

## *Workforce Alliance on WTNH NewsChannel 8*



Workforce Alliance Executive Director, Bill Villano, and Board Member, Robin Golden of The Jerome N. Frank Legal Services at Yale University, were guests on a special 5-minute segment of a program dedicated to understanding employment needs in the region. The 5-minute clip is online at [WTNH.com](http://WTNH.com) (watch here), as well as part of a half-hour program on the subject which aired on a recent Sunday morning. The discussion with host Steven Parker ranged from the need for re-training of existing employees, to finding ways to help the increased number of unemployed in the current recession. In addition, WTNH interviewed CTWorks customers for a segment on the tough employment market. ([View It](#))

## *Workforce Alliance Tops in Performance*

Each year, Workforce Alliance reports on performance measures in each of the categories funded by the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The outcome expectations for these targets are negotiated each year. Workforce Alliance was the number one board in the state, *exceeding* target on 15 of 17 criteria in the last fiscal year. In the other two instances, Workforce Alliance *met* target expectations. The targets are related to employment and earnings success for adults, dislocated workers and youth. In addition, the most recent quarterly figures show that the Jobs First participation rates in our region are nearly double the next best boards. Workforce Alliance's scores in successful placements and level of wages also remain above average.

## *DeLauro Stumps for Unemployment Insurance Extension*



Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro visited the Hamden CTWorks Career Center, recently, to speak with unemployed manufacturers and members of the Operating Engineers about her fight to extend unemployment benefits during these tough times. President Bush signed the legislation this week. Bill Villano and Workforce Alliance have worked with the Congresswoman's office to increase benefits and expand services for the unemployed. He said the unemployment rate in the state has jumped from 4.6

percent in September 2007 to 6.1 percent in September of this year. The number of unemployed workers in Connecticut has risen from 83,200 last year to 111,600 so far in 2008. ([Read More](#))

### ***Lack of Education Undermines Workforce***

Business New Haven recently published an op-ed by Bill Villano, calling attention to the crisis brewing in the workforce due to the high number of high school dropouts and the low number of Connecticut residents achieving 2-year post-secondary degrees. The article ([Read More](#)) was based on the research behind this year's State of the Workforce report.

### ***Marine Trades Training Round 2***

Thanks to Workforce Alliance's 2007 Marine Technician Training project, nearly a dozen trainees were able to find work in the state's busy maritime industry. A second training class is now being formed for recent high school graduates, under-employed and qualified unemployed adults. The first class, which was certified in the American Boat and Yacht Council's (ABYC) National Marine Trades Curriculum, included a cross section of trainees, varying in age, educational background and interests, as reported in the New Haven Register ([Read More](#))

Sound Marine Skills, Inc. (SMS), a partnership among the Sound School Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center, the Workforce Alliance, Department of Labor and several area full-service marinas and boatyards, are partners in the training program, Employment opportunities include marinas serving recreational boating and noncommercial fishing, retail boat sales and marine equipment dealers, manufacturers, shipping companies, port operations and harbor development.

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