



MEDIA RELEASE

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

State Job & Tax Incentives, Marketing Analysis, Business Planning, Website Design Offered at Free Employer Conferences

WETHERSFIELD, May 22, 2014 – State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer invites employers interested in learning more about hiring incentives, tax credits, how to bid on state contracts and low interest financing opportunities available to Connecticut businesses to attend one of seven regional morning conferences taking place in May and June. There is no cost to attend, but employers are asked to pre-register at www.StepCT.com.

Topics include information on the state's Subsidized Training and Employment Program (Step Up), the Small Business Express Program, how to find and recruit qualified employees, guidelines for becoming a State of Connecticut vendor, tax incentives for equipment upgrades, and more.

The conferences will be held from 8 to 10:30 a.m. with registration beginning at 7 a.m. The registration and networking period will include light refreshments and the opportunity to visit booth exhibits and meet with exhibitors. Regional employer conferences will be offered on the following dates at these locations:

- **Thursday, May 29**
The Westport Inn Ballroom, 1595 Post Road East, Westport
- **Tuesday, June 3**
Double Tree By Hilton Hotel Bristol, The Oaks Ballroom, 42 Century Drive, Bristol
- **Thursday, June 5**
Western Connecticut State University, Westside Campus Center Ballroom, 43 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury
- **Wednesday, June 11**
Goodwin College, Main Campus Auditorium, 1 Riverside Drive, East Hartford
- **Thursday, June 12**
University of Connecticut, Torrington Campus Auditorium, 855 University Drive, Torrington
- **Thursday, June 19**
Simsbury High School Auditorium, 34 Farms Village Road, Simsbury
- **Tuesday, June 24**
Three Rivers Community College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich
- **Thursday, June 26**
Four Points by Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden

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Hosted by area legislators, sponsors include Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, the Connecticut Department of Labor, the state's Workforce Investment Boards, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Administrative Services and other community partners.

"The Labor Department is pleased to work in partnership with so many outstanding individuals, organizations and agencies to offer these information-packed events geared toward increasing an employer's bottom line while creating jobs and offering opportunities to keep companies competitive," Palmer said. "These conferences are designed for companies that support our communities and could use the help of state resources to benefit their business."

The Step Up program, for example, can pay a portion of a new employee's salary – up to \$12,500 during the first six months of employment – when an employer with 100 employees or less meets certain criteria and hires an unemployed jobseeker. Another component of the Step Up program geared for veterans, offers the same hiring incentive, but is available to companies of any size.

Individuals with questions or seeking additional details can reach the following Labor Department contacts:

- Bristol conference: Janice Albert, (860) 827-6207 or janice.albert@ct.gov
- Danbury or Torrington conferences: Michelle L. Caffee, (203) 437-3308 or michelle.caffee@ct.gov
- East Hartford or Simsbury conferences: Mark Polzella, (860) 256-3699 or mark.polzella@ct.gov
- Meriden Conference: Abby L. Gayle, (203) 859-3414 or abbyleslie.gayle@ct.gov
- Norwich conference: Nancy Watson, (860) 439-7605 or nancy.watson@ct.gov
- Westport conference: Dolores Ryan, (203) 455-2602 or dolores.ryan@ct.gov

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