



## MEDIA RELEASE

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

# Simsbury High School Site of June 19 Step Up Conference for Employers

WETHERSFIELD, June 12, 2014 – Employers can still pre-register for a free Step Up conference to be held Thursday, June 19 in the Simsbury High School auditorium located at 34 Farms Village Road. The conference will be held from 8 to 10:30 a.m., although check-in, a continental breakfast and informational booths will be available beginning at 7 a.m.

Conference topics include incentives such as six-month wage subsidies 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 and website design will also be featured.

“These conferences have allowed us to reach hundreds of employers who are interested in growing or improving their operations and want to learn more about the many state programs available to benefit their business,” said State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer. “This will be our sixth conference since we began holding these in May, and employers have been very pleased with the caliber of services that Connecticut can offer to the business community.”

One of the innovative programs being described to employers includes the Step Up program, which has provided nearly 800 companies with up to \$12,500 in wage incentives each time they hire an unemployed jobseeker. The program has already resulted in the hiring of more than 2,500 individuals into jobs ranging from accountants to graphic designers.

In addition to presentations from state agencies and community organizations, program representatives will be there to answer questions, provide additional information, and determine how employers can optimize services designed to create jobs, strengthen companies and ultimately benefit the economy.

The Step Up conference is being hosted by State Rep. Kevin Witkos, State Rep. John Hampton, State Rep. Mike Demicco and invited area legislators. Sponsors include Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, the Connecticut Department

-More-

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of Labor, the state's Workforce Investment Boards, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and a number of community partners and organizations.

Please visit the Labor Department's Step Up website at [www.StepCT.com](http://www.StepCT.com) to register. For planning purposes, employers are asked to RSVP by June 17 although walk-ins the morning of the event are welcome. Employers with questions about the conference can contact Mark Polzella at [mark.polzella@ct.gov](mailto:mark.polzella@ct.gov) or (860) 256-3699.

Two additional Step Up conferences are planned for the following locations:

- **Tuesday, June 24**  
Three Rivers Community College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich  
Contact: Nancy Watson at [nancy.watson@ct.gov](mailto:nancy.watson@ct.gov) or 860-439-7605
- **Thursday, June 26**  
Four Points by Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden  
Contact: Abby L. Gayle at [abbyleslie.gayle@ct.gov](mailto:abbyleslie.gayle@ct.gov) or 203-859-3414

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