

## **Connecticut's American Apprenticeship Initiative (CT AAI)**

### **Abstract**

The American Apprenticeship Initiative represents a paradigm shift in registered apprenticeship! The State of Connecticut Department of Labor, the lead applicant in this proposal, will utilize the American Apprenticeship Initiative to scale up its current apprenticeship programs in manufacturing, and also introduce this premier workforce training model to the business services and health care sectors. The Connecticut American Apprenticeship Initiative (CT AAI) will be more than a program; it will be a statewide strategy and movement aimed at supporting high growth industries, building Connecticut's workforce, registering more women, veterans and underserved people in apprenticeships and getting Connecticut's economy back on track. Introduction of Competency and Competency/Time Based Hybrid models of apprenticeship will be a key component. CTDOL OAT is requesting \$5,000,000 to enroll and serve 1,000 registered apprentices and 500 pre-apprentices.

The Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Training (CTDOL OAT) is the recognized State Apprenticeship Agency and is uniquely qualified to manage this project and will introduce many innovations to its successful apprenticeship programs employing its seasoned staff of 10 full-time skilled representatives to provide technical assistance, monitoring, and consulting services to qualified employers willing to take on program sponsorship.

The CT AAI already has commitments in place for the placement of 650 of the 1,000 apprentices it will support in the manufacturing, health care and business services sectors. The application will show a comprehensive partnership of over 40 employer partners ranging from small machine shops to the General Dynamics Electric Boat Submarine Shipyard committing to 200 to 500 apprentices in the next five years. Also in support of the CT AAI application are numerous individual employers, employer groups, statewide and local Chambers of Commerce,

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Joint Apprentice Training Committees (JATCs), the CT State College and Universities Board of Regents (CSCU BOR), including 2 and 4-year colleges, the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) where 62% of CT's 5,500 apprentices have received training. Also partnering are several hospitals, and other consortia of health care and business service employers. The CT AAI has the support of the CT Department of Economic and Community Development which is in the final stages of committing \$7,125,000 to support CTDOL OAT in creating more manufacturing apprenticeships. Available prior to the AAI award, it will serve as a leveraged resource for the first 18-21 months of the CT AAI. It will help the CTDOL OAT in creating the competency and hybrid apprenticeships based on interim, stackable, industry recognized credentialing that will also be a part of the business services and health care apprenticeships to come.

All five local WIBs and American Job Center partners will help provide supportive services and serve as a catalyst to enroll more women, veterans and underserved people. Key Partners in this endeavor include but are not limited to: Electric Boat/General Dynamics, Maura Dunn, VP Human Resources (860) 433.6909 [mdunn@gdeb.com](mailto:mdunn@gdeb.com); Pratt & Whitney/United Technologies, Jeffrey Smith, Product Director for HSMC (860) 565.1721 [jeffrey.p.smith@pw.utc.com](mailto:jeffrey.p.smith@pw.utc.com); Consortia of Business Services partnering with CSCU – 4 year university: New Britain/Institute of Technology & Bus. Development (ITBD): TD Bank, Hospital for Special Care, American Savings Foundation & Achieve Financial Credit Union - Richard Mullins, Jr., Executive Asst. to President (860) 832.0702 [mullinsr@ccsu.edu](mailto:mullinsr@ccsu.edu); CT Technical High School System, Dr. Nivea Torres, Superintendent (860) 807.2200 [nivea.torres@ct.gov](mailto:nivea.torres@ct.gov); CT Employment & Training Commission, the State Workforce Investment Board, Donald Shubert, Chairman, (860) 529.6855 [dshubert@ctconstruction.org](mailto:dshubert@ctconstruction.org).