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Career Counseling Center of the University of Hartford Adjusts Name & Focus to Reflect Workplace Changes and Becomes the Center for Professional Development

[HARTFORD, CT, Jan. 2007] – For the past 38 years, The Career Counseling Center of the University of Hartford has helped thousands of women and men uncover their potential and develop their talents as employees and entrepreneurs. To reflect more clearly the wide spectrum of services and programs it now offers to both employers and individuals, The Career Counseling Center has changed its name to the Center for Professional Development.

“The Career Counseling Center has long been a tremendous resource to the Greater Hartford community,” said University of Hartford President Walter Harrison. “With its new name and a refocused commitment, the Center for Professional Development will continue to play an important role in this region’s future and in the preparation and development of its workforce.”

One of the workforce issues that the Center is prepared to address with both its corporate and individual clients is the significant talent shift that will occur as baby boomers retire from the workplace.

Over the next 15 to 20 years, more than **16 million people** will be retiring from the workforce, according to *The Workforce Trends* report published by AARP. In Connecticut specifically, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that by 2012 Connecticut we will need 49 percent more personal **financial advisors**, 49 percent more **medical assistants**, 43 percent more **broadcast technicians**, 40 percent more **network systems** and data communications technicians and 37 percent more **motorcycle mechanics**.

Businesses can leverage the Center’s career development services to help employees recognize their strengths and focus them toward more appealing opportunities. “By aligning skills and interests with rewarding work and more flexibility, baby boomers may be more willing to stay beyond retirement age,” said Eleta Jones, director of the career counseling department at the Center.

Various Fortune 500 companies in fields such as manufacturing, insurance, pharmaceuticals, banking, and public utilities as well as credit unions, state agencies and non-profit organizations have already benefited from the Center’s career development services and workshops.

Individuals use the Center’s career counseling and coaching services to identify work that will be satisfying and to plan their pathway to success. A growing segment of the population, especially among women, also explore the potential of becoming a business owner through the Entrepreneurial Center, where learning to write business plans and operate a business is a central focus of the program.

In Connecticut, self-employment (including incorporated businesses) was up 2.8 percent over one year — from 175,823 in 2004 to 180,661 in 2005. Self-employed women represented 31.4 percent of self-employed persons in Connecticut in 2005.

“Given that small business income in 2005 was \$18 billion in Connecticut, helping individuals flourish in small businesses in the state is another way to engage the workforce and keep the economy growing,” said Jean Blake-Jackson, director of the Entrepreneurial Center.

To learn more about the Center for Professional Development, call 860-768-5619 or visit www.thecenterforprofessionaldevelopment.org.