



Labor Department/Higher Education Report Tracks Job Success for College Grads

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WETHERSFIELD, April 22 – Seven out of ten public college graduates who made up Connecticut’s overall 17,928-member Class of 2007 found employment in Connecticut within nine months after graduation and went on to be counted as part of Connecticut’s workforce, according to a just-released report titled *Higher Education: Building Connecticut’s Workforce*.

The Connecticut Departments of Labor and Higher Education produced the report, which was issued today by State Labor Commissioner Patricia H. Mayfield and State Department of Higher Education Commissioner Michael P. Meotti at a meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The report provides comprehensive employment and compensation data for students who graduated from the state’s 18 public colleges in 2007.

“This project builds upon other research initiatives by the Labor Department and Higher Education to identify the employment outcomes of participants attending public colleges,” noted Commissioner Mayfield. “Overall, 70 percent of the 17,928 graduates were found to be working in Connecticut seven to nine months after their graduation in a wide variety of industry sectors, including educational services, health care, professional and technical services, manufacturing and retail trade.”

“Connecticut’s results demonstrate the growing importance of increased educational attainment not only in terms of the personal financial benefits of attaining a college degree, but in meeting the workforce needs of our state’s economy” noted Commissioner Meotti. “Our graduates more than doubled their income potential by earning an average of \$40,000 a year just nine months after graduation. Some earned as much as \$82,000 in fields such as utilities.”

About 70 percent of employed graduates were working in firms with 100 or more employees, according to the report, and 46 percent worked in firms with 500 or more employees. Almost two out of every three (63 percent) of the employed graduates were women.

(More)

The report further notes that nearly 78 percent of the graduates from the Connecticut State University System were employed in the state, compared to 77 percent from the Connecticut Community Colleges and 60 percent from the University of Connecticut. Only 38 percent of Charter Oak State College graduates were Connecticut residents in 2007, but of those 181 or 81 percent were employed here.

“The results reflect the student population each system serves,” Meotti noted. “It is worth noting that these numbers are a conservative measure of the economic benefit to our state because the nature of the database does not include graduates serving in the military or employed by the federal government – or students continuing their education and not currently employed.”

“The Connecticut Department of Labor regularly projects what types of jobs will be needed to meet our workforce needs and this report helps validate our data that shows that one-third of the career opportunities in this state currently reside in the area of education and health services,” Commissioner Mayfield noted. “We have also found that 60 percent of the 20 fastest growing occupations in Connecticut will require, at minimum, a bachelor’s or master’s degree, reflecting the importance of higher education in meeting the knowledge and skill needs of our future economy.”

Other facts highlighted in the report include:

- Nearly 45% of employed public college graduates were working in Education and Health Services.
- The greatest numbers of employed graduates majored in Business Management (2,304), followed by Education (1,633), Liberal Arts & Sciences (1,514) and Health Professions and Related Sciences (1,497).
- Employment rates by program of study ranged from a high of 81 percent for those majoring in Public Administrations to a low of 48 percent for Philosophy majors.
- About 37 percent of business graduates were working in Finance and Insurance and Professional & Technical Services
- Over 50 percent of employed liberal arts majors were clustered in Health Care, Retail Trade and Education.
- Women had a higher rate of employment than men at 72 percent compared to 66 percent.

The complete report, on the Connecticut Department of Labor’s Web site at www.ct.gov/dol, can be found under the *Labor Market Information* link, and also on the Department of Higher Education’s Web site at www.ctdhe.org.

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