

WASHINGTON, DC –“ Congressman Joe Courtney today praised the continued success of the partnership between Pratt & Whitney and Enfield’s Asnuntuck Community College, which is providing upgraded job skills to Pratt employees who worked at the company’s closing Cheshire plant. Last Friday, 18 men and women completed Asnuntuck’s seven-week, 272-hour training program for retraining as machinists. A new group of 20 employees began the same training on Monday. The employees will be placed in either Pratt’s Middletown or East Hartford facility.

“As our economy recovers, the partnership between Asnuntuck and Pratt ensures that workers have the skills and adaptability they need to succeed,” **said Congressman Courtney**. “Frank Gulluni has built a tremendous program in Enfield that will solidify our industrial base and keep Connecticut on the cutting edge of defense technology and manufacturing.”

The Pratt & Whitney – Asnuntuck relationship is long-standing and helps workers upgrade their skills sets, including math, engineering drawing, metrology and core CNC machining principles. The college has also worked in close liaison with the Pratt training officials to develop new coursework and curriculum in other technology careers.

“We are pleased to see our employees successfully complete the training made available to them through Asnuntuck Community College,” **said David P. Galuska, senior vice president of module centers & operations, Pratt & Whitney**

. “The skills they gained will help Pratt & Whitney continue to provide the high quality products our customers have come to expect from us.”

“Asnuntuck Community College is absolutely delighted and proud to have provided both a location and a seven-week training curriculum for the employees who are transitioning to new opportunities with the company,” **said Frank D. Gulluni, director of Asnuntuck’s Manufacturing Technology Center**.

“This type of training is critical so that Pratt and our aerospace industry have the skilled workers they need,” **said James Parent, assistant directing business representative, IAM District 26**.

“This partnership for the future ensures that we will stay on the cutting edge of technology, and that, as parts production evolves, our workers are prepared to meet the challenges ahead.”

Since 2007, Congressman Courtney has secured \$631,869 to improve Asnuntuck’s Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC). Improvements include: Design, development, and implementation of an electro-mechanical program; equipping an electro-mechanical lab; and design and development of medical device curricula as an option for machine technology students.

A photo of Friday’s graduating class, all of whom will be placed in new Pratt facilities, is available [here](#) .