Leadership class of 2019 enjoys an informative boat tour through the Mystic Seaport Museum during their Tourism and Arts session.

Valuable, as everyone was dealing with shared, “During COVID-19, I believe...”

Class of 2021 participant Stacy Giacchi, director, on the Spot Catering, shared, “During COVID-19, I believe...”

Participants interact directly with top-tier executives in the region, and the wide-rang curriculum highlights the interesting forces that affect the region. Participants study factors that may be impacting the success of their own organizations, helping them identify synergies to partner effectively. The emphasis on networking with the class and with presenters, as well as with alumni of the Leadership program, contributes to a powerful web in the region that benefits all involved.

Leadership Eastern CT Program More Valuable Than Ever

Leadership’s essential role is amplified during a crisis. Business owners, and nonprofit leaders in eastern CT have stepped up to the challenges presented by COVID-19, navigating impacts across the community.

Learning about leadership at a time when it is being tested adds a new dimension to the Chamber’s Leadership Eastern CT program, as participants have tapped into this valued resource for professional growth and regional connections for 35 years, and while the format may be different, the timing could be better.

When events turned virtual this spring, area executives demonstrated their commitment to the program and ability to pivot, by offering the same direct access to our Leadership participants via Zoom.

Class of 2021 participant Stacy Giacchi described the importance of her relationships with people in her class and community leaders. “Especially during quarantine and as we continue through the re-opening phases, these connections have been invaluable. Staying connected through the program—albeit virtually—has offered some semblance of normalcy and strengthened my commitment to my classmates and community.”

We’re always here for small business.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT has been a resource for our community for 110 years, and we are keeping the business community connected. Connected to reliable information on economic assistance. Connected with government. Connected with each other.

Connect with us at ChamberECT.com, info@chamberect.com or call 860-701-9113.

Chamber Connects Businesses During COVID Crisis

Being here for businesses—large, medium, and especially small—has looked different over the past five months. Pivoting to the new model, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT continues to do what we do best: convening, connecting, collaborating, and supporting. The Chamber finds ways to keep organizations connected to essential guidance, elected officials, economic opportunities, and business to business:

• One of the Chamber’s most important functions is reaching out to businesses one-on-one. Our team has been answering questions, connecting businesses with resources, helping owners navigate the path forward, and supporting continued membership with flexible options.

• ChamberECT.com links to reliable information and valuable resources. ChamberECT.com/Reopening connects to state guidelines and members with services and products needed to operate safely: PPE, cleaning services and supplies, construction materials and services, rental equipment, signage, and HVAC.

• During the initial shortage of PPE, we acquired and distributed free masks to help local businesses. Masks are still available at ChamberECT.com/masks.

• Elected officials share updates and answer questions in virtual events: Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, Governor Lamont, DEC Commissioner David Lehman, and regional state senators. Town Hall Updates beginning with New London, Town of Groton, City of Groton, East Lyme and Waterford are available on Facebook. Visit ChamberECT.com/events.

• President and CEO Tony Sheridan sat on the state’s Reopen Connecticut Small Business Implementation Task Force. He keeps eastern CT connected to state issues as chair of CT Airport Authority and CT Metro Chambers of Commerce.

• Roundtable events with restaurants, hospitality, and real estate professionals let us hear from business owners directly and convey their views to government officials.

• Timely workshops and blogs offer insights from experts in marketing, finance, industrial assistance, human resources, insurance and more. We create platforms where our member professionals can educate, collaborate, and connect. Business After Hours events moved online, too.

• Promoting small businesses has been a focus in our communications to help local businesses to get back on their feet and help our local economy.

• The Chamber with the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce became the Eastern Regional Tourism District’s administrative partner. Working with the 41-town board, the Chambers are supporting tourism through its most challenging time.

• Work with the American Hotel and Travel Association to help our Eastern CT partners continue to expand and meet needs of unemployed workers and employers’ changing business models.

• The Chamber Foundation shared generous donations from business leaders with local food banks to address immediate needs in the community.

• All the while, the Chamber is planning for the future. We are exploring economic development initiatives that will foster diverse industries and support growth in the region.

Let us know how we can help you. Connect with the Chamber at info@chamberect.com or call 860-701-9113.

ChamberConnectsBusinesses COVIDCrisis