



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Employers: Still Time to Register For the Southwest Step Up Conference

WETHERSFIELD, May 23, 2014 – There is still time for Southwest Connecticut employers to register for the free Step Up conference to be held Thursday, May 29 in The Westport Inn Ballroom, located at 1595 Post Road East, Westport.

During registration, which begins at 7 a.m., employers can visit informational booths, network and enjoy a continental breakfast. The conference will be held from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

Conference topics include incentives such as a six-month wage subsidy and training grants under the Subsidized Training and Employment (Step Up) program, low-interest financing through the Small Business Express Program, job expansion tax credits, guidelines for becoming a State of Connecticut vendor and tax incentives for equipment purchases. Free assistance for business planning, market analysis services and website design will also be featured.

“We are pleased to bring together in one place information about the innovative state resources available to Connecticut’s employers,” explains Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer. “As a result of incentives offered through the Step Up program, more than 600 companies have hired nearly 2,300 unemployed jobseekers. This program has assisted those employers with expanding their companies, helped put people back to work, and ultimately benefited our economy.”

In addition to presentations, program representatives will be on hand to answer questions and determine how employers can optimize the various services offered to Connecticut businesses.

The Step Up conference is being hosted by area legislators, including State Sen. Bob Duff, State Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, and State Rep. Lawrence Cafero. Sponsors include Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Gov. 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, and a number of community partners and organizations.

To pre-register, please visit the Labor Department’s Step Up website at www.StepCT.com. Employers are asked to RSVP by May 27. For questions about the Southwest Step Up Employer Conference, contact Dolores Ryan at Dolores.Ryan@ct.gov or (203) 455-2602.

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