



## MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor Communications Office  
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner

# Labor Commissioner To Receive Director's Award At Job Corps' Business & Community Partners Ceremony

WETHERSFIELD, February 25, 2015 – State Labor Commissioner Sharon Palmer will be presented with the Director's Award during a February 27 awards ceremony at the Hartford Job Corps Academy, 100 William "Shorty" Campbell Street, Hartford. The breakfast event, which will also celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Job Corps program, takes place from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the school's dining area.

The annual Business & Community Partners Award Ceremony is designed to recognize Connecticut companies and partners that the Job Corps Academy has identified as top employer partners and community advocates in the area.

Palmer, of Quaker Hill, who has been with the Labor Department since 2012, was selected for the award – the highest honor presented by the program – on the basis of her "strong support and championship of Job Corps and its students."

According to Hartford Job Corps Academy Director Tami Schweikert, this year's event is titled *Keeping Our Community Connected*, and Commissioner Palmer, a former teacher, represents this idea by her dedication to the students and her belief that the academy benefits the local economy.

"Commissioner Palmer is always willing to advocate for Job Corps because she truly believes in its value for the students and Connecticut's business community," Schweikert said. "She has shown her support on several vitally important issues and rallied others to join her in making their voices heard. This has included playing a public role that successfully brought attention to the need to end a federal enrollment freeze. She also ensures that her agency provides employment and career services to the students and has helped Job Corps make important connections with employers, educators and the community."

The event will also honor the Har-Conn Company of West Hartford as recipient of its annual Business Award along with Carey/Floyd Manufacturing and several others. These manufacturing companies have hired a number of Job Corps students – both those currently at the academy as well as graduates – and are providing valuable training and work experience to students interested in a manufacturing career.

The U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps program has 125 centers across the country. This no-cost residential/non-residential program serves young adults ages 16 – 24. Students receive wrap around service, from housing, healthcare, education, training and job placement assistance. Connecticut has two campuses, one in New Haven and one in Hartford. Hartford is one of only three centers in the country that trains young adults for careers in the manufacturing industry.

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