

Aerospace Employment Placement Program Partners with CT Center for Advanced Technology



A look inside CCAT's Advanced Manufacturing Center

In 2015 the Aerospace Employment Placement Program (AEPP) continues to pick up steam. Recently approved for a second year of funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), this collaborative partnership between Journey Home, Goodwin College and Belcan Corporation has garnered praise in the business community and increasing interest from potential partners.

This is the second year the program has made the Mayor's recommendation list for CDBG. Two successful classes have completed their semester of courses at Goodwin College, and 9 formerly homeless men and women now have long-term careers in CT's thriving aerospace industry. This guarantee of well-paying employment is what sets the AEPP apart.

"We can manage to do this because the process is selective, and the coursework requires dedication," said Roy Mainelli, Director of the AEPP, "but if they stick with it, it can be the opportunity of a lifetime."

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) has also been creating career opportunity in the state since 2004 by offering hands-on training and academic courses through their Manufacturing Careers Program (MCP). The center is now the newest partner helping to bolster the AEPP's infrastructure and sustainability with a diverse range of new resources.

A new hands-on orientation period, being introduced this year, will help Journey Home select the strongest candidates who are most likely to succeed in the field. The 40 or so applicants currently being considered for the 2015 class will be the first to receive an MCP skills assessment, covering applied mathematics, reading and locating information; successful completion of which will grant them a National Career Readiness Certification. Candidates will also have the chance to attend a work-based learning session at CCAT's Advanced Manufacturing Center which houses state-of-the-art equipment and is staffed by a team of manufacturing technology experts.

Once accepted into the program, participants will begin their semester at Goodwin College, completing two manufacturing courses subsidized by Journey Home. During that time they will also receive formal support in resume writing and interviewing provided by CCAT through CT Work Force One Stop Career Centers.

"The training and support that CCAT is offering means that our next class of graduates will be more skilled and better educated than ever before," said Matt Morgan, Executive Director of Journey Home, "and whether they have a lifetime career with Belcan or choose to seek employment elsewhere, they will have the skills to do so."

After participants complete their semester at Goodwin they will enter into a MCP funded internship period, during which they will work 24 hours a week for 6 weeks at \$10 an hour. Once this period is completed, each applicant is guaranteed their full-time position at Belcan Corporation through the AEPP at starting wage of \$15 an hour plus benefits. The MCP is helping to further sustain that position by offering to cover 25% of each employee's wages for the first 12 weeks.

The AEPP partnerships between Belcan, Goodwin and Journey Home will be strengthened by the financial and facilitative resources that CCAT is offering to the 2015 class. As the next group of applicants enters the program we are excited to see the impact these new resources will have. We hope that the success of this blossoming partnership will encourage further collaboration with organizations across the region who are dedicated to workforce development and the strength of the aerospace & manufacturing industry.

Please consider making [your own contribution](#) to this growing program which is showing so much promise.