



News Release

U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
08-1735-BOS/BOS 2008-347

For Immediate Release
Wed., Nov. 19, 2008
Contact: Jennifer Kaplan Terry Shawn
Phone: 202-693-5052 202-693-4676

U.S. Department of Labor awards \$2 million to Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board for STEM Careers Partnership

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced five awards worth nearly \$10 million to build regional workforce investment system capacity to support careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). **This includes \$2 million to the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board for the Connecticut STEM Careers Partnership.**

“This \$10 million initiative will help workers and youth prepare for success in careers requiring skills and education in science, technology, engineering and math,” said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao.

STEM-related industries have been identified by the National Science Foundation as producing almost 50 percent of U.S. economic growth during the last 50 years. While approximately five percent of the nation’s workforce is employed in STEM fields, there is growing concern about U.S. workers losing out on these high-quality careers.

The competitively selected projects will expand training and align current STEM-related activities and resources at One-Stop Career Centers; provide participants with access to STEM coaches and mentors who will link program participants to employers, and offer advice and guidance on entering STEM fields; and create “career blueprints” that will outline career paths for individual participants.

Award-winning organizations were chosen from among 92 applications received in response to a competition announced in January. These projects will train workers for such industries as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, biotechnology, information technology and renewable energy.

The Connecticut award will be used in establishing a STEM Careers Partnership among the state’s workforce investment boards and create a statewide virtual STEM Center. The STEM Center will serve as an initial point of entry to the One-Stop system for dislocated workers and disadvantaged youth by providing resources and classrooms for STEM-related activities.

The other New England recipient is the Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board, which will receive \$2 million for a science-based manufacturing pathways center.

#

U.S. Department of Labor releases are accessible on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office upon request. Please specify which news release when placing your request at 202-693-7828 or TTY 202-693-7755. The Labor Department is committed to providing America's employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/compliance.