

## **Connecticut Looks to the GACC NY for Workforce Development**

German-style apprenticeship training is coming to the state of Connecticut.

The seeds for this endeavor were planted in May 2018, when the GACC NY invited company executives and training experts from Connecticut to a roundtable discussion on workforce development in the state.

The dialogue continued at the GACC NY's annual "East Coast Industry Forum" in Hartford, CT last October. 160 representatives of business, education and government came to discuss the topics of Advanced Manufacturing and Workforce Development.

With more than 4,500 manufacturers in fields such as aerospace, transportation and machinery Connecticut is a prime location for modern manufacturing and innovative industries.

Connecticut products have become more sophisticated, and factories in the state are evolving into innovative centers for cutting-edge technologies.

As a result manufacturers in Connecticut face the need for a new generation of young technicians with the advanced skills and savvy to build hi-tech products and innovative processes. Their attention has turned to Germany and its "Dual System" of apprenticeship training.

The GACC NY has stepped in to address this need.

The GACC is partnering with Goodwin College in East Hartford to construct a dual track training program in "Mechatronics" based on the vocational guidelines in Germany. Goodwin's architect of this curriculum is Dr. Cliff Thermer, Department Chair for Business, Management and Advanced Manufacturing.

As word has spread about this workforce initiative, a cluster of companies throughout central Connecticut has taken shape.

Under the name "Connecticut Consortium for German Dual Apprenticeship Training" the group has been meeting at Goodwin College several times already to give Cliff its feedback on how to construct a mechatronics curriculum which will meet their needs. The most recent meeting this past February included a mix of 25 company heads, managers and technicians.

The GACC NY has the full support of the Connecticut Department of Labor as it forges ahead with this project.

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Goodwin College in East Hartford, CT