



## MEDIA RELEASE

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

# Step Up Conferences in Norwich and Meriden Geared to Help Employers Benefit their Business

WETHERSFIELD, June 17, 2014 – Employers still have time to register for the final two Step Up conferences being held June 24 in Norwich and June 26 in Meriden. Both conferences, part of an eight-session series, are geared toward informing companies of the many free services and incentives offered by the state to help employers benefit their business.

The Norwich conference will be held at Three Rivers Community College, 574 New London Turnpike. In Meriden, employers will attend the conference at The Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 275 Research Parkway. Registration begins at 7 a.m. for both events and includes a continental breakfast and opportunities to visit information booths. The conferences will be held from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and conclude with a question and answer period with time for employers to meet with vendors.

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.

“This is a great opportunity to bring together in one place information about many of the innovative services and resources available to Connecticut employers,” explains State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer. “As a result of incentives through the Step Up program, nearly 800 companies have hired more than 2,500 unemployed jobseekers. This program has assisted employers with expanding their companies, helping put people back to work, and ultimately benefitting our economy.”

In addition to presentations, program representatives will be there to answer questions and determine how employers can optimize services offered to small businesses in Connecticut.

The Step Up conference series are sponsored by 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 Department of Economic and Community Development and a number of community partners and organizations.

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An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



Legislative co-hosts for the Norwich conference include State Senator Cathy Osten and State Representatives Emmett Riley, Kevin Ryan and Brian Sear.

Legislative co-hosts for the Meriden conference include State Senators Dante Bartolomeo and Len Fasano, and State Representatives Catherine Abercrombie, Buddy Altobello, and Hilda E. Santiago.

Please visit the Labor Department's Step Up website at [www.StepCT.com](http://www.StepCT.com) to pre-register. Questions for the Norwich event can be directed to Nancy Watson at [nancy.watson@ct.gov](mailto:nancy.watson@ct.gov) or (860) 439-7605 and for Meriden conference questions contact Abby Leslie Gayle at [abbyleslie.gayle@ct.gov](mailto:abbyleslie.gayle@ct.gov) or (203) 859-3414.

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