



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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October 20, 2011

To the members of the Commerce and Labor Committees:

As the Connecticut General Assembly prepares to reconvene for the special session on jobs this month, I would like to highlight a program in my district which I feel should function as a foundation for job training in our state. The Manufacturing Technology Center at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield has graduated more than 1,000 students from its technology programs. These students have transitioned successfully to the private sector with the requisite technology and academic abilities to enhance career goals and to benefit local industry, both short-term and long range.

I believe that the funding for this highly successful program should be increased. As such, I am asking you to include your proposal for the October special session the doubling of monies directed towards the Manufacturing Technology Program. Even if you are limited to bonded capital investments, Asnuntuck's infrastructure for this program should be doubled. I am confident there will be a way to make sure operating fund are made available.

If this program is good enough to replicate at other schools and colleges, their own creative efforts should also be rewarded and leveraged to put people to work immediately where there is a demand. While it would be ideal to duplicate the program at college campuses across Connecticut, the need for jobs is now and this facility already exists. Expanding the existing facility and programs at Asnuntuck Community College would address the need for jobs and trained workers immediately.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to a thoughtful discussion on this proposal.

Sincerely:

John A. Kissel
State Senator – 7th District