



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Legislative Office Building Photo Exhibit Celebrates Apprenticeship Awareness Week

WETHERSFIELD, February 24, 2014 – The Connecticut Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship and Training will pay tribute to the state’s registered apprenticeship program with a **March 17-28** photo exhibit in the Legislative Building in Hartford. The exhibit, which will help highlight Apprenticeship Awareness Week, will be located along the LOB’s concourse.

“For more than 75 years, Apprenticeship has been an integral part of the employment and training scene – a fact that all Connecticut residents can take pride in,” noted State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer. “Employers, labor-management trusts, apprentices and educators have relied on this program to help people train and prepare for high-skilled careers that benefit our workforce and the economy. This exhibit is an opportunity to showcase our state’s apprenticeship community and the employers that support this successful partnership.”

Often referred to as “the other four-year degree,” registered apprenticeship combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction to help develop Connecticut’s skilled workforce in occupations such as electricians, plumbers, tool and die makers and many others.

“Registered Apprenticeship is a nationally-recognized program that traces its origins back to the 1937 National Apprenticeship Act,” explains Vinnie Valente, Labor Department Apprenticeship Program Manager. “While our office provides technical assistance to employers taking on the responsibilities and obligations of program sponsorship, this photo exhibit is a great way to put a personal face on a program that represents dedication to quality and tells a great success story because it is about making a true investment in America’s workplace.”

The posters and pictures featured in the exhibit depict apprentices involved in their individual trades, as well as the many programs that provide participants with opportunities to “earn while learning” a highly-marketable skill.

The National Apprenticeship Act, also known as The Fitzgerald Act, was originally sponsored by Congressman William Fitzgerald of Norwich, Connecticut. After the Act was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt, Connecticut established its own state statute the following year. Today, more than 1,500 active employer-sponsors and labor-management training committees in Connecticut employ approximately 5,500 apprentices in registered programs. Nationally, more than 395,000 registered apprentices in the country are “earning while learning.”

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