



2015 Apprenticeship Awareness Breakfast Set for March 17 at State Capitol

WETHERSFIELD, February 24, 2015 – Labor officials, legislative leaders and community representatives will pay tribute to a truly unique contribution to the workplace – the state’s registered apprenticeship program – during the 2015 Apprenticeship Awareness Breakfast on March 17 at the State Capitol from 8 to 10 a.m. in Room 310. This year’s event recognizes the working men and women in this state – past, present and future.

“Often referred to as “the other four year degree,” Apprenticeship has been an integral part of this state’s employment and training picture for more than 75 years now,” points out State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer. “Registered Apprenticeship combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction to help develop Connecticut’s skilled workforce in occupations such as electricians, plumbers, tool and die makers and many others. Over the years, employers, labor-management trusts, apprentices and educators alike, have all relied on this program to help train and prepare for high-skilled careers that benefit our workforce and the economy.”

During the event a number of individuals who have dedicated their time to promoting the Apprenticeship program, as well as exceptional apprentices, will be recognized and honored.

Notes Vincent Valente, Labor Department Apprenticeship Program Manager: “Registered Apprenticeship is a nationally-recognized program that traces its origins back to the 1937 National Apprenticeship Act. There’s a true Connecticut connection to this program. The National Apprenticeship Act, also known as The Fitzgerald Act, was originally sponsored by Congressman William Fitzgerald of Norwich.”

Today, more than 1,500 active employer-sponsors and labor-management training committees in Connecticut employ approximately 5,200 apprentices in registered programs. Information about Connecticut’s Registered Apprenticeship Program can be found on the agency’s website at: www.ctapprenticeship.com while those seeking more information about the Apprenticeship Awareness Breakfast can call 860-263-6086.

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