



OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

January 12, 2015

Dear Apprenticeship Council Members and Colleagues:

Enclosed are the minutes from the November 20, 2014 Council meeting for your review.

The next scheduled meeting of the State Apprenticeship Council will take place on **Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.** at the Connecticut Labor Department in Conference Rooms A & B located on the second floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vinnie Valente".

Vinnie Valente
Apprenticeship Program Manager

**MINUTES
OF THE
CONNECTICUT STATE APPRENTICESHIP
COUNCIL MEETING**

REGULAR MEETING
November 20, 2014

**Connecticut Department of Labor
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, Connecticut
Conference Rooms A & B**



**State of Connecticut
Department of Labor**

ANNOUNCEMENT

All meetings of the Connecticut Apprenticeship Council are held periodically throughout the year. They are scheduled at 1:30 p.m. at the Connecticut Department of Labor (see schedule below) unless otherwise noted.

All Connecticut Apprenticeship Council meetings are open to the public and you are invited to attend, invite others and participate.

Please call these meetings to the attention of your Apprentice Committees and urge them to bring this notice to the attention of their parent organizations.

2015 SAC MEETING SCHEDULE

February 19, 2015

May 21, 2015

September 17, 2015

November 19, 2015

These minutes are subject to correction at the next meeting of the Council

**CONNECTICUT STATE APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2014
at the
Connecticut Department of Labor
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, Connecticut
Conference Rooms A & B
at 1:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

Members In Attendance

Chair, Sharon M. Palmer, Frank DaCato, Martin Alvarenga, Gregory Raucci, Jeffrey Merrow, Melvin Olsson & Laurence Vallieries

Members Not In Attendance

Dr. Nivea Torres & Robert Berkmoes

Others Present

Vinnie Valente, Ken Duff, Amy Blackwood, Laura Jaworski, Christopher Brown, John DeRosa, Michael Komaromi, Mike Hasset, Mark Buono, Jill Houser, Pete Foote, Cindy Cook, Domenic Izzi, Don Keener, Anthony Pacific, Mark Mastropasqua, Jeff Smith, Joseph Clough, Marla Shiller, Nichole Jefferson & Yolanda Rivera

Recorder

Elena Barkasy

I. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- There were no minutes from previous meeting due to lack of quorum present.

II. Correspondence

- None

III. Apprenticeship Update – Vinnie Valente

- An overview of apprenticeship was given by the Program Manager, Vinnie Valente.
- Apprenticeship reports were distributed to Council members and colleagues, showing a total of 4,935 registered apprentices. The active sponsor count to date is 1,514.
- There are 2,156 newly registered apprentices and 1,360 terminations over the past year. We are proud of the decrease of terminations, which means more are completing and less are dropping out.
- We are trying to increase manufacturing employer sponsors. Current stats are approximately 200 manufacturing apprentices (includes pre-apprentices) and 100 employer sponsors. We have 1 statewide rep. who attends expos, SAMAC, CTTAC, roundtables, etc. and a new color flier was just created & sent out. The pipeline is building; we have good relationships with technical high schools & 7 colleges that have manufacturing programs.
- 1st Competency Based Apprenticeship was created by F.T.I.S.N.E. which shaves off some time based on experience for the more advanced worker.
- 3 Legislative updates have been passed: 1. Apprenticeship Tax Credit, 2. Veteran's Review & 3. Step-Up for Apprenticeship. Also, the Feds have initiated the reauthorization of WIOA which strengthens apprenticeship with regulations & establishing authorized training providers.
- The Manufacturing Tax Credit will be increased to \$7,500 in 2015, the Construction Tax Credit amount remains the same (\$4,000), but both credits will now allow for LLC's & S-Corps and goes beyond the former C-Corp only status.
- Veteran's Review Committee – first meeting was November 20th where 2 veterans' attended, it was a productive meeting. The committee consists of: Andy James, Ken Duff, Frank DaCato, Paul Femia, Jeremy Zeedyk, and Pat Ciarleglio (Related Instruction Piece), 1 IEC TBD. Within 30 – 60 days a decision will be made by the committee on the hours recommended, but ultimately the final decision is up to the sponsor to award credit.
- Two other committees have been established, but need members: 1.) Learning Challenges & 2.) Grant Committee. Learning Challenges don't always manifest until the 3rd or 4th year in an Apprenticeship with the mathematical aspect -- also, apprentices don't always know that they can ask for more time while sitting for their licensure test at DCP, request a reader, or a paper test. More information will be put on the DOL OAT website. Grant Committee will be there to assist with grant writing for miscellaneous grants that are available (i.e. the American Apprenticeship Grant). DOL OAT has access to the Foundation Online to search for related grants.
- The 2015 Apprenticeship Breakfast to be tentatively held on St. Patrick's Day again.

IV. Apprenticeship Related Instruction – (Pat Ciarleglio unable to attend)

- It was mentioned that Pat will be reviewing the Manufacturing Program at Goodwin College and the Waterbury Career Academy for pre-apprentices.

V. Old Business

- No old business was brought before the Council.

VI. New Business

- Commissioner Palmer – there is a federal translating program that relates to Veteran’s (a “crosswalk” of sorts) that can be used to breakdown the language used in the military transcripts. Commissioner Palmer asked, will we be using this? Vinnie Valente said we would look into this further to help with the Veteran’s Review Committee.
- Frank DaCato – the ESAC Conference will be held in Washington, DC at Westin City Center from May 26th to 29th with registration taking place on the 26th. There will be no breakouts this year, but 1 session so all can attend. More info can be found at: www.esaconference.org
- Frank DaCato – related to the “Competency Based Apprenticeships” asked, “How completing early affects the apprenticeship tax credits?” Commissioner Palmer replied, we may need to change the language used if they’ve accomplished tasks in less than 8,000 hours. They are not completed until they are licensed. The current requirements have 8,000 hours – 4 year term. It has been noted to look into it further, as we are just beginning this process and we will still maintain standards of the craft & regulatory wording. The skill is verified by a training center, a 3rd party vendor is preferred.
- Mel Olsson – asked if DOL OAT was aware of the New London High School manufacturing program and how it dovetails with Apprenticeship? Vinnie Valente replied, he recently found out about it and our office will look into it further.
- The Apprenticeship model needs to be expanded since it’s a premier path, need to dispel the myths – as it’s not just for construction or large companies.

VII. Public Comments

- Jill Houser – the American Apprenticeship Grant will be released in a few weeks. There will be more time allotted to submit for the grant 60 – 90 days rather than the standard 30 days. Vinnie Valente added this is the 1st time ever that federal money has been put on the table for Apprenticeship. Read the grant guidelines carefully when submitting (goal is to get more women in apprenticeship & urban centers).

- Vinnie Valente – spoke briefly on the “Women Can Weld” program that Nichole Jefferson from the New Haven Jobs Funnel leads, which helps women get into high paying jobs & the struggles they often face. Mark Mastropasqua from Sheet Metal Workers LU# 40 said, they’ve used 8 of Nichole’s students in the 1st cohort and they’ve been very attentive & do a great job.
- Vinnie Valente – we will have a Building Trades Veteran’s Job Fair

VIII Good and Welfare

- None

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Elena Barkasy, Apprenticeship Secretary