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## Program earns award for DOL

WETHERSFIELD — A Connecticut Department of Labor incumbent worker training program that helps small to mid-size manufacturers address their training needs more efficiently and cost-effectively has earned the agency a Gold Innovation Prize.

The Department of Labor, the first state agency to implement and formally practice a statewide multiple employer concept for incumbent workers, has been singled out for this honor by the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership. This year, the partnership received 110 Connecticut Innovation Prize applications, and 22 Gold and Silver designations were awarded.

It is the fourth time that the Department of Labor has won a Connecticut Quality Improvement Award. All four have been awarded to innovations made within the agency's Customized Job Training Unit.

By reducing the number of contracts written, the Department of Labor has been able to provide training to more companies, but with lower administrative cost. As a result of this innovation, the number of businesses served jumped from 125 to 450, an increase of 360 percent, while the amount of instructional time made available to the state's incumbent workers increased by an additional 2,000 hours.

The Gold Innovation Prize will be presented to the Department of Labor during the CQUA Partnership's annual conference on quality and innovations on Oct 17 at the Southbury Hilton.