## /OICE



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### Leadership Eastern CT Program More Valuable Than Ever





Ulysses Hammond addresses Leadership ECT Class of 2020 at graduation ceremony.

Heidi Simmons, UCFS Healthcare

Leadership's essential role is amplified during a crisis. Business, government, 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 Connecticut program. Rising leaders have tapped into this valued resource for professional growth and regional connections for 33 years, and while the format may be different, the timing couldn't 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, director, On the Spot Catering, shared, "During COVID-19, I believe that these discussions were even more valuable as everyone was dealing with crisis. Discussing these uncertain times with our most respected leaders

provided incredible insight to managing during financially and emotionally difficult times. To hear someone speak of their successes is motivational and encouraging, but to be able to share real concerns and vulnerabilities has been invaluable."

When the Class of 2020 gathered for its

graduation-with masks and without congratulatory handshakes-keynote speaker Ulysses Hammond recounted a difficult year in his life. Fulfilling obligations in leadership roles at work and community

Chamber, he was diagnosed with cancer. He is now cancer free, but he pulled a lesson from that experience that informs how we can look at crisis: "Whenever you have challenges and controversies, that's when the growth takes place."

Mr. Hammond encouraged the 28-member class to "treasure and cling to" the relationships they formed over two years in the program, "because they will sustain you in the low and lonely months."

As the Class of 2020 made "pandemic adjustments," he pointed to the leadership

> skills they gained: flexibility, vision, and creativity, and he encouraged them to take those qualities forward to promote equality, inclusivity, and civility as rising leaders in the region's premier industries.

The Leadership Eastern CT Class of 2022 is forming now. Applications for the two-year program are available on ChamberECT.com/ leadership-program through September 8.

difficult times." boards, including the

Continued on page 2





COMCAST **BUSINESS** 

A SPECIAL THANK YOU | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.





"Discussing these uncertain

leaders provided incredible

insight to managing during

financially and emotionally

times with our most respected

### Continued from page 1

Participants interact directly with top-tier executives in the region, and the wide-ranging curriculum highlights the interacting 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.

Beginning in October, thematically organized sessions explore industry, government, services, and regional organizations. The group also exercises their skills with a capstone community service project, fully implemented by the participants. In the second year, participants coordinate sessions for the incoming class, advancing their networking and leadership execution.

Sponsorships to support the regional program are available for the 2020-21 year and include program tuition and long-term recognition opportunities. Chamber Vice President Megan Gilbert can share details at mgilbert@chamberect.com.

### **LEADERSHIP EASTERN CT CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES**

Elier Alvarado

Norwich Public Utilities

Steven Brabec

**Dominion Energy** 

Kate Caristo-Scalora

Reliance Health

**Brian Cournoyer** 

Connecticut Hospital Association

Holly DePerry

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Kristen Deveau

Mystic Seaport Museum

Jennifer Flower

Mystic Aquarium

Justin Gray

Dime Bank

Erin Gizio

People's United Bank

**Chris Golas** 

Norwich Public Utilities

**Heather Harris** 

Waterford Hotel Group

**Robert Harris** 

Norwich Public Utilities

Ann Marie Maffuid

UCFS Healthcare

Meg Martellotta CorePlus Credit Union Sarah McDermott

Three Rivers Community College

Fikiri Newton

**Dominion Energy** 

Amy O'Day

Reliance Health (Class President)

Samantha Powden

Chelsea Groton Bank

**Daniel Roberge** 

Mohegan Sun

Janice Schneider

General Dynamics Electric Boat

Mark Sciola

Atlantic Broadband

Alexa Shelton

Three Rivers Community College

**Heidi Simmons** 

**UCFS** Healthcare

Scott Smith

Norwich Public Utilities

**Bonnie Stanford** 

Chelsea Groton Bank

Megan Susi

Chelsea Groton Bank

Katherine Morano

Dime Bank

Peter Robinson

First Financial Advisory Services, LLC

### **UPCOMING EVENTS SEPT** Webinar Series: Maximizing Your Network 10, 17, 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Presented by Rob Thomas USA 24 Webinar: CT-Required Sexual Harrassment SEPT **Prevention Training** 15 2:30 - 4:45 pm | Presented by Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law SEPT Webinar: Email Marketing 101 23 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Presented by Miranda Creative 32nd Annual Golf Tournament OCT Fox Hopyard Golf Club 19 Sponsorships available! ChamberECT.com/golf **EASTERN CT'S PREMIER FEB HOME SHOW**

### Watch when you can!

Saturday 10 am - 7 pm | Sunday 10 am - 5pm

Foxwoods Resort Casino

6 + 7 2021

Past webinars are now available for download.

Visit ChamberECT.com/downloads

Pre-registration is suggested for most events. Call (860) 701-9113 or visit ChamberECT.com to learn more about any event. Cancellation Policy: Notice must be given at least three business days prior to event. No-shows or those unable to cancel in time will be billed.



## Your Company's IT Department

12 Douglas Lane, Suite 4, Waterford, CT 06385 | 860. 701.0058 www.dynamic-alliance.com VOICE • SEPTEMBER 2020 PAGE 3

### Bringing International Affairs to CT Residents

The Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council (SECWAC) is a regional organization that aims to foster an understanding of international affairs, foreign policy, and diplomatic history by sponsoring a series of 10-15 meetings annually. It was started in 1999 by a group of former international business leaders and diplomats. SECWAC provides a forum for nonpartisan, non-advocacy dialogue between its members and experts on foreign relations, and is committed to hosting the widest possible range of views, while advocating none. Thus, by maintaining a reputation for impartiality, SECWAC facilitates serious and civil debate on issues bearing on America's global interests.

SECWAC is an affiliate of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA, https://www. worldaffairscouncils.org/) in Washington, D.C.; members of SECWAC are also members of the WACA and are entitled to WACA benefits and resources, including the opportunity to attend its annual conference. SECWAC is actively expanding its membership: we endeavor to keep the annual membership fee (\$85: \$25) for Young Professionals under 35 years; free for students and educators) as low as feasible with respect to organizational cost. Members

the World Affairs Councils of America.

include a diverse group of regional residents, including individuals from the non-profit sector, media, humanitarian, government, military and civic organizations, as well as neighbors interested in the World.

Speakers have included current and former diplomats, international businesspeople, political scientists, journalists and independent scholars/authors. Topics have ranged from the migrations of humans across the face of the earth 30,000 years ago to recent developments on US-China-Russia relations, and political and humanitarian developments in Europe and around the world.

Before COVID, our meetings took place at the Old Lyme Congregational Church and at Connecticut College; recently, and in the immediate future, we use the ZOOM platform. hoping to return to in-person meetings when safe to do so.

"SECWAC continues to bring its membership timely and pertinent programs during these unsettled times. Accurate, informed dialogue remains the greatest driver of positive change." Richard W. Stout III, Chairperson

Please check out our website at http://secwac. org/, or contact info@secwac.org for further information.

### Chamber Foundation Awards Six Scholarships

During this difficult time that has impacted many families financially, the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT Foundation increased the number of scholarships awarded to 2020 graduates. Granting a total of \$7,500, the foundation recognized the achievements of six local students. These students have demonstrated a dedication to their education and to their community, which they hope to continue through their future work.

Cassandra Cannon, Angie Correa, and Sara Beth Bouchard graduated from the Science and Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern CT. Cannon will study nursing at Salve Regina University, Correa will study to become a physician assistant at the University of Saint Joseph, and Bouchard will study biology and genetics at Wesleyan University.

Stonington High School graduate Hope Sowle will attend Carnegie Mellon University to study neuropsychology.

Monn Pierre and Kali Whitford graduated from Norwich Free Academy. Pierre will study psychology at Three Rivers Community College, and Whitford will study architecture at Virginia Tech.



SOUTHEAST CONNECTICUT WORLD **AFFAIRS** COUNCIL

The Southeast Connecticut World Affairs Council (SECWAC)

is a regional membership organization that is a member of

Our mission is "to foster an understanding of issues of

a non-partisan, non-advocacy dialogue between members and speakers. Our speakers are often U.S. policymakers,

educators, authors, and other experts on foreign relations.

Learn more, explore future meeting speakers & topics, and become a member at SECWAC.ORG

MEMBERSHIP: \$85 General Membership; \$25 Young Professionals

and Educators. Contact us about our new Corporate Membership!

Members & guests must preregister for each virtual presentation.

under 35; Guests Welcome for \$20/program; always Free for Students

foreign policy and international affairs through study, debate, and educational programming." SECWAC provides

SECWAC arranges 10-15 meetings within our annual speaker series between September and June; the

meetings range in topic, and for the time being, are

Administrative services for SECWAC are provided by partner:



860-912-5718 | INFO@SECWAC.ORG SECWAC.ORG | LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



### **UPCOMING SPEAKERS: LEARN MORE AT SECWAC.ORG**



All meetings start WED., SEPTEMBER 16 on Zoom @ 6pm David Shimer, Author "Rigged: America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference"



WED., SEPTEMBER 30—QUARTERLY COLLOQUIUM George Packer, Author & Journalist "Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century"



**THURS., OCTOBER 15** Dean Accardi, Global Islamic Studies, Conn. College

"India, Pakistan, and the War over Kashmir"



WED., OCTOBER 28—COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP\* Michael Kimmage, Catholic University of America "The Abandonment of the West: The History of an Idea in American Foreign Policy"

\*partnership with USEurope Alliance





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all hosted virtually on Zoom.













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### 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.
- 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, DECD 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 sanitation, 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 blogs and communications. We
  joined with a team of local business to help launch the shop local #LetsGo860 campaign.
- 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 Jobs Center and job training with the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board continues and expanded to 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.

ON THE BLOG

ChamberECT.com/blog

Look for the informative, the fun, and the latest from the Chamber on our blog. We also welcome guest blogs from our members!

Outdoor Adventures Ideal for Summer and Fall: make the most of fresh air venues and activities

**Summer Tunes:** Enjoy dinner, wine, and live music at these 11 venues!

Employers Guide to Engaging the Upcoming STEM Workforce: Essential insights to building a successful work-based learning program.

## It pays to be a member.



### **MEMBER DISCOUNTS**

Member discount for your business and your employees at ChamberECT.com/discounts



### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Strategic Health Insurance from ChamberECT and Morin Associates.

\$461,005 saved by Chamber members already

ChamberECT.com/healthcare

### WELCOME NEW REGIONAL BENEFACTOR



Vineyard Wind LLC, an offshore wind development company owned by funds of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and Avangrid Renewables, LLC, is currently in the permitting and financing process for the first large-scale offshore wind energy project in the United States.

vineyardwind.com

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### **Brodeur Roofing LLC**

A CT Roofing Contractor serving New London and Middlesex Counties, offering roof replacement, roof repair, gutter installation, siding, deck rebuilds, and more.

44 Victoria Drive, Colchester | brodeurroofingllc.com | (860) 838-1279

### e2 engineers

Creating beautiful designs for a wide variety of structures and construction projects, e2 engineer's team of structural building design engineers employs a comprehensive and efficient structural engineering process to ensure that your project is successful.

e2engineers.com | (860) 437-3259

### The Inn At Mystic

Situated on 14 acres overlooking Fishers Island Sound and Mystic Harbor, The Inn at Mystic offers relaxing accommodations, including rooms with ocean views, Jacuzzis, and wood burning fireplaces.

3 Williams Avenue, Mystic | innatmystic.com | (860) 536-9604

### Olde Mistick Village

Stroll beautiful paved walkways and enjoy shopping in distinctive buildings designed to represent a New England Village of about 1720. The picturesque settings of flowers, trees, and duck ponds features shops with some of the most interesting and unique items from Mystic and around the world.

27 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic | oldemistickvillage.com | (860) 536-4941

### Rocks 21 Restaurant & Bar

Rocks 21 offers a menu of seafood classics, comfort foods, and signature dishes. Located at the Inn at Mystic, local fresh fish to brick oven flatbreads and extensive raw bar are served in the dining room or on the scenic deck. 3 Williams Avenue, Mystic | rocks21.com | (860) 536-8140

### Scranton Chevrolet of Norwich, Inc

Scranton Motors is a family owned dealer group that is growing, but still small enough to pay attention to the individual customer experience.

774 West Thames Street, Norwich | scrantonchevy.com | (860) 889-3333

### South East Connecticut Community Center of the Blind, Inc.

Non-profit organization that serves the Blind and Visually Impaired population of Southeastern CT.

45 Broad Street, New London | (860) 447-2048

### The Butzgy Agency LLC

Local Farmers Insurance agency in Quaker Hill, CT, offering a broad array of products and services to meet all your insurance needs—home, auto, business, or any product in-between.

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### Win Moves Coaching

Certified Professional Coach, Business Leader and Strategic Partner with more than 35 years of experience in leading teams across Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, Legal, Communications, Innovation & Development, Supply Chain and Sales & Marketing. 222 Boston Post Rd, Waterford | winmovescoaching.com (860) 452-6252

### **Woodford Dental**

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817 Boston Post Road, Madison | woodforddental.com | (203) 245-4266

### **MEMBER NEWS**

### Mitchell College Welcomes New President, Elects New Chair of Board of Trustees

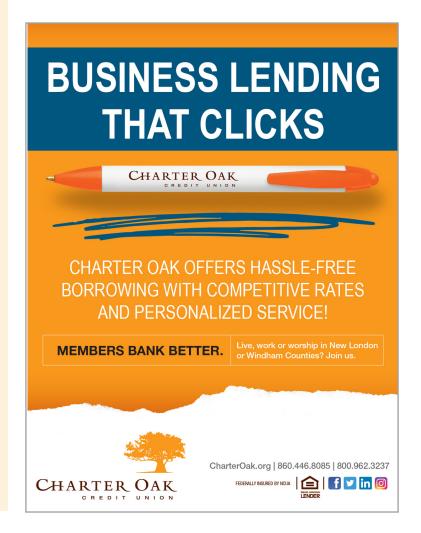
Two changes in executive level leadership at Mitchell College took place on July 1. Dr. Tracy Y. Espy, who recently moved to New London, began her tenure as the college's eighth president, and Rick D'Avino started his first term as the elected chair of the college's Board of Trustees

Espy, an accomplished college administrator, expert in human development and family therapy and the first African-American woman to lead Mitchell, most recently served as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina.

D'Avino works as a managing director and chairman of Insourced Solutions for Tax at PricewaterhouseCoopers and as a lecturer at Columbia Law School. He also serves on the Penn Law Board of Overseers, is the chair of the Board of Directors of Stamford Academy, and is vice president of National Sawdust, a Brooklyn-based nonprofit that provides state of the art facilities and support to a wide range of composers, musicians, and artists.

Drawn to Mitchell for its supportive liberal arts environment, grounded in the Mitchell Ability Model, Espy has a passion for and deep experience with service learning – connecting students and the larger community for the mutual benefit of one another. With a strong commitment to social justice, she looks forward to exploring ways to expand Mitchell's learning opportunities to reflect these values.

For more information about Mitchell College, visit www.mitchell.edu.



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### Higher Edge Welcomes New Board Members

Sara Baker Bailey is an Assistant Professor in Communication, Media, & Screen Studies at Southern Connecticut State University. She has worked in higher education for over a decade teaching at public universities, many of which serve first in family and minority student populations. Prior to joining the academy, Sara worked in marketing, consulting, and non-profit administration.

John Bairos is a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones Investments in Waterford, CT. His past volunteer experience includes serving on the School Governance Committee at New Britain High School and the Greater Hartford Jaycees. In addition to his current volunteer activities with Waterford youth soccer and baseball, he is a member of the New London Elks Club and the Waterford Rotary Club.

Tashawn Ward is a Customer Solutions
Associate at Chelsea Groton Bank. He has
a BS degree in Business Managerment from
Eastern Connecticut State University and an
MBA. In addition to being selected by the
American Bankers Association as an emerging
bank leader, Tashawn has excelled at boxing,
winning the Western New England Golden

Gloves competition in 2019. He is the first Higher Edge student alumnus to be appointed to the board of directors.

### The Last Green Valley Announces New Board Officers and Members

At its recent Annual Meeting, held at Creaser Park in Coventry, members of The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) elected new officers and board members.

Joining Board Chairman Mike Nelson of Norwich, CT are Myra Ambrogi of Plainfield, CT as Vice Chairman; Lisa Hayden of Sturbridge, MA as Secretary, and Marty Nieski of Woodstock, CT as Treasurer of the Board of Directors. Current board members Karyn DiBonaventura of Pomfret, CT and Wayde Schmidt of Pomfret, CT were re-elected to a three-year term.

The TLGV Board also welcomes the following first-time board members for three-year terms: Ann-Marie Aubrey, Killingly, CT Director of Planning and Development; Kent Boudreau of Union, retired pilot; Sandra Gibson-Quigley of Sturbridge, MA, retired teacher; Christopher Hadis of Oxford, MA, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture; Courtney Squire of Pomfret, CT, owner of Unbound Glory Farm.

Joining the board for the first time and filling a two-year vacancy is Rick Canavan of Pomfret, CT, environmental scientist.

Joining the board for the first time and filling one-year vacancies are Kwasi Acheampong from Brimfield, MA, founder of Our Bright Future, Inc., and Nicholas Adamopoulos from Webster, MA, tax attorney.

### Advanced Group Opens New Custom Cabinetry and Woodworking Shop

Advanced Group has opened a brand new woodworking workshop in New London to provide locally crafted custom cabinetry and woodworking opportunities to all of our clients and contracts. Equipped with state-of-the-art woodworking and cabinetry tools, our new woodworking workshop is equipped to bring any custom design our clients can imagine to life. Our master carpenters and woodworkers have been hard at work to create custom pieces to our clients living room walls, beautiful bathroom shower benches, stunning kitchen countertops and stunning cabinetry, all created locally in our community. E-mail us at support@advimpllc.com.

### BENEFACTOR NEWS

### Chelsea Groton Bank Team Members Earn Degrees, Diplomas and Certifications

Chelsea Groton Bank team members recently earned bachelor degrees, financial diplomas and certifications in various banking specialties.

Two team members earned degrees from Southern New Hampshire University: Rebecca Dambach, Customer Solutions Specialist in Sprague, earned a Bachelor of Accounting and Marielle Winkelman, AS, Customer Solutions Manager in Waterford, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

The Center For Financial Training (CFT), dedicated to providing professionally administered banker education and training that continually meets the educational needs of employees in the financial services industry throughout our geographic market, recognized three Chelsea Groton team members for earning diplomas: Chrissy Caplet, AVP, Regional Sales and Service Manager for the Inland Region, in General Financial Services, Advanced Financial Services, and Consumer Lending; Dorothy Houde, Customer Care Representative, studied Financial Services Operations and Consumer Lending; and Jennifer Seuferling, AS, Customer Solutions Manager of the North Stonington branch, earned a diploma in Financial Services Operations.

Professional certifications were also recently earned: Ruth Eckhoff, BSA Analyst, became a Certified AML Fraud Professional (CAFP); Miria Gray, AS, Community Education Officer is now a Certified Financial Educator Instructor (CFEI); Sara Lundy, AS, Compliance Administrator is a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM); and Alee Rogan, Financial Services Associate, passed the CT Insurance Exam.

### Mystic Aquarium's Annual Fun Run for Penguins goes Virtual

Mystic Aquarium annual Run/Walk for the Penguins fundraiser will go virtual in 2020. Not only will the new format allow the Aquarium's community to continue its support of penguin conservation safely but also in fun and unique new ways. From adding a 10K option for running enthusiasts to a .5k waddle for the more sedentary, the goal remains to raise funds to benefit Mystic Aquarium's mission programs including the conservation efforts of endangered African penguin populations now through October

To learn more about the new 2020 options or to register visit MysticAquarium.org

### Five Suisman Shapiro attorneys named to 2021 Best Lawyers® list

Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law is pleased to announce that 5 lawyers have been included in the 2021 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Since it was first published in 1983, Best Lawyers has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence.

Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law would like to congratulate the following lawyers named to 2021 The Best Lawyers in America list: James P. Berryman , Workers' Compensation Law – Claimants; John A. Collins, Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs; Jeffrey W. Hill, Family Law and Family Law Arbitration; Robert B. Keville – Workers' Compensation Law – Claimants; Robert G. Tukey, Family Law



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