



Labor Department Highlights Career Benefits During Registered Apprenticeship Week

WETHERSFIELD, November 9, 2018 – The state’s Registered Apprenticeship program and the many well-paying careers it can offer in fields that include advanced manufacturing, construction, healthcare, information technology, insurance and banking, will be highlighted this month during “Registered Apprenticeship Week” in the State of Connecticut as proclaimed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

In designating November 12-18 as “Registered Apprenticeship Week” Governor Malloy is partnering with the national effort to bring attention to the many benefits apprenticeship offers to residents, employers and the state’s economy.

“Today, over 6,400 registered apprentices are training in the State of Connecticut in high-skill careers that will provide lifetime experience and opportunity for achievement as well as contribute to the overall prosperity of our state and nation,” Malloy notes in the Proclamation, pointing out that apprenticeship is a “premier vehicle to transform novices into skilled craftspeople.”

The Labor Department is announcing several events during “Registered Apprenticeship Week” to highlight the program and its value to Connecticut’s communities and its workforce:

- November 13 at 11 a.m.: State Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby and labor officials will visit Wepco Plastics Inc. located in Middlefield to tour the facility, recognize an apprentice who has completed his training, another employee registering to begin his apprenticeship. The company is a plastic injection molding company that primarily develops prototypes for aerospace, automotive, and medical applications. An Apprenticeship Completion Certificate will be presented to the employee completing his training requirements and who is now obtaining an engineering degree.
- November 14 at 4 p.m.: Labor officials will be at the Dominion Millstone Power Station in Waterford for the company’s apprenticeship signing ceremony. Four new apprentices, all military

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veterans, will take part in the newly-established Maintenance Apprenticeship program at Millstone. There are already programs for Control Room Operators and Plant Equipment Operators, first developed in 2012 in partnership with the Labor Department and the federal GI Bill benefits program.

- November 15 at 1:30 p.m.: The Labor Department's Office of Apprenticeship Training will hold its State Apprenticeship Council Meeting at Bacon Academy in Colchester. In addition to introducing Governor Malloy's proclamation for National Apprenticeship Week, Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby, who also serves as council chair, will join members in touring Bacon Academy's manufacturing classes and labs to highlight the pre-apprenticeship opportunities the academy offers to its students.

"Our state has gained 5,600 manufacturing jobs this year, which represents nearly 25 percent of the private sector jobs Connecticut has added in the past 12 months, Westby noted. "Registered Apprenticeship offers a well-paid training program of 'earning while learning' by combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction. The result is a job-ready employee who begins a well-paying job with little or no educational debt. Many of these jobs are in advanced manufacturing or other in-demand jobs linked to the Registered Apprenticeship program."

Apprenticeship traces its origins to Connecticut when U.S. Congressman William Fitzgerald of Norwich, who began his career as an apprentice foundry worker, sponsored the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937 to establish a national system of guidelines for those in the trades.

While Registered Apprenticeship at one time was primarily used for those entering the construction trades, in recent years Connecticut has expanded its program to help train for in-demand job sectors, including advanced manufacturing, health care and information technology.

Apprenticeships generally range from one to four years and upon completion, the Labor Department's Office of Apprenticeship provides a portable training credential. Those interested in taking part in the state's Registered Apprenticeship program can contact the Office of Apprenticeship Training at dol.apprenticeship@ct.gov or (860) 263-6085. Information about the program can also be found on the agency's apprenticeship website, www.ctapprenticeship.com. An easy-to-navigate page, it features links designed to simplify the application process for those interested in becoming an apprentice.

The site also details incentive programs for apprentices and employer sponsors, and a list of approved schools and required courses. Incentives are supported by several federal apprenticeship grants from the U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship and a partnership with Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development.

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