



## Labor Secretary Acosta Visits Connecticut

U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta met with State Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby, Connecticut Senators Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy and Governor Ned Lamont at the Montville *American Job Center* on April 16 to showcase the success of the Eastern Connecticut Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative. The initiative is a partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Connecticut Department of Labor, the Eastern Workforce Investment Board and local manufacturers that has resulted in over 1,300 job placements with manufacturing employers, including over 700 jobs at General Dynamics Electric Boat. The company will need to hire 900 people in 2019 alone to keep pace with building two Virginia-class submarines a year.

"I appreciate the opportunity to see firsthand how workforce education is helping workers learn in-demand job skills here in Connecticut. Initiatives like the ones we saw today help to fill the current 7.1 million job openings across the nation with family-sustaining jobs," said Secretary Acosta.

"Advanced manufacturing has shown strong growth in Connecticut, and with an increasing number of workers in these careers nearing retirement age we need to help employers fill these positions that are providing good wages and expanding the state's economy," said Commissioner Westby. "These manufacturing pipelines offer a fast and efficient way to train people for in-demand jobs, and demonstrate the effectiveness of our successful federal and state partnership."



U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (second from left), Christopher Murphy and U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta review a document while touring Quinebaug Valley Community College's Manufacturing Pipeline training program. The students are enrolled in the "Manufacturing Pipeline Inside Machinist Course." The stop was made prior to the Montville *American Job Center* visit.



Taking part in a roundtable discussion focusing on workforce development efforts in this state (from left) are Senator Christopher Murphy, Governor Ned Lamont, Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby and John Beauregard, president of the Eastern Workforce Development Board.