Dear Chamber Members,

2019 has been a year of growth and reflection for the Chamber. We have welcomed new members, experienced increased involvement in programs, and expanded our reach in the region and in the state. This growth stems from the work we have been doing to evaluate where we are most effective, how we best serve our members, and who we can engage in work toward common goals.

At the end of 2019, we launched a strategic planning process. The values expressed in our work in 2019 are encapsulated in our strategy going forward: Collaboration, Inclusion, Innovation, Support, Sustainability. They rest on a foundation built over 110 years and guide us to be a highly responsive, influential, and productive Chamber in the future.

Building collaborative partnerships has been a hallmark of 2019. Successful work with Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce led to a number of jointly sponsored events: Business Breakfast with Governor Lamont, Business After Hours at Cardinal Honda, and Holiday Shopping Trail Kickoff. Our common goals and membership in the tourism industry positions us perfectly to facilitate the work of the Eastern Connecticut Regional Tourism District.

Another essential partner in this effort is the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition. A broad range of arts and culture experiences draw people to the region, making eastern CT a great place to visit and live. The Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition jointly sponsored our Arts, Culture, Tourism Legislative Update last September, co-hosted a Business After Hours and Cultural Connects event at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center, and joined us in presenting their recognition awards at our last Anniversary and Annual Meeting.

These partnerships and strong relationships with tourism industry leaders including Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, Mystic Aquarium, Cross Sound Ferry, Aer Lingus, and Mystic Seaport Museum solidify our commitment and ability to support tourism as an important regional economic driver.

Under our strategic plan, we have identified other key roles we play as a regional Chamber. Bringing together professionals across 42 towns, we convene and connect business and community leaders, advocate for regional economic growth, and leverage strategic partnerships.

In 2019, we demonstrated how the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT fills these vital functions for the region as we brought together government officials, business leaders and local professionals. We hosted Business Breakfasts and Luncheons featuring U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, and Governor Ned Lamont—in the spring and winter, and State Senators Paul Formica and Cathy Osten. We heard updates from state officials from Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Labor and Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board. We honored veterans and gained insights from military leaders at our Military Appreciation Breakfast and learned about the challenges facing local agencies at our Social Service Appreciation Breakfast. We held informational meetings about the wind energy industry, leadership and succession, workforce, and pharmaceutical leader Pfizer.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut continues in its second century to be a voice for sustainable economic growth in the region and catalyst for positive change. We look to the continued support and guidance of our members, Board of Directors and Trustees, and Regional Benefactors to inform our efforts. We rely on a dedicated staff to carry forward our new strategic plan for the benefit of the region, our organization, and our members.

We hope you share our excitement as we embark on a new decade and a new articulation of our strategic goals focused on contributing to a vibrant eastern Connecticut built on a robust, diverse and inclusive economy.

Tony Sheridan, President and CEO
Michael Rauh, Board Chair
The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT brings together businesses, nonprofits, and communities to advance the economic vitality of the region and support member success.

STAFF
Tony Sheridan
President and CEO

Megan Gilbert
Director of Programs

Lori Thompson
Office Manager

Jane Davis
Membership Manager

Gary Rogers
Membership Manager

Courtney Assad
Program Coordinator

Colleen Gresh
Communications Specialist

Tracy Tremblay
Business Services Representative

Emily Brannigan
Web and Graphic Designer

Muonia Wiley
Marketing and Events Assistant

Gina Mello
Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

CHAIR
B. Michael Rausch
Chase Groton Bank

VICE CHAIR
Stephan Cornett
Mystic Aquarium

VICE CHAIR
Paul Nagents
Pfizer, Inc.

VICE CHAIR
Jennifer Granger
United Chamber of Family & Handicapped Services

PAST-CHAIR
No Appointments

TREASURER
David Pagliaro
Leviton Insurance Group

LEGAL COUNSEL
Jeffrey Godley
Brown Jacobson, PC.

PRESIDENT
Tony Sheridan
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

PRESIDENT
John Antonino
Antonacci Group

TREASURER
Tai Au
Pork Boul, Spice Club That Saucy, Samsen Noodles Bar + Grill

LEGAL COUNSEL
Charles Rennell
The Mohagee Group

PAST-CHAIR
Elioten Dagumas
Suffeman Shapiro, Attorneys-at-Law

PRESIDENT
Mary Ellen Jukowski
Three Rivers Community College

Jenna Matheries
Kane

Heather Roberts
Diamond Team at Ncomorview

Jean Swift
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Kapil Thompson
Melissa Ashley's Bride

Norton Wheeler
Mystic River Building Company

Steve White
Mystic Seaport Museum

STAFF

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
People’s United Bank

Amanda Arling
Whaler’s Inn

Kia Branch
Thomas Valley Council for Community Action

Pete Battaglia
Hooson Gas

Kim Davis
Cowan

Steven Blackburn
Blackburn Professional Cleaning

Mark Brown
The Mohagee Group

Kevin Brown
The Mohagee Group

Nancy Bulkeley
Domino Energy

Wendy Buyr
Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition

Rodney Butler
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Eric Callahan
Suffeman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law

Ken Caruso
ShopRite

Nicholas Caplan
Dom Bank

Kristin Clark
New London Main Street

Angela Clay
Nancy Fed Credit Union

Maryam Elahi
Community Foundation of CT

Brenda Enge
Panas Bank

Laurie Fenn
21st Century Shutters & Sails

John Fuller
Full Throttle Radio, Inc.

Scott Gladstone
Wireless Zone

Patrick Green
Wee Non Hannah Health/Lawrence + Memorial Hospital

Robert J. Halloran, Jr.
Panas Bank

Donna Handler
Bashua Hospital

Chap Hanley
Atlantic Broadwalk

Kayla Heideman
Misson Hub

Kevin Hennessy
Domino Energy

Shari Hovem
Old Home and Garden Showplace

Omer Isher
Liberty Bank

Susan Hurlehart
Eastern CT Association of Realtor

Tony Joyce
Chezla Groton Bank

Tim Kasperk
Dental

Pam Allen Kinder
UCFS Healthcare

Jeffrey Klaus
Wilton Bank

Esteem Luma
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

John Lombardi
Lombardi General & Escavation, LLC

Bruce MacDonald
Alex Market

A Beautiful Company

Frank McLaughlin
Renaissance City Development Association (RCDA)

Chap Hanley
Atlantic Broadwalk

Kayla Heideman
Mission Hub

Kevin Hennessy
Domino Energy

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Lombardi General & Escavation, LLC

Bruce MacDonald
Alex Market

A Beautiful Company

Frank McLaughlin
Renaissance City Development Association (RCDA)
MEMBERSHIP BY REGION
- 20% Groton/Mystic/Stonington
- 17% Waterford/East Lyme/Old Lyme
- 16% New London
- 12% Greater Norwich
- 9% Ledyard/Mashantucket/North Stonington
- 6% Hartford County
- 5% Colchester/Salem/Montville
- 4% Windham County
- 4% Middlesex County
- 3% Outside of Connecticut
- 2% New Haven County
- 1% Litchfield County/Fairfield County/Tolland County

NEW MEMBERS BY REGION
- 37 Groton/Mystic/Stonington
- 33 Waterford/East Lyme/Old Lyme
- 31 New London
- 16 Ledyard/Mashantucket/North Stonington
- 13 Hartford County
- 11 Greater Norwich
- 11 Middlesex County
- 9 Outside of Connecticut
- 7 Colchester/Salem/Montville
- 7 New Haven County
- 4 Windham County
- 3 Litchfield County/Fairfield County/Tolland County

182 NEW MEMBERS

TOP 10 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
1. Finance/Insurance
2. Professional Services
3. Health & Wellness
4. Restaurants/Food and Beverage
5. Government & Public Relations
6. Skilled Trades
7. Retail & Consumer Services
8. Arts, Culture, & Tourism
9. Education
10. Transportation & Utilities

NEW BENEFACTORS

The Chamber’s Regional Benefactors contribute over and above the standard membership dues structure to support the programs and events produced annually for the small business and nonprofit community. We are fortunate that our region’s business leaders are committed to responsible economic growth and job creation in eastern CT, and support our efforts to provide the region with an essential voice in Hartford and beyond.
LEADERSHIP EASTERN CONNECTICUT CLASS OF 2019

Leadership Eastern Connecticut is a two-year program that prepares future community leaders for positions of responsibility by acquainting them with significant community processes and issues that affect businesses and the public. Over 600 business leaders have completed the course since its inception in 1987.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Class of 2019 completed an ambitious capstone community service project for The Arc Eastern Connecticut. Participants raised nearly $14,000 in donations to construct a large outbuilding to support The Arc’s landscaping microbusiness, one of the programs which helps their clients gain job and life experience. Fundraising and donations of labor and supplies were so successful that $3,500 in remaining funds were directly donated to The Arc program.

At their June graduation, echoing a sentiment heard throughout the class, Co-president Brenton Terry, Norwich Public Utilities, said, “The program has provided me with such a great appreciation of my community at large and has exposed me to so much that I would never have had the opportunity to experience.”

Class of 2019 Peer-Elected Co-Presidents:
Brenton Terry and Larry Warner

2019 GRADUATES

Courtney Avisal, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT
Caleb Balley, Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra
Jason BOckmiller, Dominion Energy
Berry Callaghan, Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.
Mandy Caspino, Chelsea Groton Bank
Rachel Everett, Chelsea Groton Bank
Rachel Fox, Atlantic Broadband
Sharon Frasier, American Ambulance Service Inc.
Jos Garcia, General Dynamics Electric Boat
Heather Gianacoplos, Pequot Commercial
Jaclyn Hartline, Foxwoods Resort Casino
Jessica Izazarelli, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Daniel King, The Late Office of Michael P. Lahne
Derrick Lynch, Connecticut College
Lauric Macha, MyLife: Aquarium
Amber Moore, Goldblatt Bokoff, LLC
Hao Ni, Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative
Denise Ogden, Zone Bank
Katrina Ondrak, People’s United Bank
Steven Parmenter, Charter Oak State College
Dawn Remand, Groton Utilities
Allison Silva, Chelsea Groton Bank
Cathy Super-Sheridan, The Mohegan Tribe
Gary St. Vil, General Dynamics Electric Boat
Brenton Terry, Norwich Public Utilities
Stephanie Tardes, Balance Health
Larry Warner
Mary Welchenger, Eastern CT State University

YP OF THE YEAR

Matt Spring, Stifel

COMMUNITY CONCIERGE

In 2019, the Chamber’s Community Concierge Program ended the year as a self-sustaining program after being initially supported by a grant from CTNext through Thames River Innovation Place. The program produced a second edition of our popular relocation guide newly named the “Eastern Connecticut Community Guide” based on the high interest from newcomers and locals alike. We expanded the reach of the program through an advertising campaign aired on Comcast. Over the course of the year, we held successful new “Let’s Go Local” events that created personal connections and showcased our region.
In 2019 we celebrated the milestone 10th anniversary of two of our signature community appreciation programs: our Social Services Recognition Breakfast and Military Appreciation Breakfast. Both programs saw record attendance.

On November 1 in Groton, the military breakfast featured remarks from senior service leaders, performances by the Fitch High School Chamber Choir, and the presentation of two awards to businesses that made extraordinary efforts to support local military and their families. Key sponsors General Dynamics Electric Boat, Dunkin’ and Foxwoods, along with small businesses who supported our new Military Seating sponsorships, allowed us to extend nearly 150 complimentary invitations to active duty service members.

The November 20 social service program honored the staff and volunteers of the many nonprofits who support community members in our region and enhance our overall quality of life. A new award was introduced, recognizing organizations with aligned missions that collaborated to produce efficient, effective programming. The featured speaker, Kathleen Stauffer of The Arc Eastern CT, urged organizations to consider strategic partnerships and cooperation, sharing her experience in a recent organizational merger.

**KEY SPEAKERS**
Governor Ned Lamont
U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney
U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
Joseph Giulietti, Department of Transportation
Kevin Dillon, CT Airport Authority
Patrick Flaherty, CT Department of Labor
Mark Hill, Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board
Matthew Morrissey, Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind
Dr. John Burkhardt, Pfizer Inc.
David Kooris, CT Port Authority, formerly CT Department of Economic and Community Development

**AWARD WINNERS**

### Military Community Support Award
Antonino Auto Group
Cardinal Honda

### Social Service Recognition Breakfast Awards
- **Staff Member of the Year**
  - Marlynn Benker, Always Home
- **Volunteer of the Year**
  - Terry Friedman, Madonna Place
- **Board Member of the Year**
  - Debbie Kievis, TVCCA
- **Executive Director of the Year**
  - Kelly Thompson, Alliance for Living

### Collaboration of the Year
GIRL Power Joint Fundraiser (Girls on the Run, Girl Scouts of Connecticut, STEP, Soroptimist Connecticut Shoreline)
SAV Insurance Group Guided by Heart Award
Ann and Paul Dagle, The Brian Dagle Foundation

### Citizen of the Year
Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

### Staff Member of the Year Award
Marlynn Benker, Always Home

### Volunteer of the Year Award
Terry Friedman, Madonna Place

### Board Member of the Year Award
Debbie Kievis, TVCCA

### Executive Director of the Year Award
Kelly Thompson, Alliance for Living

### Collaboration of the Year Award
GIRL Power Joint Fundraiser (Girls on the Run, Girl Scouts of Connecticut, STEP, Soroptimist Connecticut Shoreline)
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Ann and Paul Dagle, The Brian Dagle Foundation

### Citizen of the Year Award
Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

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**EVENTS**

**In 10 YEARS STRONG**

**REGISTRATIONS**

10,000+

**TOTAL SPONSORS ENGAGED**

268

**BEST-ATTENDED TICKETED EVENT**

EASTERN CT’S PREMIER HOME SHOW

**BEST-ATTENDED PUBLIC EVENT**
RAMPING UP THE REVAMP
In 2019, the Chamber initiated a revamp of its communications approach. The strategy centers on key tenets: the Chamber strives to act as a resource for information, promote our members, and spur engagement. We are strengthening each channel to delineate purpose and outcomes, increase vibrancy and interaction, and meet interests and needs of our members.

In May 2019, the Chamber launched a simplified, modernized website with improved navigation and increased functionality. The new platform was designed to be more interactive and tailored to meet the interests of distinct audiences, connecting businesses, residents, and visitors to resources and information about our members and the region. The numbers point to the desired increase in use: 39% in member logins, 98% in online applications, and 201% in job postings.

The communication strategy includes expanded coverage on every high impact event, blog posts on topical issues, and profiles and listicles that highlight members. Articles focus on information pertinent to our members and offer thorough coverage. These articles and other expanded content are shared on the Chamber blog, via social media, through the weekly electronic newsletter, and through our partnership with The Day on periodic full-page takeovers. Response has been positive with readership of the blog increasing 35% over last year.

CREATING BUZZ
The Chamber blog has a new look and voice. The blog redesign incorporates more photos, more links and more interaction with other posts. The blog features event articles, informational pieces, op eds, guest blogs from members, and member promotion. Picking up the social media format of the listicle made popular by platforms like Buzzfeed, we have created fun content to engage our readers and promote more members. This year we authored listicles on topics like scrumptious seafood, best breakfast spots, big/little holiday parties, street festivals, farmers markets and local fairs. Mapping three routes, we encouraged blog readers to “Travel the Trail” as a promotion for participants on the Holiday Shopping Trail.

TRAVELING THE TRAIL
Designed to support small and local businesses during the most important season in retail, the Eastern CT Holiday Shopping Trail completed its second year. Business participation increased by 40%, with 140 businesses involved, allowing us to distribute 3,000 passports. The Holiday Shopping Trail is supported by partnerships with local chambers of commerce, main street organizations and arts and cultural organizations. This year we welcomed Hall Communications as the media sponsor and Comcast Business as the presenting sponsor.

RUNNING WITH SCISSORS
Nothing beats celebrating the realization of a dream. Ribbon cuttings, grand openings and anniversaries are our chance to support and promote members at their business’ special milestones. This year we more than doubled the number of ceremonies where we pulled out the big scissors to snip a red ribbon. Marketing worked closely with businesses to help them make the most of their events, and actively promoted the events to members, elected officials, and the public.

CHAMBER STAFF TAKES LOCAL TOUR
Chamber staff explored the northeast corner on our annual retreat. Beginning with a hearty breakfast in a relaxed atmosphere at The Spa at Norwich Inn, the staff visited Chamber members as well as a number of businesses we engaged on the Holiday Shopping Trail. Our travels included Six Paca Farm, Fitch Fibers, Willimantic Brewing Company, The Ice Box, and Wonderland Comics.
FOR OUR MEMBERS

COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL
Business leaders and military liaisons who discuss current issues and programming, including the Military Appreciation Breakfast.
Co-chairs:
• Dara Wicken, Navy Federal Credit Union
• Angela Clay, Navy Federal Credit Union

EDUCATION COUNCIL
Business, education, and nonprofit leaders working together to strengthen the link between local schools and businesses. They also plan the annual Career Fair.
Co-chairs:
• Alyson Woznicki, Waterford High School
• Nancy Bulkeley, Dominion Energy

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE
This committee selects the annual Citizen of the Year award recipient and helps to plan the celebratory event.
Chair:
• Bill Stanley, Yale New Haven Health/Lawrence and Memorial Hospital

EASTERN CT’S PREMIER HOME SHOW COMMITTEE
Made up of representatives from the Chamber and Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Eastern CT, this committee organizes the annual Premier Home Show.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
In partnership with Lifestyle Health Plans and Morin Associates LLC, the Chamber offers a strategic group health insurance solution designed to help employers manage healthcare costs while still providing employees with great benefits.

$340,505 SAVED BY MEMBERS IN 2019
118 EMPLOYEES ENROLLED

REGIONAL LIAISONS
The Chamber maintains close working relationships with business leaders in the communities we represent. These volunteers formerly known as Division Chairs were retitled Regional Liaisons, speaking to the Chamber’s regional footprint and the benefits of collaborating beyond municipal borders.
Norwich Area: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Ledyard: Shari Hewes
East Lyme: Heather Cini Roberts
Montville: Lyndsey O’Brien
Waterford: Anne Ogden
New London: Bruce MacDonald

WORKSHOPS
The Chamber is proud to be a resource for its members to learn new skills and best practices, as well as providing opportunities for members to share their expertise as workshop and conference speakers. In 2019, topics included social media marketing, Google advertising, legislative policy updates, strategic frameworks, finance and estate planning, productivity and efficiency systems, cybersecurity, team trust building, and more.

AMBASSADORS
Ambassadors assist the Chamber Membership Managers with welcoming and supporting member businesses. Ambassadors represent small, medium and large businesses throughout the region, and they are often in attendance at ribbon cuttings and networking events to help facilitate member connections and engagement with member benefits.
TOURISM

CHAT: EASTERN REGION

In 2019 the Chamber received funding from CTNext through Thames River Innovation Place to develop a regional module for the Connecticut Hospitality Awareness Training program covering eastern Connecticut. Chamber staff worked with instructional designer Story Matters to produce the content for this interactive online training program. The program will serve as a resource for hospitality professionals to further their knowledge of attractions across the region. This program was produced in partnership with the Connecticut Tourism Coalition and will be available in early 2020.

The Chamber’s regional tourism marketing committee produced three regional familiarization tours for hospitality professionals, engaging them with in-person experiences at tourism attractions in the region. Each tour showcased several attractions, including restaurants, retail and lodging, on a day-long bus tour provided free of charge to attendees. The “Fam Tour” offered a mutually beneficial opportunity to partner with several local chambers of commerce as well as arts and cultural organizations, expanding our reach and their exposure to people working in important public-facing roles. We also worked with the Connecticut Convention and Sports Bureau to bring in hospitality professionals from across the state to learn more about our region. We were able to educate over 70 individuals about our region, giving them important tools to enhance visitor experiences and promote the region effectively.

DOMINION ENERGY GRANT RECIPIENTS

This initiative, funded through Dominion Energy, identifies minority-owned businesses that can benefit from Chamber membership.
- Cafe Otis
- Cultured AF
- Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation
- El Torillo Cafe and Mexican Grill
- Jac's Cleaning Service, LLC
- Jake’s Diner on State Street
- Lashes by Lee, LLC
- Quick Stop Convenience Store
- Sustainable Planet Incorporated
- The Connecticut Indian Council, Inc.
- Uncle D’s Blazin’ BBQ

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEGGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Chamber’s Legislative Council continues to meet to discuss concerns and to propose legislation that grows and promotes the region’s business community. The 2019 agenda addressed 43 legislative positions.

Levin & Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, monitors the legislative process in Hartford and advises the Chamber and council on the impact of proposed legislation.

CT AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Chamber President and CEO Tony Sheridan continued his service as chairman of the CT Airport Authority. Last year, the Authority identified a strategic goal to expand the role of the six regional airports in the state’s economy. The Authority undertook a survey of business travel, spearheaded in Eastern CT by the Chamber. The results of the survey demonstrated economic opportunities for commercial service out of Groton-New London Airport, which operated commercial flights until 2004. At Bradley, construction is underway on a ground transportation center with improved access to public transportation and rental cars.

CT METRO CHAMBERS

Meeting monthly, the CT Metro Chambers’ goal is to influence legislation that improves Connecticut’s business climate. In 2019, Chamber President and CEO Tony Sheridan continued his service as chair.

FAM TOURS

The Chamber’s regional tourism marketing committee produced three regional familiarization tours for hospitality professionals, engaging them with in-person experiences at tourism attractions in the region. Each tour showcased several attractions, including restaurants, retail and lodging, on a day-long bus tour provided free of charge to attendees. The “Fam Tour” offered a mutually beneficial opportunity to partner with several local chambers of commerce as well as arts and cultural organizations, expanding our reach and their exposure to people working in important public-facing roles. We also worked with the Connecticut Convention and Sports Bureau to bring in hospitality professionals from across the state to learn more about our region. We were able to educate over 70 individuals about our region, giving them important tools to enhance visitor experiences and promote the region effectively.
SCORE provides free consultations to small businesses or those interested in starting a business. The Chamber provides meeting space for SCORE’s weekly office hours and promotes their workshops.

SECWAC aims to foster an understanding of issues of foreign policy and international affairs. The Chamber provides administrative support and promotion for SECWAC.

The Chamber and the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Eastern CT co-present Eastern CT’s Premier Home Show, connecting residents with local contractors. The Chamber also provides administrative support and office space.

The Chamber and EWIB have a collaborative partnership with the shared goal of growing eastern CT’s economy through workforce-related programs. Through the partnership, a Chamber staff member works out of the American Job Centers’ Montville office.

The Chamber partners with CT SBDC in eastern CT to offer professional, confidential, and expert business advice for business owners to overcome challenges and reach their goals. SBDC has free resources, tools, and online trainings to offer business help along the way.

Through its partnership with Thames River Innovation Place, funded by CTNext, the Chamber has created and administered new programs such as Community Concierge (a regional welcome program for new employees), CHAT Eastern Region (an online tourism training program for eastern CT that complements the CT Hospitality Awareness Program established by the CT Tourism Coalition), and an innovation center in downtown New London.

The Chamber partners with the Community Foundation of Eastern CT for a regional Nonprofit Conference, bringing in noted speakers. Nearly 100 nonprofit staff participate in this annual event.

The Chamber partners with the Community Foundation of Eastern CT for a regional Nonprofit Conference, bringing in noted speakers. Nearly 100 nonprofit staff participate in this annual event.

The partnership between the Chamber and the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition increases collaborative efforts to better serve the organizations in our region. Co-sponsored events in 2019 supported legislative initiatives and relationship building.

The Northeastern CT Enterprise Region (SECTER) is the designated private, non-profit economic development organization providing a broad range of services and resources to stimulate and support economic development and diversification within the region.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT is proud to partner with the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce on regional tourism marketing efforts and events and programs that benefit our shared membership.

**REGIONAL PARTNERS**

**CHAMBER FOUNDATION**

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

$5,000 DISTRIBUTED

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS**

Joyleigh Teft
Norwich Free Academy ‘19
Central CT State University

Chloe Chenot
Stonington High School ‘19
Eastern CT State University

Alyssa Milette
Griswold High School ‘19
Eastern CT State University

Saphira Dorelus
Norwich Free Academy ‘19
Three Rivers Community College

Recipients are determined based on need, academic standing, community service, and their desire to work and live in eastern CT.

**2019 FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENTS**

$120,000 DISTRIBUTED

Horses Healing Humans, Inc. $500
Montville Little League $500
Children’s Museum of SECT $1,000
Eastern Connecticut Community Gardens Association $1,000
Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra $1,000
Hygienic Art $1,000
S.T.E.P.S., Inc. $1,000
The Center: A Drop-In Community Learning and Resource, Inc. $1,000
The Rotary Club of Norwich $11,150
Grist Mill $1,150
Shill Development Corporation $1,160
Channel 3 Kids Camp $1,225
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich $1,500
New London Main Street Corporation $1,500
Norwich Community Backpack Program $1,500
Southeast Regional Action Council, Inc. $1,500
Thames River Community Service $1,800
Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT, Inc. $2,000
Expressiones Cultural Center Inc $2,000
Norwich Human Services $2,000
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. $2,000
FRESH New London $2,500
High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. $2,500
New England Science & Sailing Foundation $3,000
Safe Futures $3,000
Sea Research Foundation $3,000
United Community & Family Services, Inc. $3,000
Madonna Place $3,200
Higher Edge, Inc. $3,500
Always Home $5,000
Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board, Inc. $5,000
Riverfront Children’s Center $5,000
St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich, Inc. $5,000
United Way of Southeastern Connecticut $5,000
Tommy Toy Fund $17,500
Miracle League of Southeastern Connecticut $25,000
Morin Associates, we deliver more. More services, more analysis, more insight. With experts in wellness, legal compliance, retirement benefits, communications and more, our team of accomplished professionals will take your employee benefits far beyond.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | INSURANCE**

**ANNUITIES | INVESTMENTS**

We Are Well Beyond Benefits

Morin Associates, we deliver more. More services, more analysis, more insight.

With experts in wellness, legal compliance, retirement benefits, communications and more, our team of accomplished professionals will take your employee benefits far beyond.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | INSURANCE**

**ANNUITIES | INVESTMENTS**

Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline

Provides no-cost training to address the hiring needs of Electric Boat (EB), members of the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA), and other manufacturers. For job seekers, it provides several options: short-term classroom training, online manufacturing training, and job search assistance. This program is free to trainees and designed for unemployed and under-employed individuals.

**Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative**

Building upon the MPI, the YMPI will raise the baseline of our labor force’s competencies while aligning those skills to in-demand needs. The program aims to increase the availability of a manufacturing talent pool through the creation of a manufacturing-based career pathway for high school students after graduation.

Thank you for a great year.

We are proud to work hard for all of our members. Our region is stronger because of you.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR REGIONAL BENEFACTORS WHO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY