

Colleagues,

The SVFT leadership met with Superintendent Pat Ciccone and Assistant Superintendents Bob Lombardi and Ceferino Lugo today. Of course, the LPN program was the focus of most of the meeting. We can share with you two pieces of information. By Friday, announcement of the suspension of the LPN program will be put on the CTHSS Website. On that day, letters will go out to the applicants telling them that the program is suspended. While disheartening, this information is in no way the epitaph for the LPN program. One fact we must understand is that the LPN program **as it is currently funded** will cease to exist. No one is questioning the merits or importance of the LPN program; however, the Governor has made it clear that she will not run an adult program that costs \$600,000 a year to run but takes in \$125,000 a year in fees. We must significantly raise the student fees by approximately 400%. We also learned today that the Department of Education sets the fees, but significant changes require legislative approval. Thus, we are contacting legislators to introduce a bill that would allow the CTHSS to charge \$20,000 or so for the program. Even that cost would be significantly less than the private providers of LPN education such as Lincoln Tech or Porter & Chester. Our meeting Monday will be to discuss how we can convince legislators that our programs can provide a superior product at a reduced cost in this vital field. We know the financial crisis the State faces; we are looking for solutions beyond cutting necessary programs to create short-term gains. We look for your continued input and efforts. The agenda for Monday's meeting will be emailed on Friday.