VOICE

CHAMBER of COMMERCE
EASTERN CONNECTICUT

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EWIB: Your Pipeline to Employee Success

Did you know the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) and the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT enjoy a collaborative partnership?

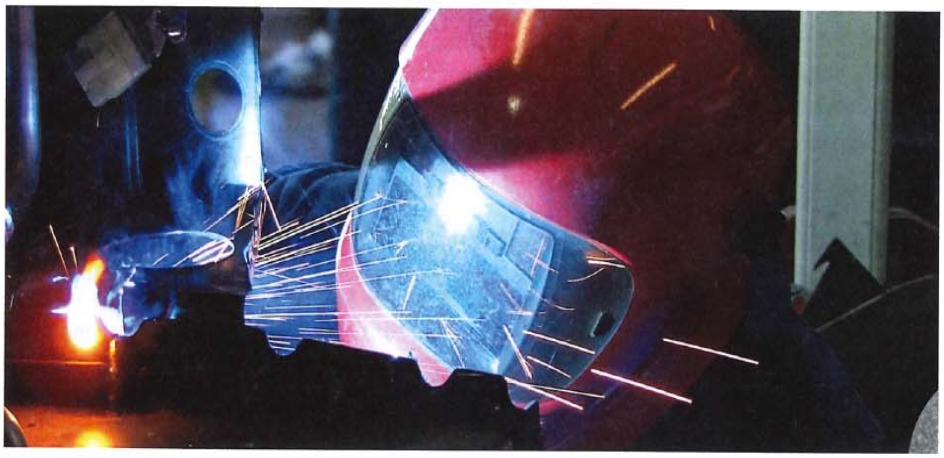
The Chamber strives to develop and enhance the economic profile of eastern CT, which relies on a skilled, capable workforce.

EWIB, based out of Franklin, CT, is a non-profit agency mandated through the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. EWIB oversees a network of workforce-related programs, including the operations of the region's American Job Centers.

American Job Centers (also known as One-Stop Centers) are a program of the U.S. Department of Labor. They promote a universal approach to providing effective workforce assistance to job-seekers and businesses, including:

- Training referrals
- Career counseling
- Employer recruitments

Together, the Chamber and EWIB have a shared goal of growing eastern CT's economy through workforce-related programs.



Through the partnership, a Chamber staff member works out of the American Job Centers' Montville office. Her role as a Business Services Representative is to partner with the American Job Centers and other agencies to coordinate with programs and services that support business development.

As an eastern CT business, there are two EWIB programs that can support your hiring needs: the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative and the Step Up Program.

The Manufacturing Pipeline Program provides a training pipeline to develop skilled workers for Electric Boat (EB), the nearly 70 companies that make up the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA), and other regional employers.

In just under three years, the program has placed more than 1,000 qualified candidates in jobs.

The initiative offers up to ten short-term classroom trainings, online training, and job search assistance. Curriculum for classroom training was developed by EB and EAMA in collaboration with Three Rivers Community College, Quinebaug Valley Community College, and the Community College of RI.

The Business Services team works with job seekers, directing them to the employment services of the American

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Job Centers for job preparation and connecting them to companies for employment.

If you are interested in hiring one of these recent graduates of this highly successful program, contact Business Services Representative Tracy Tremblay at TTremblay@ChamberECT.com or (860) 848-5932.

If you are a job seeker interested in training through the Manufacturing Pipeline, go to www.EWIB.org and click on Manufacturing Pipeline.

This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor-Workforce Innovation Fund in partnership with the CT Department of Labor and the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board.

The Step Up Program is a hiring incentive program. The Step Up Program for Small Manufacturers offers reimbursement to businesses that employ fewer than 100 full-time employees with up to $12,500 during the first six months of a brand-new hire's employment. Subsidized Training requires candidates meet certain guidelines. A contract needs to be in place before the new employee starts.

If you are interested in hiring through Step Up, please contact Business Services Representative Tracy Tremblay at TTremblay@ChamberECT.com or (860) 848-5932.

The Business Services Representative offers additional services such as:

- Assisting companies to set up recruitments at the American Job Centers
- Referring businesses to other state and regional organizations for support services and financing
- Hiring through incentive-funding programs
- Additional workforce development and training programs

EWIB
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The Chamber and EWIB recognize that the future of eastern CT's workforce relies on coordinated planning among all of our region's decision-makers. Accordingly, we strive to strengthen partnerships to increase both our efficiency and the prosperity of our region's current and future workers.

No single organization alone can solve the complex workforce and economic issues facing our region. However, by working together, partners in our region are making meaningful progress, even in challenging economic times.

Effective partnerships will play an increasingly important role in our region's success as we grow our most important asset: our dynamic workforce.