

***MEDIA ADVISORY – PRESS CORDIALLY INVITED TO
ATTEND AND MEET WITH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS***

**AT THE CAPITOL BUILDING, STATE-WIDE
PLATFORM TO EMPLOYMENT GRADUATION
HELPING THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED RETURN
TO WORK**

Celebrating the Achievements of Jobseekers from Five State-Wide Locations, Ground-Breaking Employment Program Provides Opportunity to Find Employment

Hartford, CT – March 25, 2015

The WorkPlace announces the graduation of Platform to Employment (P2E), a nationally recognized program addressing the specific needs of long-term unemployed workers. In 2014 the Connecticut legislature approved funding for a state-wide program to serve 500 people. P2E has not only helped hundreds of Connecticut residents, but it has also been replicated in 12 cities across the nation.

The WorkPlace is partnering with the Connecticut Department of Labor and the state's four other Workforce Investment Boards to deliver P2E. The program takes active steps to meet the needs of Connecticut employers while providing access to customized re-employment services. P2E begins with a five-week preparatory program to help participants confront barriers between themselves and employment. During the preparatory program participants receive coaching, learn communication techniques, participate in workshops on emotional well-being and acquire new job search skills.

After completing the program, P2E assists participants in finding employment. Placements are made on a trial basis and wages are paid by P2E. The expectation is a fulltime job will result if the employer is satisfied with the performance of the candidate. To date, over 80% of participants placed in a trial work experience have been hired by employers. P2E provides employers a risk-free opportunity to evaluate candidates and determine if a good match exists. Program participants come from classes held in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Norwich and Waterbury.

WHO: State Senator John Kissel, 7th District, East Granby, Enfield, Granby, Somers, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks
State Representative Mary M. Mushinsky, 85th District, Wallingford
Steve Parker, Account Manager, Connecticut Radio Network, a P2E employer
Joseph M. Carbone, President & CEO, The WorkPlace

WHAT: State-Wide Graduation for Platform to Employment Program

WHERE: The Old Judiciary Room, State Capitol Building, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 9:00 am

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About The WorkPlace

The WorkPlace conducts comprehensive planning, and coordinates regional workforce development policy and programs to prepare people for careers while strengthening the workforce for employers. As national leader in the field, The WorkPlace regularly shares ideas and best practices with lawmakers, foundations, think tanks and other workforce development organizations around the country. For more information, visit www.workplace.org