



**Public Hearing Testimony of
Vinnie Valente Office of Apprenticeship and Training
Connecticut Department of Labor
Program Review and Investigations Committee
October 1, 2014**

Good Afternoon Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky, Senator Fonfara, Representative Carpino and members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with public hearing testimony regarding your **Higher Education Certificate Programs Study**.

General Information on Registered Apprenticeship

My name is Vinnie Valente, Program Manager of the Office of Apprenticeship and Training for the Connecticut Department of Labor. **Registered Apprenticeship** programs in the State of Connecticut are administered by the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Training (CTDOL OAT) for state and federal purposes. Skilled consultants provide technical assistance, monitoring, and consulting services to qualified employers willing to take on the responsibilities and obligations of program sponsorship. Currently there are 4,700 registered apprentices working for 1,500 employer-sponsors.

Registered Apprenticeship is a premier form of workforce development that combines a structured work schedule of on the job training together with related classroom instruction. Based solidly on an employer-employee relationship, apprenticeship, in simple terms is a program of "learning while earning". Apprenticeable occupations require a wide and diverse range of skills and knowledge, as well as a high level of maturity, reliability, and judgment. Additionally, they are clearly identified and commonly recognized as separate and distinct trades requiring broad skills applicable throughout the industry. Apprenticeships range from a minimum of one year upwards to three, four or five years long. Each year of Registered Apprenticeship requires a minimum of 2,000 hours of On the Job Learning and 144 hours of classroom related instruction.

Registered Apprenticeship Certificate of Completion

Upon program completion the apprentice earns "journeyperson status" and the CT DOL Commissioner of Labor issues a **Certificate of Completion** which is a nationally recognized and portable credential. During the course of earning the Certificate of Completion an apprentice may also earn many other valuable credentials such as OSHA safety, (continued on back)

Federal EPA qualifications, Medical Gas (hospital piping), Welding, Solar, Green Trades, Rigging and many other certifications.

Education and Other Partners

In relation to the Higher Education Certificate Programs Study to “examine the effectiveness of postsecondary certificate programs in meeting workforce demands offered in four settings: 1) community-technical colleges; 2) Connecticut State University System; 3) Charter Oak State College; and 4) private occupational schools”. Many of these institutions are related instruction providers for Registered Apprenticeship including the CT Technical High School System, 7 CT Community Colleges, 20 Joint Apprentice Labor Management Trusts (union schools) and several private occupational schools such as Porter and Chester and Lincoln Technical Institute. Our office also partners with businesses, employer and industry associations, the Department of Consumer Protection, the Department of Veteran Affairs, Workforce Investment Boards, Federal DOL and many other governmental and local Community Based Organizations

The Value of the Registered Apprenticeship Certificate of Completion

Program completers typically earn \$50,000 per year and often have comprehensive benefit packages. According to a 2012 Mathematica Policy Research study program completers earn up \$300,000 more in lifetime earning than non-completers, the program also notes that there is reduction in the need for public assistance for program completers. Many registered apprentices will earn college credits for completing their programs.

Firms who train apprentices in the manufacturing or construction trades may be eligible for a tax credit. Other less tangible, but no less important, advantages to participation in Registered Apprenticeship include: a dependable source of trained workers; a cost effective method of training (apprentices produce while they learn); reduced turnover (apprentices know they have jobs with a future); improved labor relations and public recognition for a company's participation in the program.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony here today. I am available to answer any questions you may have. If there are further questions afterward I may be reached at vinnie.valente@ct.gov or 860.263.6087.

Respectfully,

Vinnie Valente, Program Manager
CT DOL Office of Apprenticeship and Training