

## *State of the Workforce 2008 Generates News*

*State of the Workforce 2008: Post-Secondary Education in Focus*, this year's look at the issues that will affect our workforce and economy for years to come, studies the impact of education, especially post-secondary education, on the workforce. Virtually any job that pays more than minimum wage requires a degree or certificate beyond a high school diploma, making Connecticut's Community College system increasingly important to the state's ability to compete. The State of the Workforce report [read more](#) is distributed to state and regional opinion leaders, educators and workforce professionals. There is also a [PowerPoint presentation](#) that takes a more in-depth look at trends and statistics. Stories about the study appeared in the [New Haven Register](#) and the [Meriden Record Journal](#).

## *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

"Americans with disabilities are an underutilized reservoir of talent, skill and ambition, ready to make great contributions in the workplace," said William P. Villano, Executive Director of Workforce Alliance. "We are pleased that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month because it gives us an opportunity to showcase great people and hard workers who happen to be disabled." Workforce Alliance offers a range of services through the work of Disability Program Navigator, Laura Micklus. In her first 9 months on the job, Laura served 250 customers, most of whom were guided to training or skill-building resources. At least 40 customers were matched with jobs. [Read the article in the New Haven Register.](#)

## *Workforce Alliance Wins Connect-Ability Grant*

The Workforce Alliance has won a \$200,000 grant to be the regional hub of the statewide Connect-Ability initiative. The initiative, which launches in January, has three major components: assisting in school-to-work transition for youth with disabilities; increasing accessibility to services at the CTWorks Career Centers; and overcoming transportation barriers. Disability Program Navigator Laura Micklus will coordinate the regional effort. Partners include Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Social Services, the Regional Growth Connection, Autism Spectrum Resource Center, Easter Seals Goodwill Industries, ACES, Hamden High School and Platt High School, and the Business Leadership Network. For more information, check out [www.connect-ability.com](http://www.connect-ability.com)

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