

News Release

Office of Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWIFT BIPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALLOWS STUDENTS DISPLACED BY SCHOOL CLOSURES TO GET CERTIFICATES

HARTFORD, March 7, 2013 –The State of Connecticut’s Office of Higher Education last night received authorization from the Connecticut General Assembly to issue certificates of completion for students who completed their studies but did not receive a diploma from the former Butler Business School in Bridgeport, and the Sawyer Schools in Hamden and Hartford. The three schools closed abruptly over the New Year’s holiday.

The Office of Higher Education estimates that approximately 85 students may have finished their coursework at these schools and stand to benefit. The certificate of completion is the same credential that would have been granted by the schools had they not closed, and will be issued under the name of the school in which students were enrolled. Private occupational schools, the designation under which the former Butler Business and Sawyer Schools operated, are authorized to award certificates of completion or diplomas but not degrees.

The authorization allowing the Office of Higher Education to award the certificates is contained in [Senate Bill 200](#) which passed both legislative chambers last night on an emergency basis. Governor Dannel P./Malloy is expected to sign it shortly.

Commenting on the swift action, Jane A. Ciarleglio, Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education stated, “We wish to thank the members of the General Assembly for their timely action on this legislation which is so important to the students who were devastated by these sudden school closures. We are particularly grateful to the legislative leaders of both parties, and of the Higher Education Committee and the House and Senate for their cooperation in moving this through quickly. This action allows students to finish their externships, sit for their certification exams, secure jobs and get on with their lives.”

Student who have completed their studies or are enrolled in externships and wish to obtain a certificate of completion should contact the Office of Higher Education at (800)842-0229 or email their request to edinfo@ctohe.org. The Office of Higher Education also is sharing this information via emails to all former Butler and Sawyer School students who have registered at www.ctohe.org, and will alert students at the third Information Session scheduled for this Friday, March 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Housatonic Community College, Events Center Beacon Hall 214. The Office also is helping other students who wish to transfer to other schools or suspend their studies in return for federal loan repayment.

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