



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL  
OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

490 Jefferson Avenue  
New London, CT 06320



**TESTIMONY ON:** SB 398, "An Act Requiring A Study Of Certain Employment Transition In Eastern Connecticut"

**TESTIMONY TO:** Commerce Committee

**POSITION:** Supports

**PROVIDED BY:** Janet Farquhar, STEM Program Supervisor  
Science & Technology Magnet High School

**DATE:** March 10,2016

Senator Hartley, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Janet Farquhar, and I am the STEM Program Supervisor of the Science and Technology Magnet High School (STMHS) of New London Public Schools. STMHS prepares students interested in STEM-fields to be successful and productive life-long learners that are proficient in essential 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity which are necessary to be successful in post-secondary programs or in the workforce. We are here to offer support and perspective on S.B. No. 398, a bill before this Committee intended to examine employment transition in Eastern Connecticut. Our view is this bill is a proactive and needed response to anticipated economic impacts in our region due to arrive over the next several years.

Proactive workforce training can and will support people from all walks of life and most importantly, the future workforce currently students in our local high schools who need skills refinement and career direction to realize an opportunity. This bill would serve these students through our region's Connecticut- Early College Opportunity (CT-ECO) program being conducted in Windham and New London schools. CT-ECO graduates will have the skills necessary to enter the workforce in an area of Advanced Manufacturing. The New London- ECO program, in its first year, has a cohort of 26 students that will earn their high school diploma and then an Associate's degree from Three Rivers Community College in either 4,5, or 6 years.

CT-ECO is a program is fashioned after the model developed by IBM and the New York State Department of Education, Pathways in Technology Early College High School Program (P-TECH), which bridges grades 9 through 14 by offering high school, college and career training into one seamless educational experience. The program is designed to meet the requirements for entry level positions in growth industries, and launch students into middle skill careers. The Eastern CT-ECO programs are part of a regional effort in the eastern portion of the state aimed at creating a pipeline of talented workers for the many manufacturers in the region. As such, both programs share the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA) with General Dynamic/Electric Boat serving as the lead industry partner. The two CT-ECO programs are New London ECO, a partnership with New London Public Schools and Three Rivers Community College, and Windham ECO, a partnership with Windham Public Schools and Quinebaug Valley Community College.

I, therefore, recommend that this bill receive full attention by your committee, given its importance to the workforce system in Eastern Connecticut. Thank you.