



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION

WALLACE BARNES  
CHAIRMAN

October 5, 2009

The Honorable John A. Kissel  
The Honorable Mary M. Mushinsky  
Co-Chair, Legislative Program Review and  
Investigations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 506  
Hartford, CT 06106

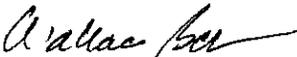
Dear Senator Kissel and Representative Mushinsky:

On behalf of the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC), I write to express my appreciation for the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee's report on "Alignment of Postsecondary Education and Employment." Your staff clearly put in a great deal of time and effort in collecting and organizing a variety of detailed and complex information. Even more impressively, the report reflects a commendable degree of understanding of the complicated issues behind the data, and a grasp of the difficulty involved in any attempts to coordinate the fragmented and diffuse "non-system" that exists at present in Connecticut, with its differing loci of functional responsibilities regarding linkages between higher education and jobs. Figure V-1, illustrating the complexity of the public system for workforce development, was particularly telling.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the report, from our point of view, was the inclusion of much of the information that has been produced by the Office for Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) under the auspices of CETC. The report addressed key issues such as the workforce needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the demographic challenges faced by the state, as well as increasingly disturbing shortages of skilled workers in critical career fields. In particular, we were pleased to see the mention of CETC's 2009 Annual Report, including the "talent pipeline" concept that has been fundamental to our efforts for the past few years. We think that the information developed under the aegis of CETC can be helpful to policy-makers as they consider ways to address these difficult issues, and so we are pleased to see that the report reflects an appreciation of the implications of that information.

I assure you that the members of CETC will follow your efforts on these matters with interest, and that staff from the Office for Workforce Competitiveness would be happy to testify or provide input in other ways that you may think helpful as you develop specific recommendations for action.

Sincerely,

  
Wallace Barnes  
Chairman