

# !!! Attention !!!

We are sorry to inform you that the Connecticut Learns and Works Conference scheduled for April 10, 2003 has been postponed to the Spring, 2004. Because of the State budget problems and the state employee layoffs, we felt that we would not be able to maintain the high level of quality that our attendees have come to expect. We hope that by then, budget and staffing issues will have been resolved, so that we can proceed with the conference as designed.

In lieu of that conference, we are working with Manchester Community College to extend the program they already have sched-

uled for the morning of April 9, 2003. Mary Jacobsen, author of *Hand- Me-Down Dreams: How Families Influence Our Career Paths*, will give a presentation on the topic "Blood Money: Understanding the Heart, Pulse, and Soul of Money in our Lives, Families and Careers."

In the afternoon, John Tirinzonie will discuss the new 2000 to 2010 occupational projections and Southwest Airlines will give a presentation on "People and Profitability, An Inside Job." We hope this program will help us maintain contact with our audience and provide them with an activity for which they can earn CEU credits. See the Registration Form for more information.

## Health, Human Services, & BioScience



# Career Expo and Job Fair

April 29 - Noon to 4 p.m.

Holiday Inn, North Haven (exit 12 off I-91)

**EACH YEAR IN CONNECTICUT**, more than 7,200 persons will be needed to fill jobs in the Health, Human Services, and BioScience fields. At the same time, graduates from these programs are far less than needed to fill these positions, creating excellent opportunities for employment.

**BY ATTENDING** this free event, students, teachers, and counselors will have the opportunity to explore the variety of career choices in these fast-growing fields.

**REPRESENTATIVES** from schools, colleges, and universities throughout Connecticut will provide information on how to get the education and skills needed for these jobs.

### HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

**STUDENTS:** Dress in business attire, have your questions ready, and talk to as many schools as possible.

**TEACHERS and COUNSELORS:** If you wish to bring a group of students to this event, please call the Department of Labor at (860) 263-6262.

*Sponsored by the Connecticut Departments of Labor, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health, CTHealth Jobs, UCONN, Community Colleges, Regional Vocational Technical Schools, CURE, the Connecticut Hospital Association, and the CT Area Health Education Centers.*

## Alternative Educational Paths

In most countries, students attend school, earn their certificates, and go out into the world to seek their fortunes (find jobs). Some countries work with students to identify skills and aptitudes early in their educational process. Based on those early assessments, students are assigned to a track and predestined to particular types of educations and careers.

Employers and parents are increasingly concerned about the quality and effectiveness of public and private education. A wide variety of community leaders are searching for solutions that will enable students to be better prepared for careers and for life.

One of the issues on the table is whether so many students should go to traditional undergraduate and, perhaps, graduate education. Since statistics indicate that college graduates have greater earning power over their lifetimes, parents push their children to take college-preparatory courses and go to a university after high school. Parents often ignore other studies, showing that a significant percentage of those students never go beyond their first university year, if they even finish that first year. They did not belong in college; they should have been encouraged to choose a different educational alternative.

Students who do not continue their university education often begin their working life with a sense of failure, and inadequate preparation for a career. Sometimes they wander aimlessly for a while, experimenting, trying to determine what to do. Unfortunately, while they search for their paths, they waste valuable career development time.

While students try to find themselves, employers struggle to find workers with needed skills. Those employers encourage students to consider vocational schools, technical colleges, and training provided by employers and labor unions. Skilled positions often pay well, with incomes comparable to those earned by university graduates.

In the future, we will see more effective assessment of students in their early teens. Based on aptitude, interests, skills, and academic achievement (more than just grades), students will be guided toward educational option(s) best suited for them.

*(continued)*

## Connecticut Department of Labor Career Fairs

Spring 2003 Schedule

**March 29, 2003**  
Manchester  
Community College  
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**April 29, 2003\***  
Holiday Inn  
North Haven  
Noon - 4:00 p.m.

**May 13, 2003**  
Ocean Beach Park  
New London  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**June 11, 2003**  
Aqua Turf Club  
Southington  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\* Health, Human Services & BioScience  
Job-Fair and Career Expo

Call 860-263-6277 or visit [www.jobfairs.com](http://www.jobfairs.com) for more information on these career fairs.

*(Alternative Educational Paths - cont.)*

With greater emphasis placed on student guidance, more students will be encouraged to consider vocational education. Vocational schools will strengthen their offerings, including broader academic components.

From "*Herman Trend Alert*", by Roger Herman and Joyce Gioia, Strategic Business Futurists. (800) 227-3566 or [www.hermangroup.com](http://www.hermangroup.com).

"Real success is finding your lifework in the  
work you love."

— David McCullough

## **CCRN Update**

March 2003

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