



CTDOL Addressing Future Career Choices At Manufacturing Mania for Middle School Students

WETHERSFIELD, October 3, 2014 – Manufacturing offers challenging, well-paying jobs in this state and because there are excellent opportunities, students would do well to consider a career in the field. That’s the message State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer will share with middle school students during an October 3 *Manufacturing Mania* 2014 event to be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

This represents the third annual *Manufacturing Mania*, which is designed to provide opportunities for young people to meet with employers and take part in hands-on manufacturing demonstrations. To accommodate the many students interested in attending, two additional *Manufacturing Mania* events will be held October 16 and 17 at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. Dennis C. Murphy, Deputy Commissioner for the Labor Department, will talk to the students about manufacturing careers at those events.

Commissioner Palmer will be joined at the Aqua Turf event by Lieutenant Gov. Nancy Wyman, Catherine Smith and Stefan Pryor, commissioners of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and Education, respectively, as well as Dr. Gregory W. Gray, President of the Connecticut Board of Regents. Middle school students from 16 area towns, approximately 250 young people, have been invited to attend the October 3 *Manufacturing Mania* event.

“Over four years, we have made investing in Connecticut manufacturing a priority,” said Lt. Governor Wyman. “We are proud of our leadership in the industry, but remaining globally competitive requires us to keep looking forward. Manufacturing is integral to our economy – it is a priority to train the next generation of manufacturers and ensure a strong economic development strategy is in place that supports the industry and its workforce.”

“The ‘old’ days of manufacturing and the perception about dirty factories and long hours are history,” Commissioner Palmer points out. “Today’s buildings are clean, bright, high-tech – and offer excellent, well-paying careers. The industry needs well-educated women and men who are problem solvers, decision makers and ready to move into leadership roles.”

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October has been officially designated by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy as “Manufacturing Month” in Connecticut. The designation is based on the importance of the manufacturing industry to Connecticut and the manufacturing career opportunities that exist in the state.

Statistics compiled by the Connecticut Department of Labor show there are approximately 165,000 manufacturing jobs in this state which comprise nearly ten percent of the state’s total employment. Over the next ten years thousands of manufacturing jobs will need to be filled due to retirements and job creation, and the average entry wage for many of these positions is currently about 25 percent higher when compared to all jobs in Connecticut.

According to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT), the group organizing the event, nearly 1,000 students have participated in *Manufacturing Mania*, since it was first held in 2012.

Throughout Manufacturing Month, tours of manufacturing facilities, open houses at colleges and the state’s technical high schools, and expos hosted by organizations help residents learn about manufacturing and the career pathways it offers statewide. To learn more about Manufacturing Month events and *Manufacturing Mania*, please visit ctdreamitdoit.com.

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