CCSU’s Contributions to Workforce and Economic Development
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Statistics show that obtaining a college degree substantially increases one’s lifetime earning potential. Those who complete a bachelor’s degree earn approximately $22,000 (33%) more per year than those who earn a high school diploma. Expenditures and taxes from those earnings contribute significantly to the state’s economy. Collectively, the 40,000 CCSU graduates who live in Connecticut earn $880 million more per year than they would have earned with only a high school diploma. However, CCSU’s impact on workforce and economic development—identified as one of the university’s four areas of distinctiveness—extends considerably beyond the benefits to individual graduates.

As a public university, CCSU carefully monitors workforce trends in the state and develops programs that respond to shortages and emerging needs. The university’s new four-year nursing degree will help address severe shortages in the state, and our new Master of Arts in Teaching will prepare teachers in such shortage areas as math, science, English, technology, and Spanish. The Department of Higher Education is reviewing the university’s proposal for a new degree to address a projected shortage of civil engineers to oversee needed improvements in the state’s infrastructure. CCSU has instituted a new weekend social work program that provides a unique pathway into that profession. Beyond its degree programs, CCSU offers educational advancement opportunities to the professional workforce through graduate official certificate programs in such areas as Cell and Molecular Biology, Data Mining, Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma, and Supply Chain and Logistics.

CCSU also supports workforce and economic development through a rich menu of non-credit offerings in workforce competencies and productivity enhancement strategies. A new series of online non-credit courses to improve managers’ supervisory skills will focus on such topics as “managing multiple priorities” and “dealing with difficult people.” A new program for small business owners and managers will focus this year on “Profiting from Going Green.”

CCSU is also the new home of the Connecticut Small Business Development Center (SBDC), whose mission is to support the creation and growth of small businesses. CCSU also supports economic development through its Business Incubator program, housed in our downtown ITBD campus, which has served over 50 start-ups, many of which have moved on to new locations in our community.

CCSU’s contributions to workforce and economic development are closely aligned with the needs of local businesses and communities. To raise awareness and stimulate interest in the insurance industry among students, CCSU and the Travelers have launched a pilot project that includes a Travelers Week at CCSU and a summer camp for high school students. ITBD works with local school districts to provide training for middle- and high-school youth in core workforce competency practices. In support of the New Britain Mayor’s Work Plan to End Homelessness, CCSU will offer computer skills training to help some of our homeless citizens transition to the workplace.