



Holiday Newsletter 2010



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New Haven has the distinction of being an educational and cultural center, providing the engine to our knowledge economy. Our diverse number of businesses include for-profit and not-for-profit entities that provide services and products to support our major institutions and healthy public school system. This month's newsletter looks at some unique programs and companies that show the breadth of the knowledge economy at work.

EDC wishes you the happiest of holiday seasons, and we look forward to working with you in 2011!

News

New Haven Promise

New Haven Promise is a brand new visionary scholarship and support program for New Haven public school students and the capstone of School Change, the New Haven Public Schools nationally recognized education reform initiative. The announcement was broadcasted live in all New Haven public schools November 9, 2010 to every child in the District.

New Haven Promise has three goals:

- Cultivating an aspiration for college education in New Haven Public School students
- Building community and parental engagement
- Growing economic development in the City of New Haven

Together these companies provide hundreds of jobs to local residents while branding the city as a foodie destination and helping to retain existing food businesses and attracting new ones from around the country. In fact, companies like Something Sweet have utilized the former facilities of such iconic new Haven businesses like Lender's who upon sale and relocation left a fully intact plant for incoming Something Sweet thereby allowing a smooth transition for one of the city's fastest growing companies.

Through New Haven Promise, eligible resident students graduating from every New Haven public high school will receive full tuition (for up to four years) to attend a public college or university in Connecticut or up to \$2,500 annually to attend a private non-profit college or university in the State. (This includes New Haven Public Schools or approved public charter school in the City of New Haven.) These funds will be awarded on a scaled basis depending on how long the student lives in New Haven and attends an eligible school.

Yale University is generously committing to fund the actual cost of New Haven Promise scholarships per academic year for the New Haven public school graduating classes of 2011-2014. Funding for subsequent classes will be reviewed and renewed by the New Haven Promise Board annually based on the progress of New Haven Promise and District to meet their respective goals of the program and School Change.



In order to ensure that every University dollar and other contributions that will be raised over time go toward the explicit purpose of New Haven Promise scholarships, the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven generously provides the capital needed to administer the program.

New Haven students who are admitted to and enroll in a Connecticut in-state public 2- or 4-year college or university and who meet residency, civic behavior and academic performance criteria are eligible for this award.

School Change was launched in 2009 and includes the New Haven Federation of Teachers (an American Federation of Teachers local) landmark teachers contract. School Change has been heralded as a national model for education reform because of its progressive yet collaborative approach with unions.

This program offers New Haven companies a virtual benefit as it allows for employees living in New Haven an opportunity for their children not found elsewhere. This landmark incentive program for students, and related programming to support students/parents and teachers throughout the school system, will create a dynamic environment of education and civic engagement that will continue to empower New Haven's renaissance.

Workforce Training - On the Job Benefits

Some of New Haven's most high-tech companies are currently taking advantage of easily-attainable On-The-Job training incentives for current employees. These grant funds are available for New Haven businesses via Workforce Alliance's "Incumbent Worker Training". Workforce Alliance (WA) is the organization responsible for the coordination of employment and training services for New Haven region. They receive their funding from the Federal government and are dedicated to developing a well-trained local workforce. Incumbent worker training is a strategic effort to prepare existing workers for new and challenging employment opportunities.

Several New Haven companies availing themselves of these funds include those engaged in the knowledge-based industries that have grown rapidly in New Haven in recent years. Grant fund awards generally fall in the \$3000 to \$20,000 range. WA targets specific industry sectors like the manufacturing and health care industries

but will consider other industries. However, they cannot fund projects within the retail industry. Funding cannot not be used for compliance training (e.g., OSHA). The training dollars allow for even highly technical specialized training of existing employees. Furthermore, all training programs must be completed by June 30, 2011.

The application process is very simple--requiring only a two page application. The New Haven companies using the program have found the process to be very streamlined. The EDC urges all interested companies to contact us or the WA (Christine Reardon at creardon@workforcealliance.biz) directly. Please make sure to let her know that you heard about the program through the EDC. This is a great opportunity to add value to both your employees and organization and we greatly encourage your participation.

Pop Up Science

CT United for Research Excellence (CURE) is a leading organization connecting biotech companies and the biomed research community by providing programming, advocacy and a commitment to the knowledge economy. CURE, in partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim, has created Science Quest to bring stimulating science exploration into the classroom. The program's mission is to be a key bioscience education resource in Connecticut, igniting enthusiasm, understanding, and support for science and technology. The goals of the program are to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art and interactive bioscience experiences for students, teachers, and the general public, to serve as a nexus for knowledge transfer between formal science learning, higher education, and industry and to encourage students to pursue science careers.

The cornerstones of the BioScience Explorations programs used in schools are bioscience experiments and related study materials that engage students in hands-on bioscience discoveries. Every curriculum unit utilizes a specific science technology, and has been aligned to the State of Connecticut's Core Curriculum Science Framework, which highlights the conceptual themes and content standards that all students are expected to master and provides the basis for statewide assessments. All units come with comprehensive teacher professional development. A key element of the program is a



curriculum that teaches fundamental science concepts at the elementary school level. Supporting this effort are features such as solar panels and a wind turbine on the roof to help power the vehicle's electricity. Computer stations display the real time energy being generated by the green technology as well as monitor data obtained by the weather station onboard.

Experiments on the mobile laboratory will focus on three thematic areas that support the Core Science Framework: energy and alternative energy sources, environmental stewardship, and life systems. The mobile lab will remain at each school for at least one week. BioScience Explorations staff have developed comprehensive 6-8 week curricula around the mobile lab visit, including teacher training and pre- and post-visit BioConnection modules. The program has reached the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School and Mauro Sheridan School. Look for the BioScience program at New Haven's CT Scholar's Academy in April.

UNH & Sikorsky Engineer a Unique Partnership

A leader in experiential education, the University of New Haven is experiencing a historic and nationally recognized surge in enrollment. Founded in 1920, the University provides its students with a unique combination of solid liberal arts and real-world, hands-on professional training. Most importantly this program demonstrates the key links between our educational resources and the business community.

The University of New Haven's new Sikorsky Engineer-in-Residence (EIR) program is a dynamic initiative connecting students and industry in "real life". The goal of the EIR program is to ensure that graduating engineers gain experience that complements their technical education and enables them to make immediate contributions when they graduate and enter the workforce. In addition to gaining valuable engineering work experience, the "student engineers" will receive a salary and learn how to manage their schoolwork, social life, and work schedule.

The EIR program office is replete with the look and feel of Sikorsky Aircraft - it will be staffed with engineers from Sikorsky Aircraft and engineering students selected to work as part-time employees throughout a given semester. Projects will include research, analysis,

database development, and process definition, refinement and documentation.

"Because this program links students directly to real projects and real responsibilities, it represents a unique and valuable learning experience," said Mark Miller, vice president of Sikorsky's Research and Engineering Division. "This completes the circuit between what they've already learned, and the practical application of that knowledge. What a great opportunity for both Sikorsky and the UNH students."

The Sikorsky engineers in residence represent a variety of engineering functions performed at Sikorsky, and each will spend time in the Engineer-in-Residence office during the school week. In addition to supervising the students, the engineers will mentor the students; brief other students on the practical application of engineering principles to real-world problems and projects; and liaise with Sikorsky functional groups and project teams to develop additional tasks to be worked at the engineer-in-residence office.

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, based in Stratford, Conn., is a world leader in helicopter design, manufacture and service. Its mission statement reflects the company's long commitment to safety and innovation: "We pioneer flight solutions that bring people home everywhere... every time."™ More information is available at the interactive Sikorsky Web site. Sikorsky is a division of United Technologies Corporation, based in Hartford.

Business Spotlight

Achievement First

Schools have always been at the heart of our communities – a repository for our hopes and an investment in our collective future. In addition to their primary responsibility for the development of our youth, schools also serve as a central neighborhood resource for social functions and various services. In New Haven, the Achievement First network of charter schools is raising more than just social capital. Achievement First is a leading, nationally recognized education non-profit, founded in 2003. More importantly, as a business it is a significant employer in the city, and puts New Haven on the map of national school reform.



Since its founding, the organization has grown by leaps and bounds from a single school in New Haven to a network of 19 schools in New Haven, Bridgeport, Hartford and Brooklyn. That growth has been driven by a staggering demand for their services; last year over 3,800 families submitted applications for only 580 seats in New York's Achievement First public charter schools. Fortunately, a major award of \$1mil from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation will help to nearly double the number of schools in the successful charter school network, and serve an additional 6,500 students in low-income communities. This support follows other funding recently received from the Walton Family Foundation, which provides \$250,000 for each new Achievement First school opened, and \$1.7mil over two years from the U.S. Department of Education to replicate their model of successful charter schools. This philanthropic support has combined to enable the network to expand into a third state, Rhode Island, in partnership with the Rhode Island Mayoral Academies.

While Achievement First has taken full advantage of this windfall by expanding its geographical scope into new communities, the organization has also continued to invest within the city of New Haven. At the Elm City College Preparatory School, \$1.4mil has gone to tenant improvements like new windows, boiler and chiller. Further improvements are in the final public approval process, including the purchase of a blighted lot next to the school for conversion to a playground. Maintaining a school here has made a huge difference for the overall appearance of the neighborhood, given the highly visible location along the Dixwell Avenue corridor. And over the years, Achievement First has a history of acquiring vacant school and parochial buildings, ensuring they remain critical resources within the community.

In the fall of 2009, Achievement First broke ground at the former Timothy Dwight School building on Edgewood Avenue. Since then the \$34mil renovation and expansion project, the first charter school project in Connecticut to receive state grant funding for construction, has become an engine for local economic growth. Thanks to a partnership with the Commission on Equal Opportunities (CEO) Achievement First has ensured that over 28% of the 25,000 people hours spent on the project so far have been contributed by New Haven residents. For another project in Bridgeport, over 40% of the work contracted went to local companies. Across the board in their renovations and redevelopments, Achievement First has

shown a deep care for both the appearance of their schools within the neighborhood and for supporting local trades.

The success of the Achievement First schools has been built on a model developed at their first public charter school, Amistad Academy, in 1998. This approach involves using student data to strategically drive instruction, providing students with more time on task and intense intervention when necessary, and emphasizing character education. Throughout their education, Achievement First students have their eyes on the prize: college. This focus is clearly paying off for the school's first senior class, who graduated last June with 100% acceptance into four-year colleges and universities. Even as these alumni move through college, their feedback will be collected to inform an enriched curriculum. So as the Achievement First model continues to prosper and spread its influence, we can count on benefits not only for New Haven's neighborhoods and local business, but also for thousands of young people from the communities that need it most.

Bartron Medical Imaging

Bartron Medical Imaging, Inc. (BMI) is an award-winning high technology Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) with headquarters in Largo, MD and R&D and manufacturing operations in New Haven, CT. BMI is dedicated to the development of advanced image analysis and data mining for biomedical applications. The company has adapted NASA-pioneered technology to novel analysis and evaluation of conventional medical imaging for greater speed, accuracy and data security. Bartron has received patents in the U.S., India and Japan with additional patents pending.

Bartron Medical Imaging, Inc. (BMI) has launched MED-SEG™, a software device that helps doctors analyze mammograms, ultrasounds, digital X-rays and other medical imaging tests. MED-SEG is a software device that receives medical images and data from various imaging sources including CT scans, magnetic resonance, ultrasound and radio frequency units; computed and direct radiographic devices; and secondary capture devices such as scanners, imaging gateways or imaging sources. Images and data can be stored, communicated, processed and displayed within the system or across computer networks at distributed locations. The system can be used across all imaging modalities – a “universal tool” for radiologists.



"The use of this computer-based technology could minimize human error that occurs when evaluating radiologic films and might allow for earlier detection of abnormalities within the tissues being imaged," said Dr. Thomas Rutherford, director of Gynecologic Oncology at Yale University in New Haven, CT.

MED-SEG was created using innovative software technology originally developed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently cleared the BMI system for use by trained professionals to process images. These images can be used in radiologists' reports and communications. Images can be separated into two-dimensional images and digitally-related regions that can be colorized and individually labeled. MED-SEG is powered by FDA-approved medical grade monitors and is designed to meet DICOM and HL7 standards. Bartron is also developing a three-dimensional version. For more information, visit www.bartron.ws.

Secure RF

SecureRF provides security solutions that address lower-powered embedded devices like those that will be used throughout the Smart Grid. Its Algebraic Eraser™ is a public-key cryptography method designed for resource-constrained devices like meters and sensors. GE's Digital Energy business can draw on this security technology for the smart grid to help utility customers alleviate consumer privacy and data security concerns. SecureRF's development location is at the Connecticut Innovations CTech incubator space in Science Park, New Haven.

Just recently, GE and its venture capital partners announced a collective investment of \$55 million in leading power grid technology companies as part of the \$200 million "GE ecomagination Challenge". This is the first of several rounds of innovation funding planned by GE and its venture capital partners as part of the Challenge, a global commitment to accelerate the development and deployment of power grid technology through open collaboration.

One of the largest initiatives of its kind, the 10-week GE ecomagination Challenge attracted 70,000 technologists, students, entrepreneurs and start-ups submitting their best ideas to build the next-generation power grid. The open innovation platform generated nearly 4,000 entries from more than 150 countries.

Twelve concepts have been selected for partnerships to share in the initial \$55 Million investment and SecureRF Corporation (Westport and New Haven, CT) was the only firm from southern New England to be selected. GE is actively negotiating investments and other commercial agreements with the companies and academic partners.

More information is available at:

- * GE Reports: Revving-Up Start-Ups in a \$20 Billion Power Grid Tech Market
- * GE Ecomagination
- * SecureRF