



Connecticut Department of Labor Offering New Competency-Based Apprenticeship Programs

WETHERSFIELD, September 30, 2014 – The addition of four new competency-based training offerings by the Connecticut Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship and Training now allows individuals to learn the trades of Drywall Finisher, Glazier, Painter-Decorator and a new classification of Painter-Industrial Coatings and Lining Applicator Specialist (PICLAS), in an accelerated manner when craft competencies are achieved.

“Effective this month, our Office of Apprenticeship and Training, in collaboration with the Finishing Trades Institute of Southern New England (FTISNE) began offering competency-based registered programs,” State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer said today.

These programs represent a first for the agency, which typically regulates what would be considered a more traditional time-based apprenticeship programs, notes Apprenticeship Program Manager Vinnie Valente.

“Competency and performance-based apprenticeships are unique because they are based on the attainment of demonstrated, observable and measurable competencies in lieu of meeting time-based work experience and on-the-job learning,” Valente explains. “These new offerings represent an innovative and exciting way for an apprentice to move through the program faster than they typically would in a traditional term-based program.”

According to FTISNE Training Director Mike Komaromi, “These competency and performance-based apprenticeships ensure that a candidate is competent in all aspects of the trade. Competency-based apprenticeships allow an advanced apprentice to move through a program in a shorter time if they demonstrate – through a written and hands-on assessment – that they are at the required skill level to advance.”

Robert Porto, Finishing Trades Institute Apprenticeship Training Representative for the International Union of Painters and Finishing Trades, is also pleased about the new training.

“To ensure consistent training and testing of apprentices, the new competency-based apprenticeships provide standardized assessment of learning and also establish minimum qualifications for instructors,”

-more

Media Contact: Nancy Steffens, Communications Director

200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114

Phone: (860) 263-6535 – Fax: (860) 263-6536 – www.ct.gov/dol

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



Porter notes. “The written and hands-on tests developed by Finishing Trades Institute update the curriculum used for each trade, serves as an important tool in measuring an apprentices’ progress, and can also be used to assess learning that may have occurred prior to placement in our program.”

Information about Registered Apprenticeship, including Competency-Based Apprenticeship programs, can be obtained by contacting the Office of Apprenticeship and Training Program Manager Vinnie Valente at Vinnie.Valente@ct.gov or by telephone at 860-263-6087.

###