National Apprenticeship Week, National Women in Apprenticeship Day Highlight Training Opportunities

WETHERSFIELD, November 16, 2016 – State Department of Labor employees are shining the spotlight on a truly unique Connecticut contribution to this country’s workforce; a program that has become an integral offering for men and women entering a career in the trades during National Apprenticeship Week, running November 14-20. Also being celebrated on November 17 is National Women in Apprenticeship Day.

In a Proclamation issued to recognize the value of Apprenticeship programs, Governor Dannel P. Malloy notes: “Over 6,000 registered apprentices are training in the State of Connecticut in high-skilled careers that will provide lifetime learning experience and opportunity for achievement as well as contribute to the overall prosperity of our state and nation.”

“For more than 75 years, Connecticut’s Registered Apprenticeship program has effectively combined on-the-job training with classroom instruction,” notes State Labor Commissioner Scott D. Jackson. “Registered Apprenticeship programs on both the state and national levels have been instrumental in developing a skilled workforce for well-paying occupations that include electricians, plumbers, tool and die makers, and welders. As an agency, we thank Connecticut’s sponsors and educational institutions that have helped build an apprenticeship program leading to great careers and a stronger economy.”

Tracing its origins to the 1937 National Apprenticeship Act, the program has a true Constitution State connection. The National Apprenticeship Act, also known as The “Fitzgerald Act,” was originally sponsored by Congressman William Fitzgerald of Norwich who served two terms as the U.S. Representative from Connecticut’s 2nd District – from 1937 to 1938, and 1941 to 1942. Currently, more than 6,000 registered apprentices are training in the state with approximately 1,600 sponsors. This year alone, 950 registered apprentices in Connecticut will complete their programs and continue to develop their careers.

Apprentice-related events taking place in Connecticut to recognize National Apprenticeship Week and National Women in Apprenticeship Day include:

- On November 17, Commissioner Jackson will take part in a meeting of the State Apprenticeship Council, where several women in the trades will talk about their successful experiences as a

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Registered Apprentice and how it has led to new careers. Some of the women will recall working jobs in lower-paying industries prior to taking part in an apprenticeship program. Starting at 1:30 p.m., the event will be held at the Connecticut Department of Labor’s Central Office, located at 200 Folly Brook Boulevard.

- On November 18, Connecticut Department of Labor Deputy Commissioner Kurt Westby will take part in an event at Sound Manufacturing, Inc. of Old Saybrook that celebrates a new, two-year precision sheet metal Registered Apprenticeship program. Created through a partnership with the company and the Connecticut Department of Labor, the event will include the official registration of the two new apprentices. Sound Manufacturing is located at 51 Donnelly Road, Old Saybrook.

Opportunities available through Connecticut’s Registered Apprenticeship Program, as well as information about the Labor Department’s Office of Apprenticeship Training, can be found on the agency’s website at: www.ctapprenticeship.com.

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