

**CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION**

# **2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

**January 2014**

## **Background**

The Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) is Connecticut's State Workforce Investment Board, authorized under Federal law (Workforce Investment Act) and state statute. CETC is the State body with lead responsibility to provide workforce development policy and planning guidance to Governor Malloy. CETC is broadly charged to promote strategic coordination of the state's workforce development investments, strategies, and programs. Donald Shubert, President of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association serves as CETC Chair. Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman serves as Vice-Chair. CETC members represent Connecticut businesses, key state agencies, regional/local public entities, labor, community organizations and other key stakeholders. The Office of Workforce Competitiveness, operating as a quasi-independent office within the Connecticut Department of Labor, provides staff support and technical assistance to CETC.

This CETC 2014 Annual Report briefly highlights key efforts in 2013 to develop Connecticut's well-educated, highly-skilled, productive workforce to support economic growth and financial security for Connecticut families.

## **Goals**

Four overarching goals frame CETC's efforts:

- **Business Growth**: Connecticut businesses – particularly those in key industry sectors – will have access to the human resources and talent necessary to compete effectively, prosper in Connecticut and create new jobs for Connecticut workers.
- **Current Workforce**: Connecticut workers will have skills and credentials to prosper and advance in careers that pay well and provide good benefits to support their families.
- **Future Talent**: Connecticut youth will be ready for career and postsecondary success as productive contributors to a competitive state economy.
- **System Transformation**: Connecticut's workforce development system will support a world-class workforce and competitive economy through aligned and integrated goals, strategies, policies, services and infrastructure, with performance regularly evaluated.

## **Committees and Work Groups**

CETC works through its standing committees and associated work groups:

- **Planning and Performance Committee** Co-chaired by JoAnn Ryan (President and CEO, Northwestern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce) and Lyle Wray (Executive Director, Capital Region Council of Governments). The committee coordinates CETC's planning efforts and performance review responsibilities.

- **Allied Health Workforce Policy Board** Frances Padilla (President, Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut) and Stuart Rosenberg (President and CEO, Johnson Memorial Medical Center) are the co-conveners. Established in statute, the Board operates as a CETC work group to conduct planning and research on Connecticut's allied health workforce and provide policy guidance on identified priorities.
- **Advanced Manufacturing Work Group** Elliot Ginsberg (President and CEO, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology) and John Harray (President, Connecticut State Council of Machinists) serve as co-conveners. The work group develops recommendations and pursues opportunities to address the workforce priorities of Connecticut manufacturers.
- **Career Advancement Committee** Co-chaired by Carlton Highsmith (Board President, Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology) and Deborah Monahan (Executive Director, Thames Valley Council for Community Action). The committee focuses on challenges to the career prospects of Connecticut's low-skill workers, promoting strategies to develop pathways into middle-skill jobs/career opportunities in key industry sectors.
- **Youth Employment Committee** Co-chaired by James Ieronimo (Executive Director, United Way of Meriden and Wallingford) and Norma Ortega (Manager, University Relations, Travelers Companies). As the State Youth Council, the committee coordinates with and supports WIB Youth Councils and collaborates with employers, educators and other partners to promote youth career development through summer employment, student internships and other work-related experiences.

## **2013 Highlights**

Working through its committees and work groups, in 2013 CETC took steps to follow-up on key recommendations from its wide-ranging and strategic 2012 Annual Plan, adopted in September 2012:

- Conducted a review of labor market trends relevant to occupations and careers in allied health services, identified changes impacting the state's allied health services sector and proposed legislative recommendations to help ensure that Connecticut's allied health workforce meets current and projected future demands.
- Developed an inventory of initiatives underway across Connecticut relevant to building a skilled healthcare workforce among state agencies, K-12 schools, higher education, the workforce system and other key stakeholders.
- Developed and proposed a set of guidelines to frame a Youth Career Pathways system, building on statewide K-12 education reform efforts, to promote career readiness for all Connecticut students.

- Proposed a core set of components to promote standardization of Contextualized Learning programs, services and participant outcomes, across funding streams and agency boundaries, plus policy recommendations to advance Contextualized Learning efforts in Connecticut.
- Reviewed and reported on outcomes achieved in a core set of Connecticut education and training programs intended to prepare individuals for productive employment, including short-term training and employment programs, basic skills enhancement programs, and programs addressing the post-secondary pipeline.
- Took steps to coordinate state-level efforts to develop a skilled energy sector workforce.
- Reached out to Connecticut manufacturers on steps to ensure accurate information about their job vacancies and workforce needs, identify and support effective strategies, promote career pathways, and use that information to inform policy and strategy.

CETC produced several reports and papers addressing workforce priorities (accessible at [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/OWC/CETC/CETC.htm](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/OWC/CETC/CETC.htm)):

- *Allied Health Workforce Policy Board Annual Legislative Report 2013* (Allied Health Workforce Policy Board)
- *Inventory of Healthcare Initiatives* (Allied Health Workforce Policy Board)
- *Career Pathways System Report* (Youth Employment Committee)
- *Review of Contextualized Learning and Its Importance to Career Advancement for Adults in Connecticut* (Career Advancement Committee)
- *2013 Report Card for Employment and Training Programs* (Planning and Performance Committee)
- *2013 CETC Annual Report* and *2013 CETC Annual Plan* (Planning and Performance Committee)

### **Conclusion**

CETC plays an important role in promoting workforce-related policy development and planning. The insight of CETC's members and commitment of the numerous participants on CETC committees contribute significantly the development of Connecticut's educated, skilled and productive workforce. CETC will collaborate with Governor Malloy, Lieutenant Governor Wyman, the General Assembly, Connecticut employers and businesses, State agency partners, regional workforce investment boards, workers, educators, service providers, funders and other stakeholders on these critical efforts in the year ahead.

Information about CETC's work is available at: [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/OWC/CETC/CETC.htm](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/OWC/CETC/CETC.htm).

Or contact: Office of Workforce Competitiveness  
200 Folly Brook Boulevard  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-263-6523