



TO: Representative Larry Cupoli, Vermont House Education Committee
FM: William Lucci, Assistant Director for Adult Technical Education
DT: February 21, 2017
RE: STC Adult and Continuing Education Program Highlights

In preparation for my testimony tomorrow, I am pleased to provide you and members of the House Education Committee with a summary of programs and classes that ran between September 19, 2016 and January 20, 2017. Should you or any member of the House Committee have any questions about the information contained in this report they should feel free to contact me directly at (802) 770-1032.

MEDL 13: Phlebotomy Certificate Program

This program continues to be a favorite in the Stafford Technical Center ATE Allied Health Program menu of courses. There were twenty (20) students enrolled in the autumn class which began on September 21, 2016, and we have already begun enrolling students for our winter semester that will begin later this month. This course was developed in conjunction with the Continuing Education and Workforce Development division of Vermont Technical College and provides incumbent and aspiring healthcare professionals with the academic and professional training required to become certified phlebotomy technicians. The certification examination is administered through the National Health Career Association (NHA) for students who successfully complete the course, and the cohort that tested in May had an unprecedented 94% first-time pass rate on this examination—well above the national average.

MEDL 12: Medical Coding Certificate Program

This innovative comprehensive Allied Health program began its fifth year on September 19th, having enrolled a total of eleven (11) students who are attending classes for six hours each week from September through May. Its hybrid curriculum delivers a total of five (5) non-credit modules beginning with an intensive Human Anatomy course instructed by RHS science teacher Ann Marie Mahar, and concludes with a professional on-site seminar hosted by Sarah Donaldson and her coding team at the Rutland Regional Medical Center. Students who successful complete all five modules are

provided an opportunity to sit for a national certification examination offered by the National Healthcare Association (NHA) to become a Certified Medical Coding and Billing Specialist. Last year's cohort had a 92% first-time pass rate on this examination—18% higher than the national average.

General Electric-Vermont Technical College-Stafford Technical Center Toolmaker Apprenticeship Program

A total of thirteen (13) students began their third year in the Toolmaker Apprenticeship program here at Stafford Technical Center on August 23, 2016. This program is a cooperative effort between General Electric Aviation, the Continuing Education and Workforce Development division of Vermont Technical College, and the Adult and Continuing Education Program at Stafford Technical Center. Students are enrolled in courses that meet four (4) days each week for the entire calendar year. Students enrolled in this program can also earn the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree from Vermont Technical College.

Academic and Aptitude Testing Services for General Electric Aviation

After a brief hiatus, General Electric Aviation has recruited a new cohort of students for its Toolmaker Apprenticeship Program, and Stafford Technical Center ATE staff was contracted to schedule and deliver both academic and aptitude testing for one hundred (100) finalists for these coveted positions at our region's largest employer. The results from these assessments were assembled and provided to the Human Resource Department at GE and were used in the evaluation process that led to offering thirteen (13) candidates Toolmaker Apprenticeship training opportunities in this program that is coordinated by Vermont Technical College and meets at Stafford Technical Center over a three-year training period using a traditional academic model.

Castle Worldwide Certification Testing and ed2go Online Courses

Stafford Technical Center remains one of just two official Castle Worldwide test sites that is approved to provide Internet-based professional certification and licensing test services to professionals in Northern New England. Thus far during the 2016-2017 school year we have provided these services to nearly two dozen working adults who hope to earn a board-certified license in such fields as Photovoltaic Installer I; Nurse Midwife; BPS Critical Care Pharmacist; WOCNCB Ostomy, Family Nurse Practitioner, BOC Athletic Trainer, and ACE Personal Trainer.

Additionally, our partnership with Cengage Learning and ed2go--the world's largest provider of online, non-credit courses continues to be a conduit for distance learners in the Rutland area. Since July 1, 2016 we have enrolled nearly two dozen students in educational courses that included *Certificate in Brain Health*; *Certificate in Holistic and*

Integrative Health; Introduction to Chemistry; Certificate in Meditation; Explore A Career in Nursing; Certificate in Healthy Aging; Human Anatomy and Physiology; Teaching Students with Autism; and Basic CompTIA A+ Certification Prep. Nearly 350 classes are offered every month to adult students who want to master course material in a modality and on a schedule that does not conflict with other personal and professional responsibilities.

Department of Labor-Vermont Technical College-Stafford Technical Center Plumbing-Electrical Apprenticeship Program

The Vermont State Plumbing and Electrical Apprenticeship program is enjoying its second consecutive year of increase in enrollment this year having sixty-six (66) electrical apprentices enrolled in four (4) “live” Stafford-based sections. This program also includes four (4) sections of the plumbing apprenticeship curriculum delivered “live” via *Adobe Connect* technology in the VTC Telepresence Classroom 218 in Stafford Technical Center to up to nine (9) other sites throughout the state. This apprenticeship program is offered through a partnership between Stafford Technical Center ATE, Vermont Technical College and the Vermont Department of Labor. Apprentices are enrolled in this four-year program where they attend classes two days per week from September-April at Stafford Technical Center, and the cost of tuition is generally paid by their employers.

Licensed Nurse Assistant Program

Our Licensed Nurse Assistant (LNA) course continues to have strong enrollment in both the day and evening sections of this Allied Health program with a total of twenty (20) students completing classes in mid-January. We remain the only LNA program in Vermont that requires its students to complete both the Vermont Board of Nursing approved 100-hour curriculum as well as a 24-hour online communication course—*Keys to Effective Communication*—in order to graduate from our program. We have two viable cohorts ready to begin their program next week.

On Site Evening Division Classes

The fall-winter semester officially ended in mid-January with the Stafford Technical Center ATE program offering on-site instruction to dozens of adult students in a number of enrichment courses that include: Wheel-Thrown Pottery; Conversational Spanish; Introduction to the Digital and SLR Camera; Fundamental Computer Skills I and II; Introduction to Industrial Maintenance and Troubleshooting; SMAW Welding I; SMAW Welding Level II; GMAW-FCAW Welding I; and Practicum in Advanced Welding Processes.

Stafford Driver Training School Commercial Drivers License A, B and Upgrade Programs

The enrollment and revenue for these programs offered at our satellite classroom and practice range in North Clarendon rose significantly during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and we are already experiencing another successful year delivering both standard and customized commercial driver's license training to adult students in our region. At the present time there are sixteen (16) students enrolled in these programs with another six (6) scheduled to begin their licensing training on February 18 or 25, 2017.

Because of the support of the Diesel Technology program at Vermont Technical College, the engine was overhauled on one of our original training vehicles and we are now approved and able to offer our training program on-site at Vermont Technical College, with eight (8) VTC students enrolled in that program who will complete their training in late March, 2017.

Program Development Grant from the Vermont Department of Labor

On September 13, 2016 a grant application was approved by the Vermont Department of Labor to continue to provide support for the *Stafford Supplemental Education and Training Grant* (SETG), a school-based financial aid initiative that provides financial assistance to adult students who are enrolled in career-based programs and whose VSAC Non-Degree Grant does not cover the full amount of the tuition and fees associated with enrollment in that program or course. Last year, a total of twenty-four (24) students received an average SETG of \$ 714.00 to assist them in meeting the cost of tuition and fees for workforce development programs such as CDL training, phlebotomy, medical coding, and welding at Stafford Technical Center.

The Stafford Signature School of Esthetics

The Office of Adult and Continuing Education is pleased to announce the launch of a new workforce development opportunity in the field of esthetics—teaching students the basic science of skin and the art of skin analysis. Students will learn not just how to give a facial but how to assess what type of facial is best for each person. In addition to skincare theory, waxing, the science of product ingredients, makeup choices, and application techniques. Students will also be introduced to the all-important art of client communication and business principles that will make graduates comfortable in any job situation whether as an entrepreneur operating their own salon or spa, or as an employee in a spa or salon, resort, or cruise line. Estheticians can also find positions in the cosmetic or fashion fields in department stores, selling cosmetics and skincare to the stores, or working as a trainer for cosmetics companies in urban areas across the country.

The Stafford Technical Center Signature School of Esthetics program will deliver a 600-hour core curriculum that will prepare students to sit for any certifying state-board written and practical examination following national testing standards. Applications are being accepted for a program that will begin on September 11, 2017.

Vermont Adult Learning High School Diploma Completion Program

A partnership has been developed between Vermont Adult Learning and Stafford Technical Center ATE whereby VAL clients participating in its High School Diploma Completion Program are enrolled in *ed2go* courses through Stafford Technical Center ATE, assisting these students in completing academic requirements for graduation that might not otherwise be available to them through local high schools or Vermont Adult Learning. The arrangement allows for our staff to process enrollment for these students in *ed2go* courses with Stafford Technical Center ATE billing VAL on a single monthly invoice. This arrangement allows for a much easier process for VAL staff and students to utilize these educational opportunities available through STC and ed2go.

Medication Nurse Assistant (MNA) Program Update

The Stafford Technical Center ATE Medication Nurse Assistant (MNA) Program that was approved by the Executive Director of the Vermont Board of Nursing last October assembled its first cohort last winter. Eight (8) practicing LNAs began the 124-hour training program in February, with six (6) graduates attending a graduation ceremony at Mountain View Center on June 22, 2016. These students will be testing for their MNA endorsement later this month, and if successful will be permitted to administer and document non-prescription and legend drugs by approved medication routes when delegated by a licensed nurse in a long-term care facility or nursing home.

We are currently recruiting LNA candidates for this Allied Health program that has also been marketed to long-term care facilities in Bennington, Middlebury, Springfield and Randolph. Our next cohort is expected to begin its program of studies with us on April 11, 2017.

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