected career advancement/contextualized learning efforts, specifically PA12-40-related developmental education reform initiatives from BOR, PA13-121-related adult education efforts from CAACE, and update of JFES I-BEST pilots, from the WIBs, CTDOL and UCONN. The committee heard updates on the Move Up! Contextualized Learning Institute and from the Campaign for a Working CT. Upcoming activities include an April 11 CSCU symposium on developmental education strategies and a proposed roundtable with funders on leveraged investing in developmental instruction strategies.

Ms. Monahan reported that the committee had voted to recommend CETC's formal endorsement of the *Connecticut State Plan Revision for Adult Education and Family Literacy, Title II of Workforce Investment Act, Fiscal Year 2014-15 (Public Law 105-220)* as presented by the Connecticut State Department of Education, consistent with CETC's prescribed role in Executive Order 35. Mr. Shubert noted that the plan revision had been forwarded to members for review in advance of this meeting. On a motion by Ms. Monahan, seconded by Mr. Olsen, members voted unanimously to endorse the WIA Title II plan revision and authorized Mr. Shubert to correspond with Governor Malloy to recommend his support for its transmittal to the US Department of Education.

Advanced Manufacturing Work Group

Co-Chairs John Harrity and Elliot Ginsberg reported that the Work Group met March 10. Outreach continues to employers and through manufacturing associations to get accurate information on current workforce priorities, anticipated workforce needs, effective training strategies, etc. The co-chairs noted that insight gained from the outreach confirms the importance of having an employer-driven manufacturing "big picture" and table to consolidate data from multiple sources to inform manufacturing workforce policy and strategy. They asserted that a strengthened Advanced Manufacturing Work Group can play a key role on CETC's behalf as the state workforce investment board. They intend to work on strengthening membership and focus, recruiting small-medium manufacturers, representatives of the various manufacturing associations, regional-local chambers and selected CETC members. The Work Group will produce an overview of the manufacturing workforce landscape in Connecticut, consolidating readily available information, to suggest future priorities and strategy, and will report on conclusions and proposed next steps at CETC's June meeting.

The co-chairs endorsed pending legislative efforts to: authorize administrative waiver of the employees cap restricting businesses from STEP-UP participation; emphasize the importance of incumbent worker training strategies, including apprenticeship, to sustain a talented manufacturing workforce; and continue support for *CT Dream It. Do It.* focusing on the youth manufacturing talent pipeline.

Youth Employment Committee

Co-chair James Ieronimo reported that he and co-chair Norma Ortega have been working with staff to refine the committee's work plan and membership. The next meeting is March 28. The committee roster has been strengthened with new members, including Joann Ryan from the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Jeff Pugliese from the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. The committee intends to focus on several key items in the year ahead:

- Increase counselor and teacher awareness and exposure to key industries to improve guidance efforts with middle and high school students.
- Support expansion of work experience opportunities for youth in key industries, including: inventory of State-sponsored opportunities documenting current activity and investment; CT Career Pathways

(For CETC Action 6.5.14)

Campaign with CETC members and WIBs to expand summer and year-round work options; spotlighting private sector programs to share promising practices and inventory opportunities.

- Work with CSDE and other partners to strengthen the Student Success Plan (SSP) as a career exploration tool.
- Hold bi-annual working sessions with the WIB Youth Councils to showcase their efforts, identify system challenges/solutions and collaborate on successful strategies.

Other Business and Adjournment

Chairman Shubert concluded by presenting a proclamation from Governor Malloy to John Olsen, acknowledging John's recent retirement as the longest-serving President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and thanking him for his twenty-five years of service as a member of CETC.