

Register Today!

March 27, 2002

A Landscape of Opportunities

Trumbull, Connecticut

7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Known for their quality information geared to educators, counselors, and employment and training specialists, *Connecticut Learns and Works* conferences are a wonderful opportunity to develop successful occupational strategies. The next conference, "A Landscape of Opportunities," will be held on March 27, 2002, at the Trumbull Marriott Hotel and will feature keynote speaker Hillary C. Pennington, Chief Executive Officer of *Jobs for the Future*. Workshop topics will include:

Changing Careers: Successful Transitions. In this session, participants will learn how presenters have changed their careers due to their own motivations or because of external motivations.

Entrepreneurial Magic: Connecticut Ingenuity at Work. Connecticut is home to many small and large start-up businesses which have become extremely profitable and successful. Panelists in this group will talk about the hardships and the rewards of being an entrepreneur.

Healthcare and Teaching: Traditional Professions - Non-traditional Recruitment, Education and Training. This workshop will explore several innovative recruitment, education and training approaches to addressing the critical need for skilled professionals in these career areas.

No Frames, No Boundaries: Breaking Away from the Traditional Job Search. Technology and the World Wide Web have become major assets for job seekers in Connecticut. Learn about new Internet sites that can be invaluable assets for job placement and career development.

Using Life Context Strategies to Identify Employability Skills. Many job seekers face challenges in identifying employability skills. This program will demonstrate practical strategies that use life context experiences to uncover employability skills. Participants will use a framework for describing skills that empower job seekers to document all their skills.

Specialized Education and Training: Meeting the Workforce Preparation Challenges of the "21st Century New Professionals." With higher workplace standards in technological literacy and employability skills for all employees, this workshop will explore how vocational and post-secondary schools are meeting the challenge in preparing the "new professionals."

Space is limited; please register as soon as possible with the enclosed form. Questions about the conference can be directed to Wanda Izdebski at (860) 263-6283 or wanda.izdebski@po.state.ct.us.

The Secret Is Out ... Vo-Tech Schools Are In!

by Laurence Eiden, Trade & Industry Consultant for the Vocational Technical School System

Earn a high school diploma and receive 4 years of technical training at the same time. Sound impossible? Not at the Vocational-Technical Schools of Connecticut! The Vocational Schools of Connecticut are a regional school system free to all students of high school age who are Connecticut residents. Currently over 10,000 students attend classes in 18 schools located throughout the state. The schools are strategically located so that travel, provided from local communities, is minimized. Students at the VT schools learn Academic, Technology, and Employment skills. Students learn problem solving, how to learn, how to be a lifelong learner and how to work as a team member.

continued on page 4



Occupational Profile: Carpenters

Occupations requiring moderate to long term training or experience represent 19 percent of new jobs created in Connecticut through 2008. Carpentry boasts the highest number of average annual openings for occupations that require long-term on-the-job training.

What Do They Do?

Carpenters cut, fit, and assemble wood and other materials in the construction of buildings, decks, bridges, docks, and many other structures. While working on these projects, tasks may include framing walls and partitions, putting in doors and windows, building stairs, laying hardwood floors, installing kitchen cabinets, and finishing work. Some carpenters may find their work specialized in one or two activities while others will be expected to perform a wide variety of tasks. The ability to read blueprints and comply with local building codes is an important part of most carpentry projects. Carpentry is a physical job that uses power tools and often involves outdoor work. Nearly one-third of carpenters are self-employed.

Education & Training

Apprenticeships, informal on-the-job training, and vocational education are all programs to prepare for the carpentry occupation. Apprenticeship programs are recommended by most employers, and are generally three to four years in length, depending upon a student's skill and knowledge. While some on-the-job training will give specialized training, a broad-based training enables workers to find work in commercial, residential, remodeling, and repair construction, enabling them to find work during cyclical unemployment. High school education is desirable, especially with courses in general mathematics, mechanical drawing, carpentry, and industrial technology.

Earnings

National mean annual wages for carpenters were \$35,100 in 2000. Connecticut's average annual wage was \$37,855, with the Stamford LMA holding the highest average at \$43,380. The average entry-level wage for carpenters was \$28,145 in Connecticut. Carpenters can experience periods of unemployment because of the cyclical nature of the construction industry. Since carpenters are involved in the entire construction process, they usually have greater opportunity to advance to supervisor positions.

Employment Outlook

Carpentry is the largest construction trade in the U.S. In Connecticut, there were 10,818 carpenters employed in 1998; job growth is projected to be 7.7 percent from 1998 to 2008. Annually, 83 new positions will be created. While this number is relatively small, carpentry will need to replace 290 workers annually, for a total of 373 annual openings. Since there are no strict requirements for entry-level work, the turnover is high as people decide the work is not for them.

This article was taken from The Connecticut Economic Digest's January 2002 publication, and is available on-line at www.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi.

**2000 Wage Rates for Carpenters
by Labor Market Area**

	Entry Wage	Average Wage
Statewide	\$28,145	\$37,855
Bridgeport LMA	\$23,492	\$34,916
Danbury LMA	\$31,395	\$40,327
Hartford LMA	\$26,410	\$36,848
New Haven LMA	\$31,935	\$35,799
New London LMA	\$26,753	\$36,100
Stamford LMA	\$33,825	\$43,380
Waterbury LMA	\$24,707	\$34,147

**1998-2008 Job Growth for Carpenters
by Projection Region**

	Total Annual Openings	Annual Growth Rate
Statewide	373	0.8%
Capital Region	115	0.8%
Eastern Region	51	1.1%
South Central Region	55	0.6%
Southwest Region	80	0.7%
Western Region	69	0.8%



Why Study This?

..... www.cdr.state.tx.us
Interviews with Real People in Math and Science Careers

Career Development Resources of Texas, the creators of *Why Study This?*, state their mission clearly to students: "We won't try to hide it. We want you to take math and science classes every year in high school. We'd also like you to take lots of math and science in college. And maybe even consider a career in math and science. We hope the jobs we describe help you look past a boring math book or science teacher and appreciate how cool math and science can be."

Why Study This? consists of interviews with 20 people who work in science and math related occupations, including a forensic scientist, space suit engineer, storm chaser, and medical photographer. Interview questions include what the professionals like and dislike about their jobs, how often they use public speaking and writing skills, and even the dress code. Overall, the interviews challenge the myths that science and math careers are boring and are only for brilliant students with Ph.D.'s. Available at www.cdr.state.tx.us/main/WST-htmls/WST-TOC.html.



Few World Trade Center Companies Choose Connecticut for Home

As World Trade Center companies began seeking new locations, nutmeggers were anticipating a high interest in Connecticut's Gold Coast. However, only two companies have leased space in Fairfield county, and none have chosen Westchester county. The majority of companies are choosing to remain in Manhattan or relocate to New Jersey. At first glance, Connecticut seems to be a wise choice. Office rental space in Fairfield county is cheaper by \$13.29 per square foot than similar space in Manhattan. Unfortunately, other factors have combined to claim companies' interest and leases, including:

- The number of workers from the city or New Jersey outnumbered Connecticut commuters. Many workers would be unwilling to relocate their homes or spend more time commuting. For companies whose biggest assets are their employees, relocation to Connecticut is a risk.
- New Jersey has more options for mass transit, and at lower rates. A five dollar round-trip bus trip from Jersey City becomes a twenty dollar round trip ticket to Fairfield County. New Jersey has also made mass transportation improvements, reducing congestion.
- According to the real estate broker Newmark & Co., 32 million square feet of office space was available in midtown Manhattan as of September 10th. With the softening economy, companies have made more space available, and that figure increased to 35 million square feet by September 30th.
- City leaders are proposing incentive packages to keep companies in the city, including breaks on real estate taxes, electricity, and cash grants.

It may be too soon to assume all interest has been lost in Connecticut. The loss of Cantor Fitzgerald, where almost all the employees died in the attacks, has motivated some companies to establish backup facilities at a second location. These decisions will most likely be made in future months.

Adapted from "Hot Prospects Fizzle: Displaced Offices Flirt with Fairfield County, but Settle in Elsewhere," by Kenneth R. Gosselin, Courant Staff Writer. View the full article at www.ctnow.com.

As of
 January 1, 2002, the
Connecticut minimum wage
is \$6.70. The U.S. minimum
 wage remains \$5.15

Vo-Tech Schools

— (continued from page 1) —

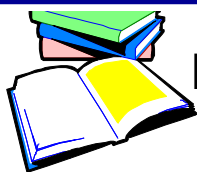
Technology training follows industry standards focusing on the needed skills for career entry and advancement in 39 distinct career areas. VT schools offer small classes, personal attention and a comfortable atmosphere for learning. As with all high schools, English, Math, Science and Social Studies are the core of the academic training as well as specific courses related to the technical majors such as Information Technology, Small Business Development and Computer Sciences. The curriculum helps VT students prepare for continuing education; over 30 percent of VT students go on to further education.

Students entering in the ninth grade participate in the exploratory program where they work in all technology areas then choose the career path that best suits their individual needs. Extracurricular activities include sports and the traditional high school activities such as Yearbook, Newspaper, Student Government and the National Honor Society. All VT schools are members of SkillsUSA/VICA and are traditionally top winners in State and National career based competitions.

Additional opportunities abound in programs such as Pro-Tech, a program for gifted and talented students, and Tech Prep, a continuing education link that enables students to earn up to 14 credits toward a college degree. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Cooperative Work Program that allows students in grades 11 and 12 to “learn and earn” by working with area employers in specific training aligned with their technology career choice.

Students comment that “There is a strong connection with your teachers. You’re not just a number. Teachers care; they really support you.” and that “They really help you become mature, to understand that you’ve got responsibilities. They treat you like an adult; they give you respect.”

Open Houses are held annually at all the schools and are the best way to truly get the Tech experience. First time visitors often leave in awe of the technology they have experienced. Interested? Attend an open house or contact the school or schools of your interest for a personal visit. Check out the VT Web site at www.cttech.org or call the toll free info line at 1-800 U-CAN-TECH (1-800-822-6832).



Reference Shelf

H.O.T.:

Health Occupations and Technology Careers in Connecticut

by the Connecticut Area Health Education
Center (AHEC) Programs

The demand is high for health practitioners in Connecticut; the Connecticut Department of Labor estimates over three thousand annual openings in healthcare through 2008. An essential guide to healthcare careers, *H.O.T.* profiles 84 health occupations that have training programs in Connecticut.

Each occupational profile includes personal characteristics for success in the field, job duties, a description of the work environment, earnings, and job growth. Education information includes requirements along with references to training providers in Connecticut and sources for more information.

H.O.T. will be available after January 14, 2002 in hard copy, in cd-rom, and on-line at www.ctahec.org. Each middle and high school principal will receive two copies of *H.O.T.*; additional copies are available at \$10 each plus shipping. Contact Brenda Evans at 233-7561, extension 110, or brenda.evans@rcn.com to request your copy.

"Fall seven times, stand up eight."

- Japanese Proverb

CCRN Update

January 2002

CCRN/Office of Research
Connecticut Department of Labor
200 Folly Brook Boulevard
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Erin Wilkins, Editor
Phone (860) 263-6279 Fax (860) 263-6263
e-mail: erin.wilkins@po.state.ct.us

Printing services provided by the
Department of Labor's Printing Services Unit