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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 26, 2019  
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**Treasurer Wooden, State Officials Acknowledge \$1 million in CHEFA Workforce Development Grant Awards at February 27 Event**

**Hartford, CT, Feb 26, 2019** –State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden; Co-Chairs of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, Senator Will Haskell and Representative Greg Haddad; and Senator Matt Lesser will make remarks at a press conference held by The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) on **Wednesday, February 27 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**, when the recipients of \$1 million in CHEFA workforce development grants are announced.

The event will be held in the CT State Legislative Office Building, Room 1B, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. The event is free and open to the public.

CHEFA will award \$1 million in grants to selected CT nonprofit organizations responsible for workforce development programs that will help drive economic and employment growth in the State. The two largest grants will be given to:

- The Workforce Development Council (WDC), which will receive a \$500,000 grant for workforce training and support at the State’s five Workforce Development Boards; and
- The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), which will receive a \$250,000 grant for expanding middle and high school STEM programs and curriculum.

“The fastest growing workforce sectors in the State are advanced manufacturing and healthcare careers. Currently, there are 13,000 manufacturing jobs unfilled in our State. And as our population ages, there is a growing demand for jobs in the healthcare sector,” says Jeanette Weldon, CHEFA Executive Director. “Workforce development is an integral part of CHEFA’s strategic plan and CHEFA is proud to support all of our recipient organizations who are developing a pipeline of highly trained workers in these industries,” says Betty Sugerman Weintraub, CHEFA Grant Program Manager.

Three public and two private colleges and universities are receiving CHEFA Client Grants to support STEM education and careers. These grants total over \$320,000 and are awarded to Capital Community College, Central Connecticut State University, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Sacred Heart University, and the University of Saint Joseph.

Established in 2002, the CHEFA Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations that provide essential health, educational, cultural, and childcare services to the residents of Connecticut. More than \$30 million has been distributed to Connecticut nonprofit organizations to date.

For more information contact Betty Sugerman Weintraub at [bweintraub@chefa.com](mailto:bweintraub@chefa.com) or 860.761.8428.

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**The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)**, located in East Hartford, will receive a \$250,000 grant for expanding middle and high school STEM programs and curriculum. CCAT will work with the New London and Bridgeport school systems to develop and implement the curriculum over a two-year period. CCAT serves the State of Connecticut with education and workforce development in the areas of applied technologies, energy solutions, STEM education, and export and cyber compliance. <https://www.ccat.us>

**The Workforce Development Council (WDC)** will receive a \$500,000 grant to support job training, case management, and support services led by the five Connecticut Workforce Development Boards (WDBs). The WDBs operate a statewide network of 18 American Job Centers, in partnership with the CT Department of Labor, to provide workforce assistance to jobseekers and businesses. CHEFA grant funds will directly support: 1) job training for hard-to-employ individuals; 2) training stipends designed to enable low-income individuals to complete short-term job training programs; and 3) flexible funding pools at each WDB for payments to cover emergency, job-related costs. <https://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/rwdb/dir-rwdb.htm>

### **About CHEFA**

The Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) is a quasi-public agency that provides access to tax-exempt financing and other financial assistance, including grant programs, to educational institutions, healthcare providers, childcare providers, cultural institutions, and other eligible non-profit entities. CHEFA derives its revenues from the annual loan servicing fee it charges its clients, and operates without any State or taxpayer funds. CHEFA also expands higher educational opportunities for Connecticut students through its subsidiary, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA).

For more information on CHEFA or CHESLA, visit [www.chefa.com](http://www.chefa.com), or [www.chesla.org](http://www.chesla.org).

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