



21 Talcott Notch Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
860.678.0005  
theccic.org

## Testimony for the Appropriations Committee

**Jennifer Widness, President  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
March 28, 2018**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **SB 369, AN ACT CONCERNING JOB DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**, which seeks to review job development and training programs in the state and the funding for such programs.

Connecticut's workforce is one of the most educated in the nation. However, employers continue to complain about the inability to fill positions, especially in STEM fields. In fact, according to research done by McKinsey for the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth, there is a significant mismatch between supply and demand in Engineering, Computer and Mathematics and the Healthcare practitioners (see figure 1).

Connecticut is home to eleven engineering schools: two public (Central CT State University and UConn), eight independents (University of Hartford, Trinity College, University of Bridgeport, Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven, Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University (new in 2017-18) and Yale University) and the Coast Guard Academy. Due to state investments at UConn as well as new programs and increased enrollment in engineering at the independent colleges, Connecticut saw a dramatic increase in the number of degrees awarded in engineering over the past five years. (see figure 2)

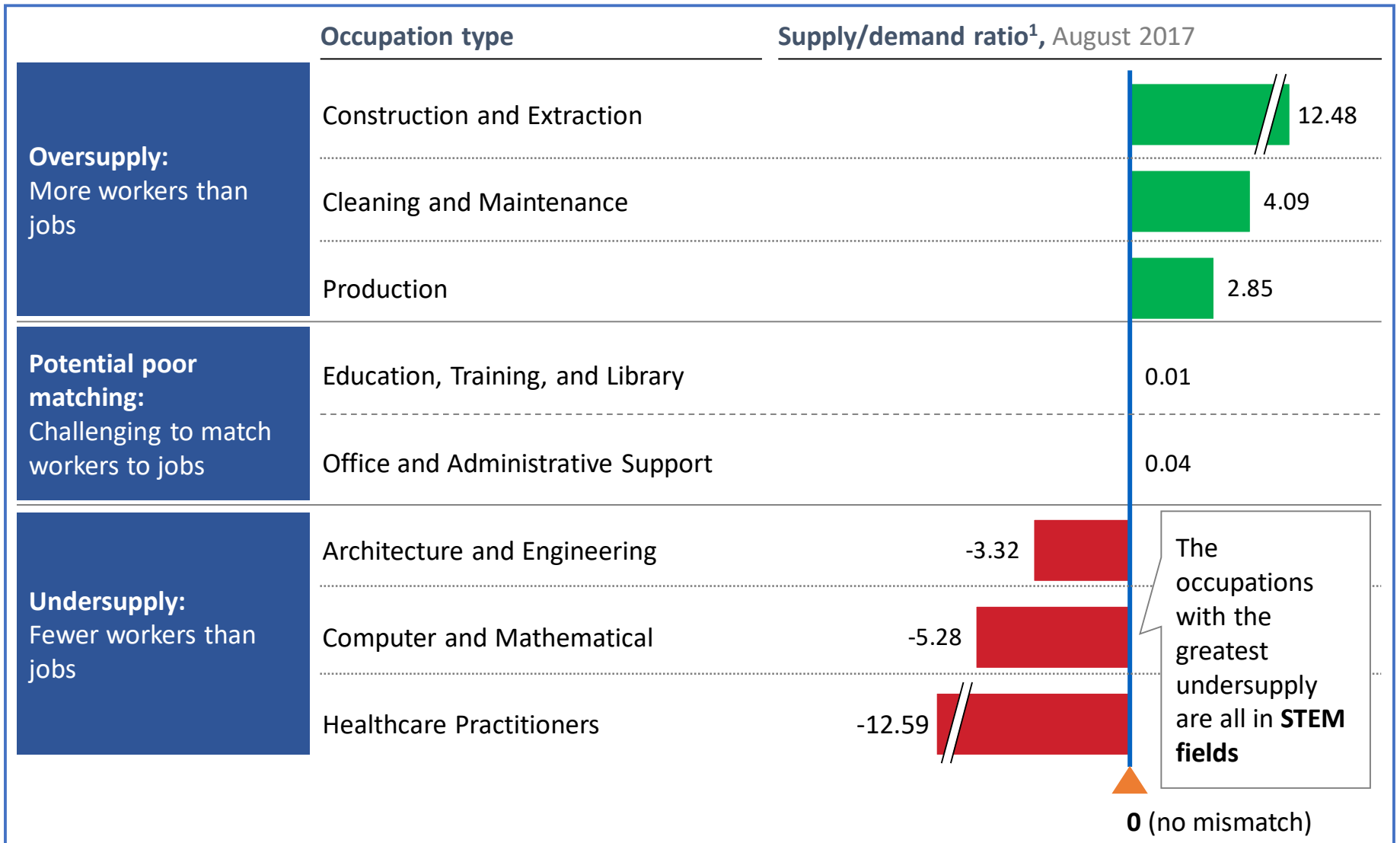
Annually, as of the 2016-2017 academic year, these schools awarded over 1300 bachelor's degrees in engineering and over 900 master's degrees, an increase of 64% since 2012. However, by comparison, over 7,000 bachelor's and master's engineering degrees were awarded in our neighbor to the north, Massachusetts, during the same time frame. (see figures 4 & 5)

We also lag our neighbors in retaining our graduates. Data compiled by McKinsey also for the Commission on Fiscal Stability notes that only 32% of the graduates from our higher education institutions stay in state after graduation, compared to 54% of graduate retention in New York and 46% in Massachusetts. (see figure 5)

We know from recent media reports that there is anticipated workforce growth at some of our largest employers that will require thousands of additional engineers, not to mention at the supply chain that supports them.

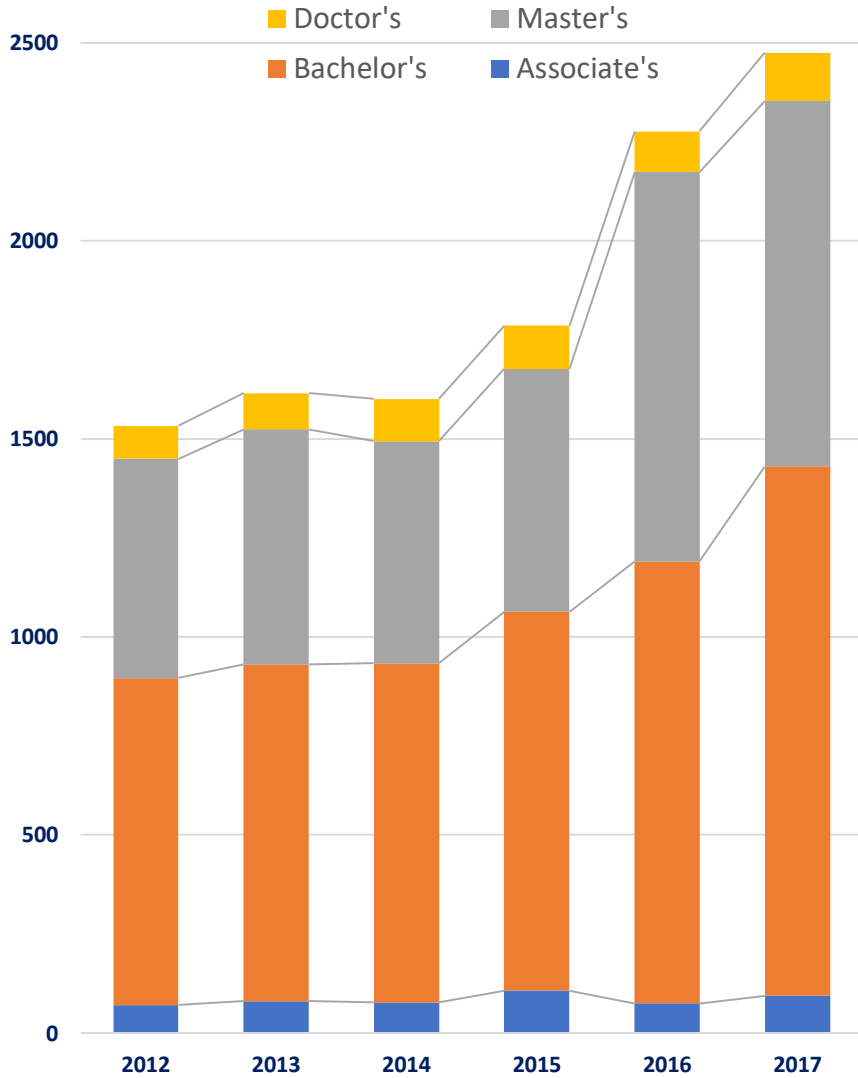
All of our higher education institutions need to be at the table to discuss how the state can grow the number of engineers produced annually to assure that our manufacturing and technology sectors have the talent they need to remain competitive.

## Mismatch of Supply and Demand in the CT Labor Market

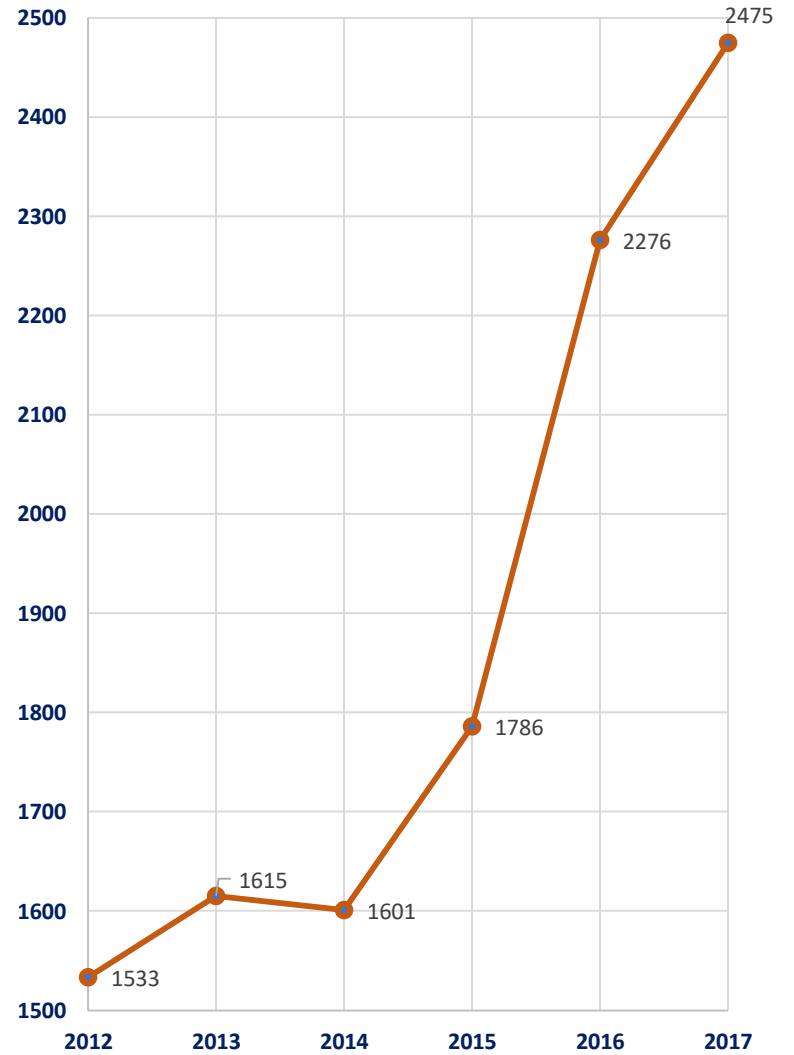


<sup>1</sup> Measured as the ratio of unemployed individuals in a given profession to open job postings in that profession

### 2012-17 Engineering Completions by Degree Type in Connecticut



### 2012-17 Total Engineering Completions in Connecticut

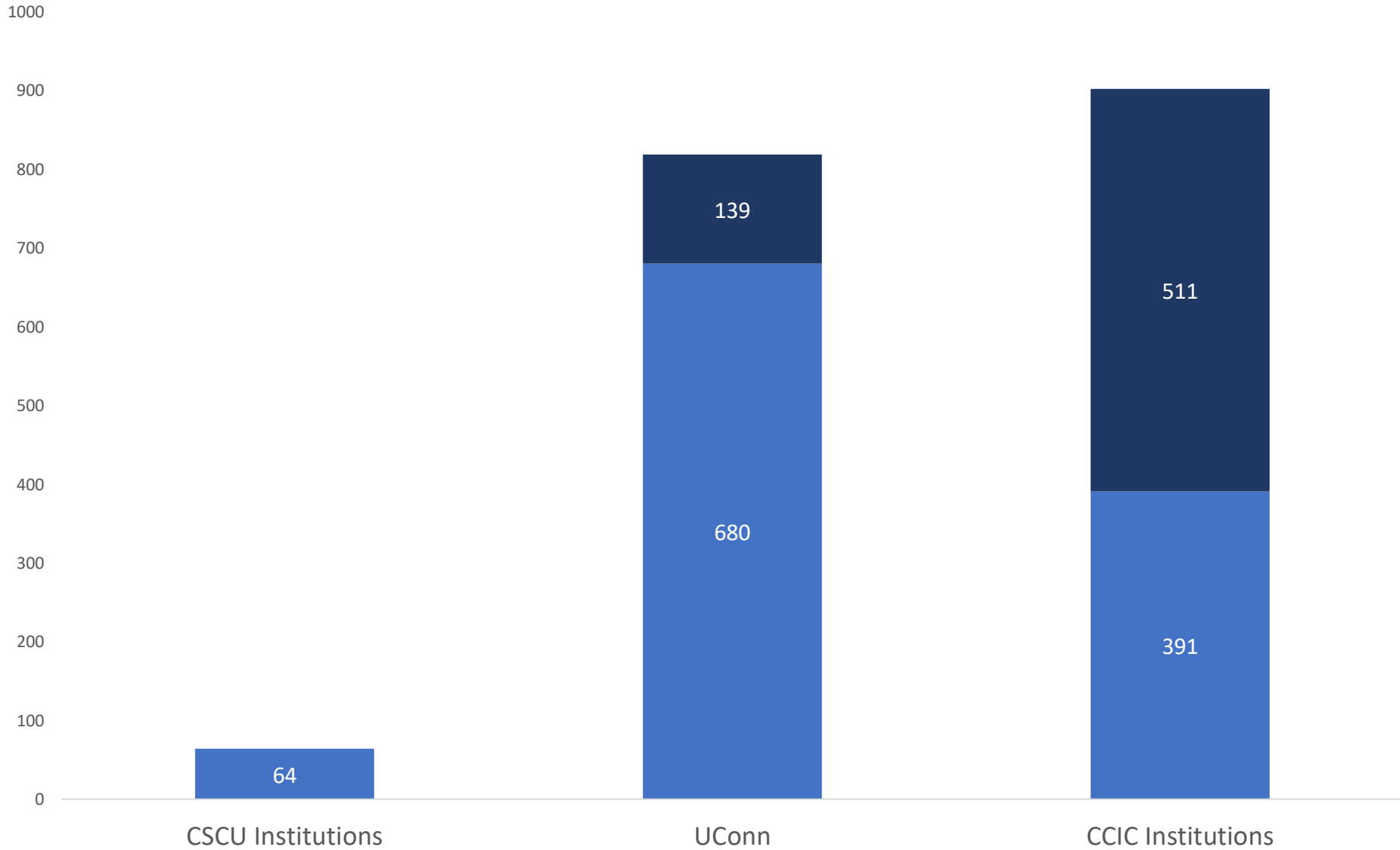


# Bachelor's & Master's Degree Completions in Engineering, by Sector: 16-17

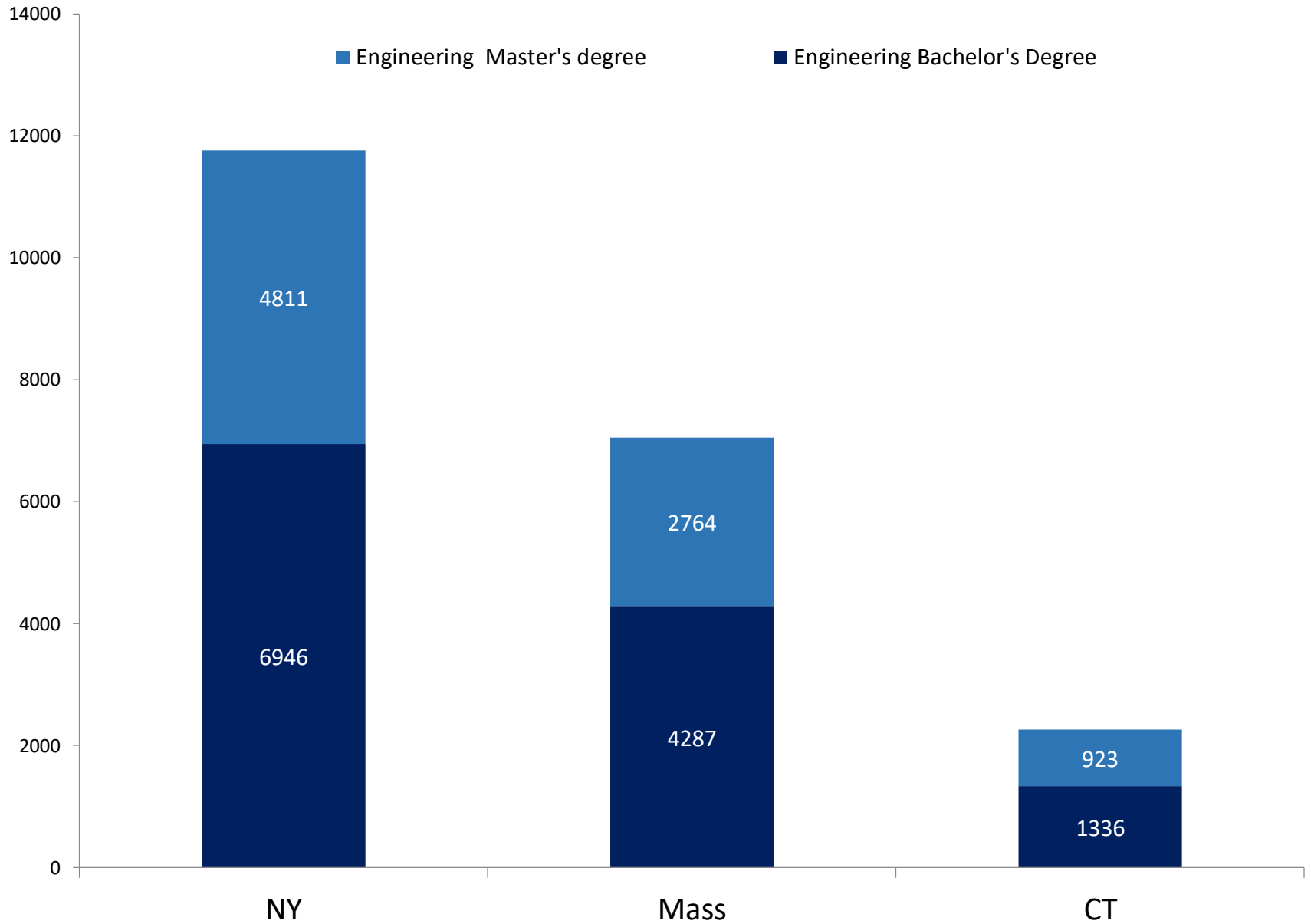
Figure 3

Source: IPEDS

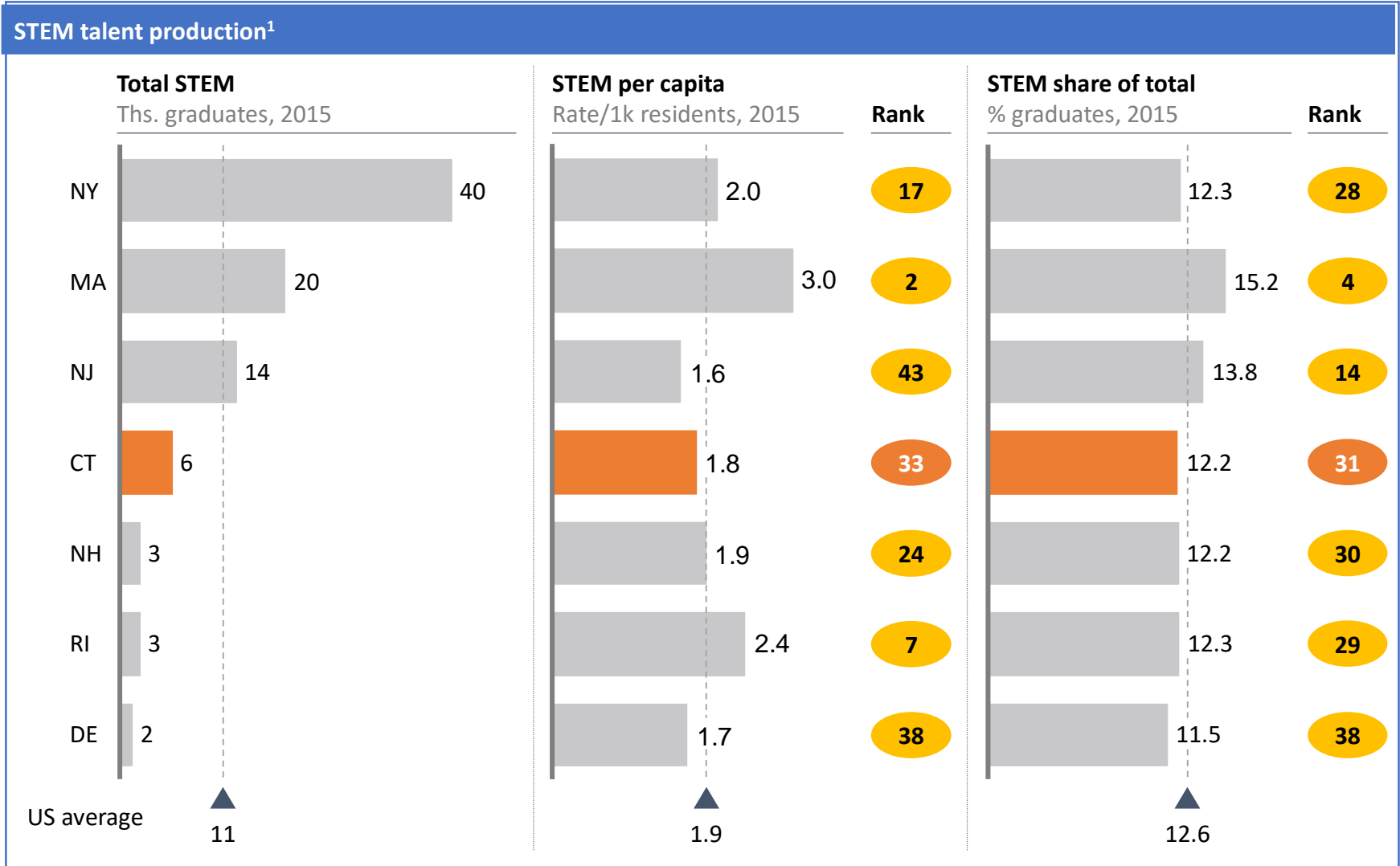
■ Bachelor's   ■ Master's



# 2017 Bachelor's & Master's Degree Completions in Engineering: CT, MA & NY

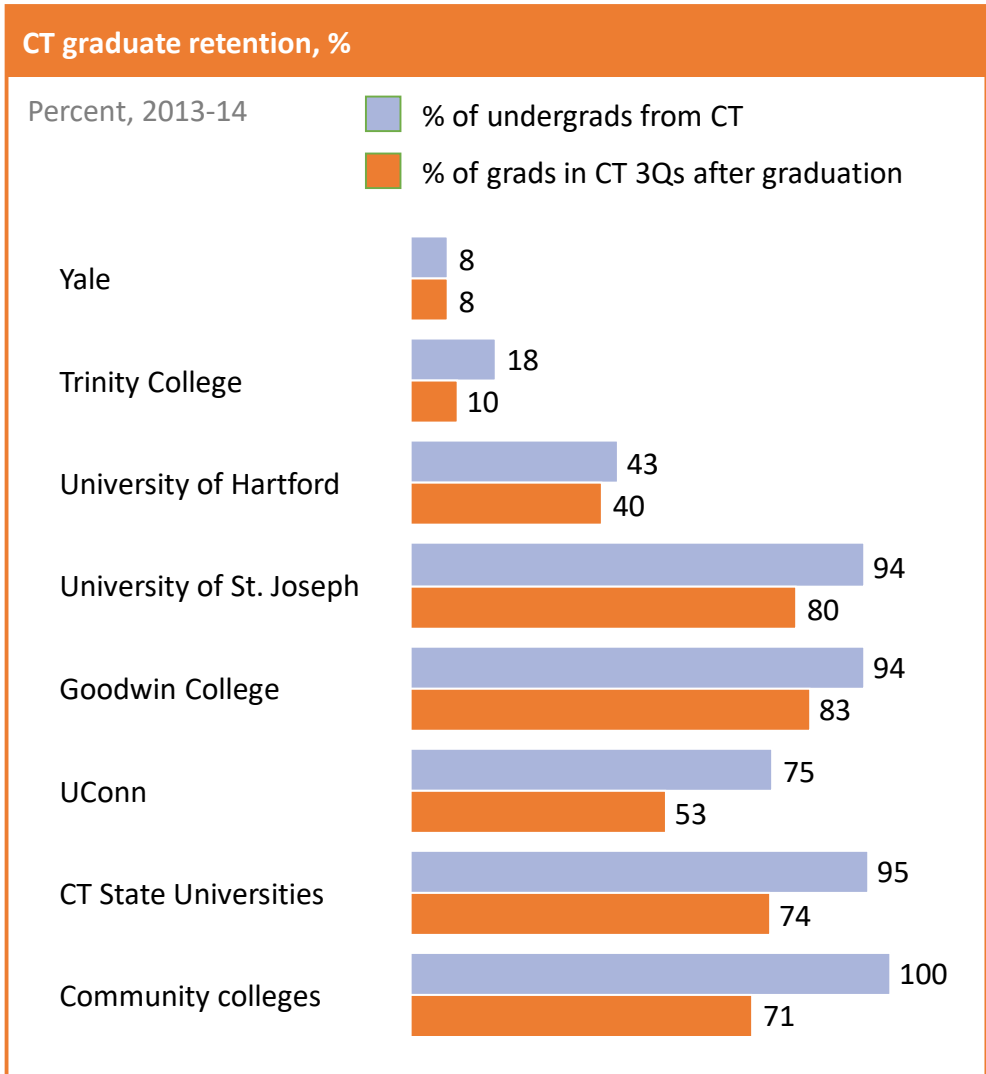
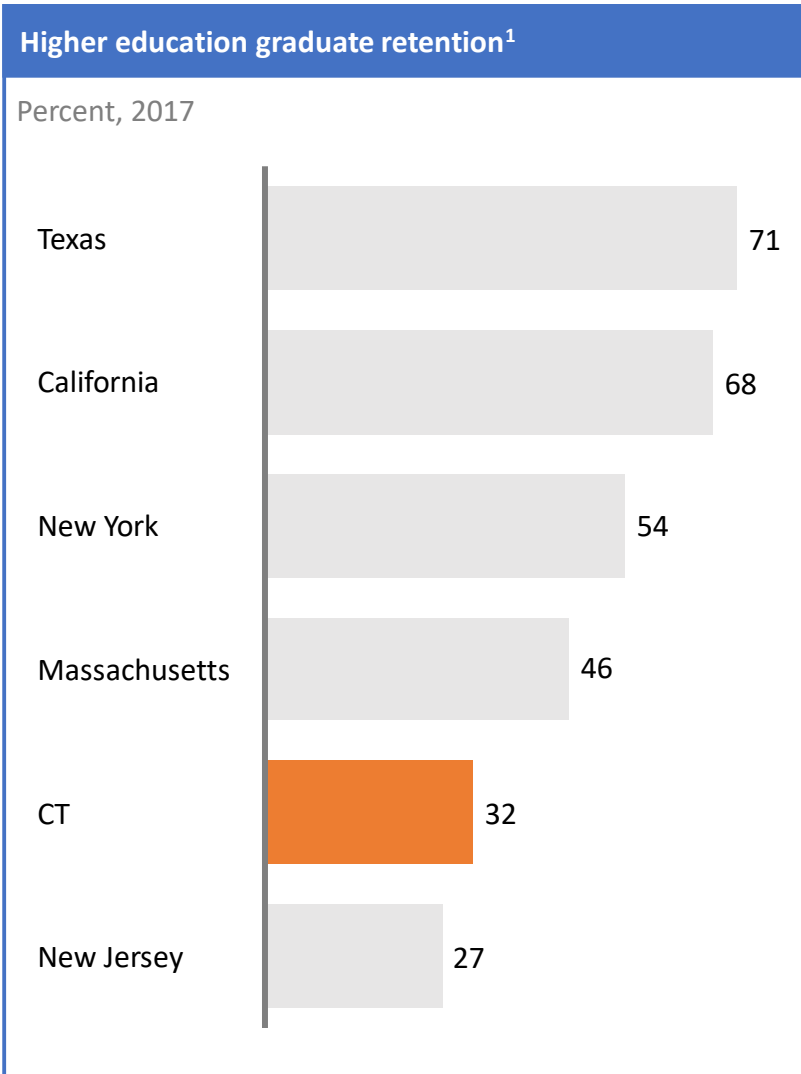


## STEM Talent Production by State



<sup>1</sup> Graduates of 2 year/certificate programs or higher; STEM includes CIP codes 11, 14, 15, 26, 27, 40, and 41

# Retention of Higher Education Graduates



- CT ranks 38th out of the states in percentage of 20-24 year-olds
- The retention rate varies by school, and whether the student was a CT resident (went to high school in the state)

SOURCE: LinkedIn, Hartford Courant, U.S. Census data, cicu-IRPS, Office of Institutional Research