

## Testimonial

Public Hearing Testimony: Governor's Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 Biennium  
Budget  
February 28, 2011

To: Committee on Appropriations of the CT State Legislature

From: Frank D. Gulluni, Director, Manufacturing Technology Center, Asnuntuck  
Community College

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding funding for the  
Manufacturing Technology Center at Asnuntuck Community College.

Based on Asnuntuck's relationships across the manufacturing spectrum and a myriad of technology achievements and program developments in a span of just 12 years, Asnuntuck is ready to expand further the Manufacturing Technology Center to facilitate more successfully the education and training needs of incumbent workers and new and future entrants to the growing, diverse, and increasingly technology-driven field of manufacturing. Asnuntuck and its partners, economic development leaders, the College of Technology, and the manufacturing community, are committed to long term relationships with area school systems, workforce development agencies, and unemployed and under-employed youth and adults.

Presently, Asnuntuck serves more than 1,000 people annually either through a single course or an entire program of more than 1,350 hours. More than 200 students are involved annually in full-time programs in precision machine, electronics, and welding technologies. The College Connections program serves juniors and seniors from school systems like Enfield, Granby,

and Windsor Locks. Through business and industry connections, Asnuntuck serves literally hundreds of incumbent workers from the more than 60 companies that have membership in the Aerospace Components Manufacturers organization to major industries like Pratt and Whitney. Asnuntuck provides classroom training and education for Pratt and Whitney's apprenticeship program and works in close liaison with corporate and factory personnel in the development of new training and education modules.

Connecticut needs to stabilize and eventually expand the manufacturing sector. Employers require a well - educated workforce. Community colleges and school systems must take greater responsibility for workforce development. Asnuntuck Community College is ready to accept additional challenges and is always willing to provide state and local educational and economic development agencies with assistance and advice including but not limited to the following:

- development of a scholarship program that has provided access for more than 100 youth to full-time technology development;
- establishment of a dual credit technology-based program for high school juniors and seniors that has served more than 200 youth in school systems including Waterbury and Hartford;
- assistance to Hartford-based, regional, and state economic development agencies to demonstrate to representatives of European manufacturers and governments the ability of Asnuntuck to meet the needs of a well-trained and educated workforce;

- availability of staff, guidance, and curriculum to assist 3 other community colleges to establish manufacturing-related coursework.

Asnuntuck is poised with plans, experience, relationships, and a commitment from our President to enhance further its existing programs in machine, welding, electronics, and electro-mechanical technologies and to initiate activities to provide within the next year or two certificate and degree program in alternative energy systems, especially fuel cells to mirror activities currently growing at UTC Power, a division of United Technologies. We must work diligently also to market manufacturing as a viable career. Young people, middle and secondary school educators, and parents need to recognize, understand, and advocate for the real career opportunities available in the manufacturing sector that can lead to long term, exciting careers.

We in Connecticut have the ball in our court. In order to control the destiny of manufacturing with the assurance of positive outcomes, it is important to act now and demonstrate to employers that Connecticut is prepared to move aggressively to establish a system of advanced technology education.

I cannot think of a better way to place in perspective how important it is that we as a State commit to more funding for viable, college to career training in the manufacturing sector than what occurred late last week with the Department of Defense announcement of a 35 billion dollars aircraft replacement program. Think of the impact on Pratt & Whitney, United Technologies in general, and literally hundreds of aerospace sub contractors in the State of Connecticut.

Manufacturing is indeed alive and well and about ready to flourish once again in the State of Connecticut. Add to aerospace development the opportunities that are yet to surface in medical device and instrument technology and alternative energy, and one can readily discern that manufacturing in CT can grow once again to involve more than 200,000 career employees.

Please support a continuation of State funding to Asnuntuck Community College for its Manufacturing Technology Center.