

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
CORPORATE  
PARTNERS**

Altek Electronics, Inc.  
AssuredPartners Northeast  
AT&T  
BantamWesson Energy  
BD  
Borghesi Building &  
Engineering Co.  
Brooks, Todd & McNeil  
Insurance  
Charlotte Hungerford  
Hospital  
Conquest  
Daley Moving &  
Storage, Inc.  
Dymax Corporation  
Eastside Electric, Inc.  
FM 97.3WZBG  
FuelCell Energy, Inc.  
Innovative Health Concepts  
Litchfield Bancorp  
National Iron Bank  
Northwest Community  
Bank  
Nuvance Health  
Sharon Hospital  
O&G Industries, Inc.  
The Register Citizen  
Republican-American  
Resource Development  
Associates  
TD Bank  
Thomaston Savings Bank  
Torrington Savings Bank  
Union Savings Bank

## ECONOMIC FORECAST

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

**8:00 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.**

\$20 pp Chamber Members    \$40 pp Non-Members

*Five Points Art Center*

*855 University Drive, Torrington*

*Includes continental breakfast*

*Sponsored by*



**Torrington  
Savings Bank**



**Northwest  
Community Bank**  
*Collinsville Bank    Litchfield Bancorp*



*RSVP online at [nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org)*

*Special Guest Speaker*

**Donald Klepper-Smith**

*DataCore Partners, LLC*



*Master of Ceremonies*

**Jacque Williams**

*Jacque Williams Entertainment*



*Upcoming***CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Oct. 1 The WOW! Forum 8am – 4pm  
 Oct. 5 Small Business Council – 8am  
 Oct. 6 WOW Advisory – 8:30am  
 Oct. 7 Membership Committee – 8am  
 Oct. 7 BAH Goshen Fair Ground –  
 Black Bear Festival – 5pm – 7pm  
 Oct. 11 Closed for Columbus Day  
 Oct. 11 Leads I  
 Oct. 12 Leads IV – 8am  
 Oct. 13 Leads II – 8am  
 Oct. 13 Leadership Orientation – 5pm  
 Oct. 14 Government Relations – 8am


Oct. 14 Leads III – 9am  
 Oct. 19 Insurance/CIT – 8am  
 Oct. 20 Health Council – 8am  
 Oct. 21 Membership October Fest –  
 Inn at Mount Pleasant – 5pm -7pm  
 Oct. 21 Chamber Executive Committee – 3pm  
 Oct. 25 Leads I – 12 noon  
 Oct. 26 Economic Summit and Forecast –  
 Five Points Center for the Arts– 8am  
 Oct. 27 Leads II – 8am  
 Oct. 28 Chamber Board of Directors – 8am

*Save the Date***Job Fair**

Date and Location TBD

**25 Days of Hope for the Holidays**FM 97.3 WZBG and the Chamber  
December**We've Got  
Business Banking**Let Torrington Savings Bank help you find the  
best banking solutions for your business.

- ✓ Checking
- ✓ Savings
- ✓ Online Banking
- ✓ Small Business & Commercial Lending
- ✓ Cash Management Services
- ✓ Business Mobile Deposit

 **Learn More at:** [www.TorringtonSavings.Bank/Business](http://www.TorringtonSavings.Bank/Business)
**Torrington  
Savings Bank**

(860) 496-2152 TorringtonSavings.Bank



TORRINGTON | TORRINGFORD | BURLINGTON | FALLS VILLAGE | GOSHEN | NEW HARTFORD



## WOW! FORUM TAUGHT WOMEN WHY MINDFULNESS MATTERS

Torrington, CT – Northwest Connecticut's Chamber of Commerce held the 17th annual WOW! Forum on Friday, October 1st at the Carole & Ray Neag Performing Arts Center at The Warner Theatre. The daylong professional women's conference featured high energy and motivational speakers focusing on this year's theme, Mindfulness Matters.

This year's speakers included Susan Wheeler. Susan is a world-class overcomer. At age 34, she suffered debilitating injuries in a freak accident. Six years later, defying the odds, she ran for the first time in her life. To date, she has run more than 40 marathons, half-marathons, and ultra-marathons.



*Susan Wheeler*

Susan is a certified mindset coach, speaker, and author of *The Lemonade Diet*. A health and wellness expert, Susan leads a worldwide eight-figure sales organization and has recently become the company's newest millionaire. She is most passionate about inspiring people to slay their excuses and reach their full potential.

Rita Schiano, another keynote speaker at this year's Forum, is the founder of Live A Flourishing Life™ which offers strategic resilience-building personal and professional development programs that strengthen work relationships through team building, stress management, effective



*Rita Schiano*



communication, and critical and creative thinking skills. As a former corporate vice-president and small business owner, Rita's leadership knowledge, strategies, and insights draw from both sides of the aisle.

Valerie Gordon shared her wisdom on Firing Your Inner Narrator with attendees and also led the group in a game of Big Excuse Bingo. Valerie is a 10-time Emmy award-winning television producer with more than two decades in media creating and overseeing feature stories for ESPN, HBO Sports, CBS and NBC News and the Olympic Games. She knows what makes a story meaningful and memorable and how to use the power of story for impact and influence.

As founder of Commander-in-She, LLC, a communications and career strategy firm, Valerie helps high-achieving women take command of the storytelling skills necessary to grow their careers and ascend the leadership ladder.

Comedian Linda Belt had participants laughing

*(Continued on next page)*



**WOW! FORUM** *continued**Jacquie Williams*

through her entire 30-minute set. Linda is a New Jersey native (a comedy routine in itself). She moved to CT in 1987 where she became a suburban pillar of the community attending PTO meetings and baseball games. Linda became very tired holding up that pillar and instead holds her own as a professional stand-up comic. Her humor touched on the absurdities of modern life and explores marriage, parenting and social mores.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast and lunch at Salt 2.0, wine courtesy of Village Wine Cellar, fudge from Nutmeg Fudge Company, entertainment by Jacquie Williams, auction, and free gifts. Afternoon seminars included Big Excuse Bingo, presented by Valerie Gordon; Authenticity: The Secret to Leveling Up Your Career and Your Life, presented by Cindy Donaldson; Strong is the New Pretty: Boot Camp 101 on How to Deal with Fear and Anxiety Disorders, presented by Dawn Romaniello; and Belief: 10 Strategies to Live a More ZESTful Life, presented by Susan Wheeler.

This year's emcee was Attorney Brooke A. Goff. Brooke, who owns and operates the only female-run, single-owned personal injury law firm in Connecticut, has been taking over male-dominated fields since she became the first girl to play on the boys' football team at Hudson Falls High School in New York.

Brooke is the founder of the Hartford County Professional Women's Group and was named one of Connecticut Magazine's 40 Under 40 last year. She has her own radio show called "Ask Attorney Brooke Goff" every Tuesday at 9 AM on 104.1 WMRQ, where she answers listeners questions with Amy and Holden.

*Debra Zavatkay, Lisa Ferris, Tia Haberern, Sharon Kunay**WOW! Forum emcee Attorney Brooke A. Goff*

The premier sponsor of this year's WOW Forum was TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank. The WOW! Forum thanks TD Bank for their generous contribution and tremendous support of this professional women's conference. The WOW! Forum is a program of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, the premier business resource in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut.

Other major sponsors of the event included BD, Conquest, Republican American and the Warner Theatre.

*JoAnn Ryan and Rita Schiano*

## Corporate PARTNERS

### HARTFORD HEALTHCARE COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC RELOCATING TO COE PARK CIVIC CENTER OCTOBER 2ND

TORRINGTON, CT - Hartford HealthCare and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital will be relocating their current Hospital-based Vaccine Clinic to Coe Park Civic Center, 101 Litchfield Street, Torrington, beginning Saturday, October 2, 2021.

The clinic will replace the vaccination services now located at the CHH Memorial Conference Room which will no longer offer vaccines after Wednesday, September 29th. Members of the public and pre-op patients are asked to utilize the new downtown Torrington location.

#### Coe Park Civic Center

101 Litchfield Street, Torrington

Hours:

Tuesdays, 10am- 6pm

Wednesdays, 9am-4pm

Saturdays, 9am-4pm



At CHH Vaccine Clinics, walk-ins are welcome for the first or second dose of pfizer and Moderna and single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Anyone 12 years and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Those under 18 need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For those that are eligible for dose three booster vaccines (Pfizer only), online pre-registration is required at [www.mychartplus.org](http://www.mychartplus.org) to schedule an appointment.

For the most up to date COVID-19 vaccination and booster information, visit [www.HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine](http://www.HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine)



### CHH UPDATING VISITOR POLICY SEPTEMBER 20TH

TORRINGTON, CT - CT Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) is updating the visitor policy to its Torrington campus at 540 Litchfield Street inpatient floors, ICU, outpatient service areas, and Torrington and Winsted Emergency Departments **EFFECTIVE Monday, September 20, 2021.**

Visitors hours in the Hospital's inpatient areas (floors 4, 5, 6 and ICU) remain seven days a week from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Visitors to the CHH Emergency Department in Torrington are allowed 24/7 and in the Winsted Emergency Department daily 9am to 9pm.

TWO visitors allowed at one time when visiting the Emergency Departments, inpatient floors, and scheduled surgeries requiring a stay.

When visiting COVID-19 positive patients, ONE visitor allowed at one time at discretion of clinical team on Inpatient Floors, ICU, and for scheduled surgeries requiring a stay. Special exceptions for COVID-19 positive patients may be made at the discretion of clinical leadership.

For 3rd Floor Maternity, one support person is allowed to come and go throughout the stay. A second support person is allowed during the labor and delivery process.

For outpatient/surgical services, escorts allowed to wait in socially distanced waiting areas.

Visitors are currently NOT allowed in the 7th floor Behavioral Health Unit. Limited clinical exceptions may be made per the medical provider.

When entering the Hospital, all visitors receive a health screening and temperature check. Individuals are asked not to visit the hospital if they are ill or have symptoms of cold or flu.

Please be advised that mask wearing and social distancing is still in effect on Hospital grounds.

For all COVID-19 related information, visit <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health-wellness/coronavirus>

## Corporate PARTNERS

### AYER NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE TORRINGTON CERTIFIED IN SEIZURE FIRST AID

TORRINGTON, CT - The Ayer Neuroscience Institute Torrington staff members Heather Thomas, Rosa Pagano, Mayerlline Arias, and Samantha Cerruto have successfully completed requirements for Seizure Recognition and First Aid Certification awarded by the Epilepsy Foundation.

"Being trained in the very latest Seizure First Aid techniques is a priority for our staff, and we thank them for receiving this important designation," said Joan Palmer, Regional Practice Director, Hartford Healthcare Medical Group.

When more than care and comfort is needed, first responders and medical professionals find applying seizure first aid helps stop or shorten a seizure or prevent an emergency. This may involve giving a rescue treatment. A seizure occurs when there is a temporary change in the way the brain sends electrical signals when a seizure happens, there is a "short circuit" in the way messages are sent between brain cells. Epilepsy means that a person is at risk for unprovoked recurrent seizures, sometimes caused by brain trauma or lesions, infections of the brain, stroke, genetics, and brain injury at birth.

The Epilepsy Foundation of America offers education and programs to help lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to help accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives. According to them, one in 26 people in the United States will be diagnosed with Epilepsy during their lifetime affecting 3.4M Nationwide. Common treatment options for Epilepsy include anti-seizure medications which control seizures in 2 out of 3 people. When medications aren't enough, there are options like brain surgery, implanted stimulation devices, and medically prescribed diets. Our team is also very focused on helping people with seizure get the most out of life, whether or not seizures are fully controlled.

The newly expanded Ayer Neuroscience Institute at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital is located at the Hungerford Center, 780 Litchfield Street, Torrington. Neurology services are also offered at the HHC HealthCenter, 80 South Main Street, Winsted, on selected days. Neurology services at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital include neurological evaluations, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system. Local Neurologists employ sophisticated diagnostic technology,

including CAT Scans, MRIs and PET Scans. This technology is used by our neurologists and pediatric neurologists to perform their evaluations and diagnoses.



Call 860.626.8232 or visit <https://charlottehungerford.org/services/neurology> for more information.

### Corporate

## PARTNERS

Altek Electronics, Inc.  
AssuredPartners Northeast  
AT&T  
BantamWesson Energy  
BD  
Borghesi Building & Engineering Co.  
Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance  
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital  
Conquest  
Daley Moving & Storage, Inc  
Dymax Corporation  
Eastside Electric, Inc.  
FM 97.3WZBG  
FuelCell Energy, Inc.  
Innovative Health Concepts  
Litchfield Bancorp  
National Iron Bank  
Northwest Community Bank  
Nuvance Health  
Sharon Hospital  
O&G Industries, Inc.  
The Register Citizen  
Republican-American  
Resource Development Associates  
TD Bank  
Thomaston Savings Bank  
Torrington Savings Bank  
Union Savings Bank





I have completed nineteen years as President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. It is humbling to lead the largest business organization in northwest Connecticut and to serve twenty-one cities and towns. Together we have tackled critical issues, initiated many programs, created and sustained a strong business community and impacted thousands of lives. You may enjoy the journey:

**1st Outing** on August 21, 1902; Endorsed UCONN Branch in Torrington in September 1956; Supported Construction of **Route 8** in May 1958; The Torrington Chamber of Commerce becomes the **Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut** on July 8, 1967 to accommodate the towns throughout the county; Moved into **Commerce Building** at 333 Kennedy Drive on May 30, 1990. In collaboration with the Community Foundation of NW CT, the Chamber opened its door to the **Northwest Connecticut Arts Council** June 2003; Worked with leaders from the public and private sector to form the **Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation** in December 2003.

The 1st Annual **WOW! Forum** brought hundreds of women and high school seniors to The Warner Theatre for a business and career development day for women in September 2004. 2006 continued at an accelerated pace. The highlight: **Destination China**, a collaboration with the Seitz Corporation and UConn Family Business Program. Chamber petition in 2009 supported **NCCC's Nursing Program** and garnered over 1000 signatures.

Manufacturing in Northwest Connecticut is highlighted through the creation of the **Manufacturer's Coalition** in

September 2013. The first ever **Torrington House Tour**, a collaboration of the Torrington Historical Society and the Chamber's Education Foundation held in September 2015. Traveled to Cuba in April 2016 following its tradition of trips to **China, Japan, Spain, the Rhine and Ireland**.

Chamber introduces New Brand, Logo and Initiatives in January 2017...**Business Working Together**; Went "**Over the Edge**" with Arts Council and Prime Time in September 2017. Direction and Leadership of the **Northwest Regional Workforce One-Stop Operation** through Workforce Investment Board was awarded to Chamber in 2017.

Chamber President is named to **Connecticut Board of Regents of Higher Education** in 2018. Business Leaders and Friends joined Chamber on trip to **South Africa** in April 2018. First Ever **40 Under 40** celebrated by Chamber in July 2018 to honor outstanding Young Professionals. Chamber collaborated with the Connecticut Department of Labor's **Apprenticeship Program** in January 2019 to introduce students to the manufacturing careers throughout the region.

**Chamber Leads Groups** form in response to small businesses searching for introductions to clients. Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 are well underway meeting bi-monthly at the Chamber. Supported the **Connecticut Chamber Health Care Coalition** introducing a Health Insurance Solution to Chamber members. **Small Business Advisory Council** formed in April 2019 to support businesses with less than 10 employees recognizing the need to strengthen local business. Chamber collaborated with partners to prepare for **Healthcare Summit, Economic Forum and the 15th Anniversary of WOW** in the fall of 2019.

COVID-19 arrived that fall and shut down the state in March, 2020. Chamber continued to provide resources, support, guidance, meetings, webinars and **virtually** any worthy project to maintain and sustain the entire business community. This amazing journey continues at a rapid pace with your welfare and success in the forefront. You are encouraged to join us so that you can be recognized in the next newsworthy headline.

JoAnn Ryan is President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. You can reach her by email:

[joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or phone: 860-482-6586

*Chamber* **MEMBERS**

*A special informal meet-and-greet for non-member business guests  
and current Northwest CT Chamber members.*



*You're invited to*  
**CHAMBER**  
**NEW MEMBER**  
**FEST**

*Meet other interested  
business people  
and see how we work  
together!*

*No charge • No obligation*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 • 5-7 PM**  
**THE INN AT MOUNT PLEASANT**  
**505 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, TORRINGTON**

***Our new membership campaign  
is in full swing!***

**New Member Rates** for a limited time  
(\$199 for single person business)

**Current Members** who bring a prospect(s)  
and joins the Chamber will receive  
a \$50 gift card for each new member!

**RSVP by October 18 most appreciated**  
**860-482-6586**  
**[nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar](http://nwctchamberofcommerce.org/calendar)**

*Thanks to the contributions of*

**FOOD**

CATERED BY GIA

**BEVERAGES**

VILLAGE  
WINE CELLAR

**MUSIC**

JACQUE WILLIAMS  
ENTERTAINMENT

**HOSPITALITY**

THE INN AT  
MOUNT PLEASANT



## Chamber MEMBERS

### COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER RECEIVES TWO HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AWARDS

TORRINGTON, CT, Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC) has received two awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that oversees the country's more than 1,300 health centers. HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving health care for people who are geographically isolated, and/or economically or medically underserved.

A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), CHWC was one of six health centers in Connecticut to receive a Uniform Data System (UDS) Quality Award for "Advancing Health Information Technology (HIT) for Quality Improvement." UDS is an annual reporting system that provides standardized information about the performance and operation of health centers delivering health care services to underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

CHWC also received an award recognizing its Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) status. The Patient-Centered Medical home is a model of care that puts patients at the forefront of care. PCMHs build better relationships between patients and their clinical care teams, and practices that earn recognition have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement and a patient-centered approach to care.

"We are extremely honored to have received these two awards," said Joanne Borduas, CEO of CHWC. "The pandemic has been a challenging time, and I am proud of our dedicated staff for the critical role they play in enabling us to provide compassionate, high-quality, patient-centered care. They consistently go above and beyond, making us a recognized center of excellence that offers integrated healthcare services to the Northwest region of Connecticut."

#### ABOUT COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

In a compassionate, patient-centered environment, CHWC services are accessible and provided without discrimination, with cultural competence, and where all people matter regardless of their ability to pay. CHWC offers healthcare services to over 6,000 underserved patients throughout Northwest CT, including medical, dental, chiropractic,

nutritional, podiatry, and behavioral health services, as well as offering an on-site pharmacy. It strives to achieve the reputation of "provider of choice" for affordable, high-quality services that achieve positive patient outcomes in a welcoming and caring environment.

CHWC is located at 469 Migeon Avenue, Torrington, and 10 Center Street, Winsted, with plans to open a third center on property it purchased in North Canaan. CHWC also serves the following satellite locations: FISH of Torrington, 332 South Main Street, Torrington; Sullivan Senior Center, 88 East Albert Street, Torrington; The Open Door Soup Kitchen, 160 Main Street, Winsted; YMCA Emergency Shelter, 480 Main Street, Winsted; Torrington Soup Kitchen, 220 Prospect Street, Torrington; and Oliver Wolcott Technical School, 75 Oliver Street, Torrington.

In addition, CHWC has a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) "BETTY," which stands for Bringing Exceptional Treatment To You." BETTY travels to various locations throughout the Northwest region to offer a range of non-critical care services, such as health screenings, examinations, point-of-care-testing, vaccinations, screening for social determinants of health, and the ability to assess people's eligibility for insurance.

CHWC contact information: [www.chwchealth.org](http://www.chwchealth.org), on Facebook, and by phone at 860-489-0931.



### Premier

## MEMBERS

Brandywine Living at Litchfield  
Commercial Sewing, Inc.  
Cook Funeral Home  
Eversource Energy  
Keystone Place at Newbury Brook  
Litchfield Woods Health Care Center  
Seitz LLC  
Systems Support Group  
T&M Building Company, Inc.  
and Torrington Downtown Partners  
UCE Fine Builders  
Valerie Manor  
Webster Bank

## Chamber MEMBERS



### The New England Economic Development Course

**Accredited by the**



**INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL**

### The 41st New England Economic Development Course Goes Virtual

Seven half-day, morning (8:00 am to 12.15 pm) sessions: Monday November 1st, Wednesdays November 3rd, 10th and 17th and December 1st, 8th and 15th. The first six sessions will be held via Zoom – the final session will be in person at the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce offices (but will also be available by Zoom for those unable to travel) and will include a graduation ceremony and luncheon.

For more than 40 years, the New England Economic Development Course has provided economic development professionals, board and commission members, elected officials and others with a broad background in the fundamentals of economic development. The course is sponsored by the Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS) and accredited by the International Economic Development Council.

#### Sessions include:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>An Economic Development Overview</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Location and Site Selection</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Analyzing Your Local Economy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Managing an Effective EDO</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Business Retention and Expansion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Marketing to the Private Sector</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Community and Neighborhood Development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Real Estate Issues</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Diversity and Equity in Economic Development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Small Business and Entrepreneurship</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Economic Development Finance</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategic Planning</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ethics and Economic Development</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Workforce Issues</b>

The cost of this intensive course is \$350 for one person; \$325 each for two people from the same employer; \$300 each for three or more people from the same employer. Comparable courses across the country cost \$500 to \$695.

CEDAS will cover \$100 of the course cost for current or newly joining members. Contact CEDAS President Kristen Gorski at [kristen.gorski@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:kristen.gorski@westhartfordct.gov) for more information.

Graduation from NEEDC fulfills one of the prerequisites for those who wish to pursue the Certified Economic Developer designation (CEcD) through LEDC.

For more information, visit the course website at <https://needc.org/> or contact Course Director Mark Waterhouse, CEcD at [mwaterhouse@snet.net](mailto:mwaterhouse@snet.net) or 860-379-7449.

## Chamber MEMBERS

### NCCC'S STEM DEPARTMENT AWARDED A \$750,000 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

WINSTED, CT – Northwestern Connecticut Community College's STEM department has been awarded a \$750,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) grant to enable low-income, talented students to pursue degrees and careers in STEM fields. Over the next six years, this grant will fund \$450,000 in scholarships for low-income, full and part-time students pursuing STEM degrees at NCCC. The grant will also provide funds for support programs for STEM students including mentors and tutors, as well as career and transfer exploration programs.

Linda Slakey, NSF Director of the Division of Undergraduate Education, congratulated Northwestern on succeeding in a highly competitive grant application process, noted that NCCC's project is now in a select group nationwide and remarked, "We have confidence that your project will enable significant improvements in the education of undergraduate students."

Sharon Gusky, Professor of Biology, will serve as the principal investigator (PI) on this project and Tara Jo Holmberg, Professor of Environmental Science, Doug

Mooney, Professor of Chemistry, and Crystal Wiggins, Professor of Mathematics, as co-principal investigators.

"This S-STEM grant is a wonderful complement to our existing NSF Advanced Technology Education grant-funded project, which builds a technical career pathway from Torrington Middle School to High School and on to the Community College," explained Gusky. "The STEM programs at Northwestern Connecticut Community College offer students a pathway into high paying STEM careers. This grant will provide the extra support students need to successfully complete their degrees and enter the workforce."

Northwestern Connecticut Community College offers a number of STEM degree programs including Bioscience, Computer Science, Data Science, Engineering Science, Natural Resources, and Technology Studies.

Scholarship Applications for students starting college in January 2022 will be available on the college's website in November. For more information, please email Professor Gusky at [sgusky@nwcc.edu](mailto:sgusky@nwcc.edu).



### SALISBURY BANK OFFERS THREE FREE COMMUNITY SHRED "DRIVE-THRU" DAYS DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

LAKEVILLE, CT – Salisbury Bank is continuing its initiative to fight against identity theft while building community goodwill by sponsoring a free Shred Event and Food Drive.

"Identity theft continues to be a concern for individuals and businesses. One way you can ensure that thieves don't gain access to information that could be confidential is shredding documents with personal information," stated Amy Raymond, Executive Vice President at Salisbury Bank.

Community Shred "Drive-thru" Days are open to anyone on the following dates listed below from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

- Saturday, October 9th - Fishkill Branch, 701 Route 9, Suite 7, Fishkill, NY
- Saturday, October 16th - Lakeville Branch, 5 Bissell Street, Lakeville, CT

For the safety of all participants and volunteers the Bank has changed its Community Shred Days format to "Drive-thru", and established the following guidelines:

- Limit 4 bags / boxes per car (paper only; no binders)



- If you are vaccinated face mask is optional, if you are NOT vaccinated - please wear a mask when within 6 feet of another person
- You will be guided to drop off your boxes at the designated area to be shredded by Bank staff
- Stay in your car until you reach the drop-off point
- If you feel unwell, please stay home

Please consider bringing a non-perishable food donation as well - local pantries need a variety of donations including: canned goods, cereals, macaroni and cheese, cake mix, peanut butter, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, and tomato sauce. Household necessities such as paper towels, diapers, shampoo, and soap are also appreciated.

All shredded paper will be recycled and all collected items will be donated directly to local food pantries.

For more information on protecting yourself against identity theft, visit [salisburybank.com/protectid](https://salisburybank.com/protectid).



## News and NOTES

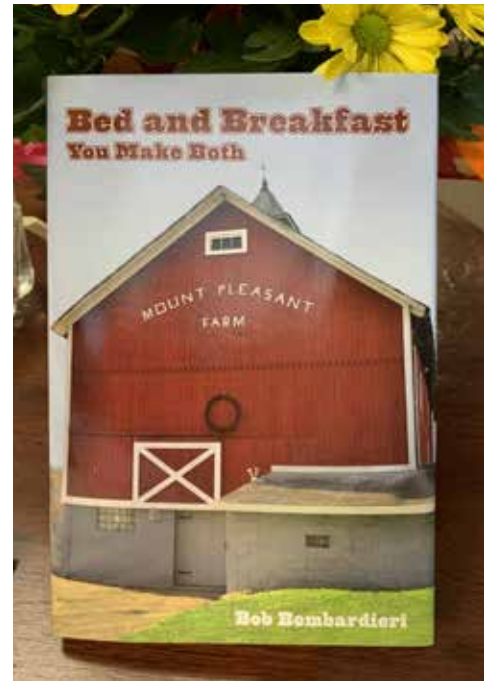
"When New York builder Bob Bombardieri first saw the deteriorating barn and dilapidated farmhouse on a parcel of promising land west of Torrington, Connecticut, in 2004, he envisaged creating a neat suburban subdivision like those he had often constructed over the past thirty years. Little did he know that his next fifteen years would be spent restoring both crumbling structures."

"In *Bed and Breakfast-You Make Both*, we see Bob's surprising transformation from developer to preservationist, conservationist, and, ultimately, B&B proprietor. He and Maggie now welcome travelers from all over the world to this quiet corner of Litchfield County."

"*Bed and Breakfast – You make Both* is the story of New York builder Bob Bombardieri's often humorous adventures restoring a giant nineteenth-century farmhouse, and his eventual creation of a nontraditional "hands-off style B&B. As Bob puts it, "I am not a cook. I am not a maid. I am not a babysitter. I am the often genial, but occasionally cranky, innkeeper who is generally off attending to some chore on the property."



The idea for the book evolved during conversations with Bob Tilton, one of the first guests at the B&B. Bob was the former Chair of the English Department and taught at the satellite campus on University Drive. He became a good friend and suggested the idea of a book about the renovations and other adventures at the Farm.



The Chamber has held a number of successful events including the recent Celebration of Success in the beautiful yard with a band, tent, food and beverages. What a magnificent view of the region. You will be able to see for yourself at the Chamber's October Fest on Thursday, October 21st from 5pm to 7pm.

### OCT. 21 SHOWCASE FOR 12 CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

40+ On-Demand Presentations & Live Chat With Admissions Counselors

Connecticut State  
Community Colleges

All 12 CT State Community Colleges will come together for a virtual CT Showcase on Oct. 21. Starting at 9 AM, video on-demand about associate degree and credit certificate programs, 4-year college transfer opportunities, financial aid and scholarships, student support services, community resources, and more will be viewable through 11:30 PM at [www.ct.edu/showcase](http://www.ct.edu/showcase). Live Chat with Admissions Counselors will be offered during posted hours. Learn more and register at: [www.ct.edu/showcase](http://www.ct.edu/showcase)

**WHAT:** Virtual CT Showcase

**WHEN:** Thursday, Oct. 21, 9 AM – 11:30 PM

**WHERE:** [www.ct.edu/showcase](http://www.ct.edu/showcase)

**DETAILS:**

Prospective students, families and education partners can visit find 40+ short video modules organized into key subject areas:

- Application & Enrollment Processes
- Financial Aid & Scholarships including [PACT: Pledge to Advance CT](#)
- Community Support Programs and Resources
- Academic Advising Services
- Degree Programs & Careers
- Course/Classroom Experience

By registering at [www.ct.edu/showcase](http://www.ct.edu/showcase) you will receive a welcome email message from Admissions and direct follow up from the campus of your choice.

*News and* **NOTES**

FRIENDLY HANDS FOOD BANK

*A Seat at our  
Table***"CHAIR"-ITY  
Auction**

**Friday, November 5th**  
**Torrington Elks Ballroom**  
**70 Litchfield Street, Torrington**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Hors D'oeuvres Cash Bar**

An evening celebrating the talents of local artists with their decorative masterpieces via "CHAIR" art for auction - all to benefit FHFB NWCT's largest food bank

**Tickets \$10**

available at the food bank, at the door or  
online at [www.fhfb.org](http://www.fhfb.org)



## News and NOTES

Friendly Hands Food Bank is in need of **REUSABLE BAG DONATIONS** for our Senior Delivery Program. A great way to advertise to our senior population, we are always in need of bulk orders of bags to place the groceries in for delivery. Bags go out weekly to each senior complex in Torrington & Winsted. Please contact Karen Thomas, Executive Director at 860-482-3338



### A CALL FOR HELPING AFGHANS COMING TO NW CONNECTICUT

Hundreds of Afghan humanitarian parolees are enroute to Connecticut. A collection of local people, some with previous resettlement experience, is beginning to form a sponsoring group to enable them to settle, work and prosper in our area. The immediate needs, once a family is assigned to us, include:

- Employment opportunities
- Housing Rentals (separate apartment, house etc.)
- Finances, especially to kick start their new lives here (pre employment)
- And of course we need more volunteers. There are many roles to fill – transportation, acculturation, friendly visits, ESL etc.

We believe that the Chamber's wide-ranging contacts and the generosity of its members will enable these displaced families to find a welcoming new home. There is also a possibility of settling non-Afghan families as well. We know that everyone can be embraced in our beautiful part of Connecticut.

For more information contact:  
Rev. Scott Cady at 860 671-4515

### COMCAST RISE HELPS 1,100 MORE SMALL BUSINESSES OWNED BY PEOPLE OF COLOR WITH MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT – INCLUDING 26 IN CONNECTICUT

Brings total awardees to nearly 4,700 nationwide since program launched in late 2020

BERLIN, CT – Comcast has announced its fourth round of [Comcast RISE](#) recipients, which includes 1,100 small businesses owned by people of color, that will receive a TV campaign, production of a TV commercial or consulting services from Effectv or computer equipment, internet, voice or cybersecurity from Comcast Business. To date, nearly 4,700 Comcast RISE awardees have been [announced](#) nationwide and the program will have supported 13,000 small businesses by the end of 2022.



In Connecticut, 26 businesses are Comcast RISE awardees including [Dilligence Training](#), a health center in East Hartford.

“Dilligence Training was impacted tremendously by the COVID-19 pandemic as attendance at our location and in-person classes dropped off until the state began to reopen. We applied to Comcast RISE not knowing if we had any chance of winning, and it is an honor to be one of the Connecticut businesses recognized with this distinction,” said Devonte Dillion, CEO and Founder of Dilligence Training. “The Comcast RISE program is helping Dilligence Training because it allows us to sharpen our operations through a technology makeover and in turn, provide a better experience for our community.”

“While we know that no single organization can solve historic and systemic inequities overnight, we are committed to taking tangible actions that can drive long-term impact and change,” said Paul Savas, Vice President of Comcast Business for Comcast's Western New England Region, which includes Connecticut. “Comcast RISE offers the opportunity for small businesses owned by people of color to help grow their businesses, create jobs, and play a vital role in supporting our communities. This new round of Comcast RISE awardees will provide more entrepreneurs of color with the resources and tools they need to scale their businesses and thrive for years to come.”

*(Continued on next page)*



## News and NOTES

### COMCAST RISE *continued*

Comcast RISE, which stands for “Representation, Investment, Strength and Empowerment,” provides the opportunity for small businesses owned by people of color nationwide to apply to one of the following support focus areas:

- **Marketing Services:** The following services from Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable, and its creative agency, Mnemonic, are designed to help recipients with their marketing and media campaigns, including:
- **Media:** A linear TV media campaign to run over a 90-day period.
- **Creative Production:** Turnkey :30 TV commercial production, plus a media strategy consultation and 90-day media placement schedule.
- **Consulting:** Advertising and marketing consultations with local Effectv marketing, research, and creative teams to gain insights on how to drive business.
- **Technology Makeovers:** The state-of-the-art equipment and technology upgrade from Comcast Business includes computer equipment as well as internet, voice, and cybersecurity services for up to a 12-month period. (Taxes and other fees may still apply for technology makeover services.)

Comcast RISE recipients also receive access to [Ureeka](#), an online platform for entrepreneurs with a specialized online networking community with educational resources, sources of capital, and vetted experts.

All eligible applicants will receive a monthly Comcast RISE newsletter with educational content, and all small business owners can visit the Comcast RISE destination on the X1 platform featuring aggregated small business news, tips, insights, and more. Just say “Comcast RISE” into the X1 voice remote.

### COMCAST'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING DIGITAL EQUITY

Comcast RISE is part of Comcast's ongoing efforts to advance [digital equity](#) and help provide underrepresented small business owners with access to the digital tools and funding they need to thrive. Over the next 10 years, Comcast has [committed](#) \$1 billion to programs and partnerships that will reach an estimated 50 million people with the skills, opportunities, and resources they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

For information on Comcast RISE or to apply for marketing and technology services, visit [www.ComcastRISE.com](http://www.ComcastRISE.com). The next wave of applications for Comcast RISE marketing and technology services will close on October 17, 2021.

### ABOUT COMCAST CORPORATION

Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA) is a global media and technology company that connects people to moments that matter. We are principally focused on broadband, aggregation, and streaming with 57 million customer relationships across the United States and Europe. We deliver broadband, wireless, and video through our Xfinity, Comcast Business, and Sky brands; create, distribute, and stream leading entertainment, sports, and news through Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, Universal Studio Group, Sky Studios, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, multiple cable networks, Peacock, NBCUniversal News Group, NBC Sports, Sky News, and Sky Sports; and provide memorable experiences at Universal Parks and Resorts in the United States and Asia. Visit [www.comcastcorporation.com](http://www.comcastcorporation.com) for more information.

### ABOUT COMCAST BUSINESS

Comcast Business offers Ethernet, Internet, Wi-Fi, Voice, TV and Managed Enterprise Solutions to help organizations of all sizes transform their business. Powered by an advanced network, and backed by 24/7 customer support, Comcast Business is one of the largest contributors to the growth of Comcast Cable. Comcast Business is the nation's largest cable provider to small and mid-size businesses and has emerged as a force in the Enterprise market; recognized over the last two years by leading industry associations as one of the fastest growing providers of Ethernet services. For more information, visit [www.business.comcast.com](http://www.business.comcast.com) or call 866- 429-3085. Follow on Twitter @ComcastBusiness and on other social media networks at <http://business.comcast.com/social>.

### ABOUT EFFECTV

Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable, helps local, regional and national advertisers use the best of digital with the power of TV to grow their business. It provides multi-screen marketing solutions to make advertising campaigns more effective and easier to execute. Headquartered in New York with offices throughout the country, Effectv has a presence in 66 markets with nearly 35 million owned and represented subscribers. For more information, visit [www.effectv.com](http://www.effectv.com).

## *From the Desk of Our President & CEO* JoAnn Ryan



# No Time for Meetings? No Problem!

A national survey conducted by the Schapiro Group illustrates that belonging to the Chamber of Commerce benefits your business:

- 49% increase in consumer favorability rating
- 73% increase in consumer awareness
- 68% increase in local reputation
- 80% increase in the likelihood that consumers would patronize the business

In our quest to build a stronger Chamber and business community, we have embarked on a mission to reach all of you regarding Chamber of Commerce membership. In addition to the challenges created by the pandemic, another we face is that you have “no time for meetings!” We understand and are aware of the hard work it takes to make your business a success. However, the Chamber can help promote your business without you leaving your office.

All you need is the time to research our website that includes dates of meetings, seminars and valuable information all geared toward support for you. You also need to get on our email lists to read the blasts reminding you of the latest and best information on current issues, initiatives and events.



In the meantime, here is what we do for you behind the scenes:

- Promote your business by posting your news, special offers and events on the website and in the monthly newsletter
- Advocate for your business throughout this region, state and well beyond
- List your business in the Chamber's Business & Membership Directory
- Introduce you to insurance benefits through Chamber Insurance Trust
- Include your business in the weekly Chamber Exchange
- Provide free business counseling through SCORE
- Feature your business as the Member-In-The-Spotlight
- Initiate new programs that respond to your challenges
- Make those important connections that you have been unable to reach
- Display your business cards and material in our lobby

We cordially invite you to call if you would like more information about the benefits you would derive from Chamber involvement, even behind the scenes. If you are currently a member and have a connection with a potential member, we can share a cup of coffee to strategize. Thank you in advance for your continuing support and involvement.

JoAnn Ryan is President & CEO of the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. You can reach her by email:

[joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) or phone: 860-482-6586



## *Upcoming* **CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Oct. 1 The WOW! Forum 8am – 4pm  
Oct. 5 Small Business Council – 8am  
Oct. 6 WOW Advisory – 8:30am  
Oct. 7 Membership Committee – 8am  
Oct. 7 BAH Goshen Fair Ground –  
Black Bear Festival – 5pm – 7pm  
Oct. 11 Closed for Columbus Day  
Oct. 11 Leads I  
Oct. 12 Leads IV – 8am  
Oct. 13 Leads II – 8am  
Oct. 13 Leadership Orientation – 5pm  
Oct. 14 Government Relations – 8am

Oct. 14 Leads III – 9am  
Oct. 19 Insurance/CIT – 8am  
Oct. 20 Health Council – 8am  
Oct. 21 Membership October Fest –  
Inn at Mount Pleasant – 5pm -7pm  
Oct. 21 Chamber Executive Committee – 3pm  
Oct. 25 Leads I – 12 noon  
Oct. 26 Economic Summit and Forecast –  
Five Points Center for the Arts– 8am  
Oct. 27 Leads II – 8am  
Oct. 28 Chamber Board of Directors – 8am

### *Save the Date*

#### **WOW Forum**

Friday, October 1st, 8 AM | The Warner Theatre

#### **25 Days of Hope for the Holidays**

FM 97.3 WZBG and the Chamber  
December