

# CONNECTICUT

## Office of Manufacturing Office of the Clean Economy

Update – June 2024

### **Manufacturing Employment**

May 2024 – 158,700

April 2024 - 159,200

[\*\(Source: CT Dept of Labor\)\*](#)

Total CT GDP - \$252.8B

Manufacturing GDP \$33.6B (13.3%)

[\*\(Source: IBIS World CT State Economic Profile\)\*](#)

Here are highlights from the Office of Manufacturing and the Office of the Clean Economy for June 2024

## Office of Manufacturing

1. We attended the Lieutenant Governors Computing Challenge Awards Ceremony. Great celebration of application development and computer coding from our middle and high school participants.
2. Participated in the 2024 Internship Program kickoff at Trumpf. Great turnout from interns and the 2024 program is off to a great start.
3. Participated in the CBIA E2 Conference and led a manufacturing luncheon that was standing room only. Great discussion about manufacturing and the Make It Here 2030 plan.
4. Attended and spoke at the Connecticut Invention Convention finals at UCONN Gampel Pavilion. One of our favorite events of the year – amazing projects from our elementary, middle and high school kids. Exciting day to be at UCONN!
5. Participated and moderated a panel for a group of leaders from the Netherlands at AdvanceCT. The discussion was on the semiconductor industry and doing business in Connecticut. The panelists from Trumpf, CCAT and Mott Corp were very well received.
6. Launched the Made Here video series, featuring Javi Melecio, highlighting the career opportunities in manufacturing. We were interviewed by WVIT Jane Caffrey and featured in WVIT. [See Link Here](#)
7. Launched the Manufacturing Shake Up Podcast series – an initiative of the ElevateHER Advisory Council. [Podcast link is here.](#)
8. Invited to participate in the CT Cybersecurity Committee by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Manufacturing is a key industry of the committee, and the Office of Manufacturing is now connected to their work.
9. Participated in the Direct Supplier Summit – this provides access to large manufacturing company buyers to small companies through a matchmaking process. We had 203 meetings this year, breaking a record. This is a great way for CT companies to meet buyers from Medtronic, P&W, Electric Boat and many other companies.

10. Spoke to the National Manufacturing Team at Chubb Insurance (virtual). Great discussion about the issues facing manufacturing companies nationwide and what CT is doing to support manufacturing better than any other state.
11. Participated in the Meriden Economic Development Series, giving the Meriden Economic Development team an update on the State of Manufacturing.

### **Office of the Clean Economy**

1. Participated in the Ribbon Cutting and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Survival Systems in Groton. Survival Systems has announced their new training facility for offshore wind. Great to join Senator Blumenthal, Congressman Courtney and others to celebrate this great company.
2. Andrew Lavigne and Kristin Urbach (CWC) participated in the Reuters Offshore Wind Conference in Boston on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. We are currently evaluating the Offshore Wind procurement proposal to provide DEEP with feedback on economic development proposals.
4. We are planning a trip to the United Kingdom to explore international collaboration and to learn global best practices from the OSW Sector.

For more information on the Connecticut Wind Collaborative, go here. [Home - Connecticut Wind Collaborative \(ctwindcollaborative.org\)](https://ctwindcollaborative.org)

## Existing Programs to support Driving Innovation (11)

PROGRAM	PARTNER	UPDATE
Manufacturing Voucher Program	CCAT	Program is funded and CCAT is working through the backlog. There are 19 open applications requesting \$1.0M. We currently have a balance of \$1.5M.
FORGE Innovation Ecosystem	CT Office of Innovation	FORGE Impact is an organization that connects startups with manufacturers, design firms and engineers. They are building a CT ecosystem to support manufacturing startups, product development and innovation. FORGE was funded as a partnership with CTNEXT and MIF. In 2024, FORGE is fully funded by the MIF.
Additive Technology Adoption Program for Manufacturing	CCAT	CCAT manages an Additive Voucher program for the acquisition of additive manufacturing technology. Administered on a first come, first served basis. Additionally, CCAT has an additive manufacturing “try before you buy” program where you can use a 3D printer in your facility for a limited time at no charge. There is \$259,982 in funding available.
Innovation Voucher Program	CCAT	The Innovation Voucher program was funded in 2023 with \$500,000. We have a shortfall of \$207,047 and in the March MIF Board Meeting, we approved \$750,000 in additional funding. This provides a \$25,000 matching grant for the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies.
Digital Transformation	CCAT & CONNSTEP	The MIF has invested in a statewide industry driven program to drive adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies and to drive the competitiveness of the CT industrial base. Services to drive Digital Transformation are available through CONNSTEP and CCAT.
Digital Model Initiative 2.0	CCAT CONNSTEP CENTRAL CT	Our Industry 4.0 Project Manager, Lakisha Pryor, is leading the initiative. We are executing the grant from the Department of Defense, OLDCC, to drive digital transformation in the manufacturing sector. We have engaged with CONNSTEP, CCAT and CSCU as partners in the project.
Smart Industry Ready Index (SIRI) and Cybersecurity Assessments	CONNSTEP/CCAT	Of the \$1,175,000 in funding available, we have \$931,891 still available. Utilization has been low, and we are evaluating resources.
Manufacturing Roundtables	UCONN Capital Community	We have held 4 manufacturing roundtables at the UCONN Tech Park and 1 at Capital Community College. The objective of the roundtables is to bring Industry and Educators together to bridge the skills gap and to engage

	College	manufacturers with our educators to deliver students that meet the workforce needs of industry. Next Roundtable is scheduled for September 2024.
Workforce Innovation Industrial Automation	CCAT/CONNSTEP/UCONN	To meet the workforce needs in CT, we need to drive industrial automation. While workforce development (OWS) and workforce growth (OTG, Legislature) programs need to continue, we need to accelerate industrial automation to get machines to do the work for the people that don't exist. We are planning on a 6 year plan to Engage, Education and Enable the manufacturing sector to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies
EDA Regional Tech Hub Grant	Many	We have been awarded a Federal Tech Hub grant with a focus on Manufacturing and Digital Transformation (Model Based Definition) We received a strategy grant, and we are posting for a Regional Innovation Officer to manage the grant.
First Robotics/VEX Robotics	ReadyCT	Funded a two-year First Robotics program statewide. ReadyCT has hired a statewide robotics coordinator and we have held the first town hall meeting with FIRST and ReadyCT

### Existing Programs to Support Workforce Development (14)

Manufacturing Shake-Up	The Boulder Group Gael Communications	Launched a new podcast from the ElevateHER initiative called the Manufacturing Shake Up. The Manufacturing Shake-Up is designed to provide snackable content for women by women to inspire, educate and provide career development opportunities. The podcast will run weekly for one year, with 52 guests.
Made Here Video Series	Cronin	We have partnered with Javi Melecio to produce Made Here videos, highlighting the manufacturing sector in CT. We have contracted for 6 videos to be produced monthly. First video has been released. See link in summary
Incumbent Worker Training	CCAT	We funded the IWT program at \$1.402,500

		<p>We have \$370,019 available to invest in incumbent worker training.</p> <p>We changed two key parts of the program. We reduced the minimum from \$5,000 to zero and we increased the employer participation rate from 300 to 1,000.</p>
Apprenticeship Funding Program	DOL/CCAT	<p>We funded the Apprenticeship Funding program at \$940K.</p> <p>We have \$98,680 available to invest in Apprenticeships.</p> <p>In the June MIF Board meeting, the Board approved \$500,000 in additional funding to keep the program running to the end of 2024 while the Board evaluates the program.</p> <p>Just to be clear, Apprenticeships and the creation, management and administration of the Apprenticeship program is the responsibility of the Department of Labor – Office of Apprenticeships. The MIF provides wage reimbursement for manufacturing companies for apprentices. The wage reimbursement program is under review. MIF Board has no jurisdiction over the DOL Apprenticeship program.</p>
Internship Program	CCAT	<p>Funded a two-year internship program for cohort #2 (2024) and cohort #3 (2025) to continue the work done in earlier cohorts, Launched Cohort #2 in June with a very successful orientation meeting at Trumpf. It was a full day, with motivational speakers, industry panels and tours of Trumpf. The interns left motivated and excited about the potential for careers in manufacturing.</p>
Hearts and Minds Advertising	Cronin	<p>Funded the Hearts and Minds campaign to continue to promote manufacturing. Our new frontier is reaching the kitchen table where career decisions are being made or in some cases, replace the kitchen table where there isn't one. Cronin will have creative to review in August for an August launch of our initiative.</p>
Vocational Villages Program	Department of Corrections	<p>Working with the Office of Workforce Strategy DEIA committee to leverage their work and to make one effort toward making it easy to transition back into the workforce.</p>
ElevateHER Women Manufacturing Advisory Board	Many	<p>We held the inaugural meeting and held team meetings as well. Teams are meeting to develop barriers and solutions and to advise the Office of Manufacturing. Met in April for our second quarterly meeting.</p>

Faculty Fellow Program	CCAT	MIF Board approved a program to take 9 professors out of the classroom and to train them on Industry 4.0 technologies. Once they complete the training, we will require them to write new curriculum to meet the needs of the manufacturing industry
Career Road Shows	ReadyCT	2024 Career Road shows are back! They will be held in 5 locations across the state. First event is in March with the Rep. Liz Lenihan Manufacturing Career Fair in the Capitol Building Here is the link  <a href="#">Event: Manufacturing Careers Roadshow - ReadyCT</a>
Make it Here 2030	Many	Make it Here 2030 is CT's plan to full employment in the Manufacturing Sector by 2030. It will be the definitive guide to all of the workforce programs in the manufacturing sector
Veterans	Office of Workforce Strategy	Working with the Office of Workforce Strategy DEIA committee to leverage their work and to make one effort toward making it easy to transition back into the workforce.
Neurodiverse workers	CCARC	Working with CCARC on a program to introduce neurodiverse individuals to the manufacturing sector
Educator Meetings	Many	Added President John Maduko from CT State to the Manufacturing Cabinet.
Million Women Mentors	SCSU	Provided funding for Million Women Mentors to purchase access to a database/website use to match mentors with mentees

### Programs to Support Supply Chain Resiliency and Cost Reduction Initiatives (3)

CONNEX Supply Chain Database	CONNSTEP	<p>A comprehensive database of all Connecticut manufacturers with anticipated adoption by all 50 states by the end of 2023. We will use this database for supply base connections and as a marketplace for RFI's and RFQ's. We are engaging with the large OEM's and Primes in CT for buyer access and are encouraging manufacturers to build out their profiles. <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> for access to the CONNEX database. We continue to monitor the quality of the profiles as well as getting more manufacturing companies to enroll.</p> <p>We have had successful collaborations thru the CONNEX platform, with companies becoming certified by Northrup Grumman, Air Force bases reaching out for aerospace parts and CT manufacturers doing business with each other.</p>
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Manufacturing Concierge Program	Internal	In May, we provided concierge services to 28 manufacturing companies, connecting them to resources to help them grow in Connecticut.
Federal DOE Smart Manufacturing Grant	Many	Won a DOE Federal Grant on Smart Manufacturing to reduce energy consumption in the manufacturing sector. Partners include UCONN, CCAT, CONNSTEP. We have received notice of the award and are moving forward with hiring a project manager

### Programs to support the Clean Economy (4)

Offshore Wind Strategic Roadmap	Many	We launched the Offshore Wind Strategic Roadmap at the Governor’s press conference on October 4 <sup>th</sup> . We are working on standing up the Connecticut Wind Collaborative to support the OSW industry
Connecticut Wind Collaborative	Many	Keep up to date with the Collaborative here. <a href="http://ctwindcollaborative.org">Home - Connecticut Wind Collaborative (ctwindcollaborative.org)</a>
Geothermal	DEEP/DECD	Working with DEEP regarding the economic development plan for geothermal energy. We are focused on the use of geothermal to energize full pumps and other non-carbon energy sources. We are not focused on geothermal as a source of electricity for the grid



## Programs to support Communication. (4)

Manufacturing Cabinet	Many	<p>Purpose is to drive collaboration, communication, and coordination within the manufacturing sector.</p> <p>Members include Kelli Vallieries, Chief Workforce Officer, John Maduko, President, CT State, Lisa Mercurio, VP, Retention and Expansion, AdvanceCT, Ted Fisher, Sr. Director Manufacturing, AdvanceCT, Shannon Marimon, Executive Director, ReadyCT, Ron Angelo, President and CEO, CCAT, Beatriz Gutierrez, President and CEO, CONNSTEP, Jessica Dodge, Office of Innovation, DECD, Paul Lavoie, Chief Manufacturing Officer, John Maduko, President of CT State</p>
L4 Tour Visits	<p>We visited the following manufacturing companies in May</p> <p>WestConn Precision, ICU Medical, Infra Metals, Carrillion, Atlantic Fabrication Survival Systems, Hanwha, Peter Paul, GKN, Penmar, Carrubba, Coronet (12)</p>	
Manufacturing Ambassador Program	Internal	<p>The Manufacturing Ambassador program is designed to multiply our efforts to change the perception of manufacturing in Connecticut. Currently, there are many misconceptions and old stereotypes of our manufacturing sector, and the ambassador program will work to change those hearts and minds. We are developing a portal to register as an ambassador, an education and training series and a swag kit to identify you as a manufacturing ambassador. This is open to anyone interested in promoting manufacturing.</p> <p>We have 732 registered ambassadors.</p>
Manufacturing Day Event	CBIA – Manufacturing Hall of Fame	<p>We are working with CBIA and the Manufacturing Hall of Fame on a full day event to celebrate manufacturing in CT in October.</p>

## Completed Programs (10)

Women In Manufacturing Event	CONNSTEP and many others	Completed
Career Roadshow	READYCT	We have held 5 Career Roadshows and reached over 5,000 students across the state. . More info is <a href="#">here</a> .
College Connections	CSCU	Program is closed
Energy on the Line	GREEN BANK	Program is closed
Manufacturing Month	CCAT	Manufacturing Month 2023 was an amazing success. I had 24 speaking engagements across the state and the manufacturing day event at Kamatics was a big success.
Digital Model Initiative 1.0	CCAT CONNSTEP CENTRAL CT	With a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), we initiated a project to implement Model Based Definition in the CT Defense Supply Chain. The project was successfully completed in August 2022.
Office of Manufacturing Website	DAS	This is a single point of contact for all manufacturers. It will serve as a gateway for all Office of Manufacturing programs including CONNEX, Manufacturing Innovation Fund, Resource Database, Strategic Plans, Ambassador Program and other news and communication. This was launched on March 10 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">Manufacturing -</a>
Manufacturing Strategic Plan	Internal	Released on March 9 <sup>th</sup> . It's on the website. <a href="#">2023-CT-Mfg-Strategic-Plan---final--HR.pdf</a> .
Intern program	CCAT	Cohort One was successful. 118 Interns were enrolled, 52 employers engaged and 48 college and universities participated. We funded 49 interns and paid \$157,208 in wage subsidies.
ManufacturerCT CONNECT	ManufactureCT	The MIF has sponsored a Resource Fair on April 18 <sup>th</sup> at the Bristol Events Center. We will invite all organizations that provide no cost workforce development, innovation, supply chain, education or other products to the manufacturing community to exhibit. We will invite all manufacturing companies to participate – a one stop shop for all resources

**Advisory Board Roles – Chief Manufacturing Officer**

Member, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECH), Chair, Outreach and Partnership Committee (Commissioner Designee)

Member, Governors Council on Women and Girls, Co-Chair, STEM and Education Committee

Member, University of Connecticut Engineering Advisory Board

Member, Sacred Heart University Engineering Advisory Board

Member, Southern New England Industrial Assessment Center

Member, Connecticut Workforce Cabinet

Member, Vocational Villages Advisory Board

Member, Connecticut Planning Commission for Higher Education (Commissioner Designee)

Member, Bristol Works Advisory Board

Member, FORGE CT Advisory Board

Board Chair, Connecticut Wind Collaborative

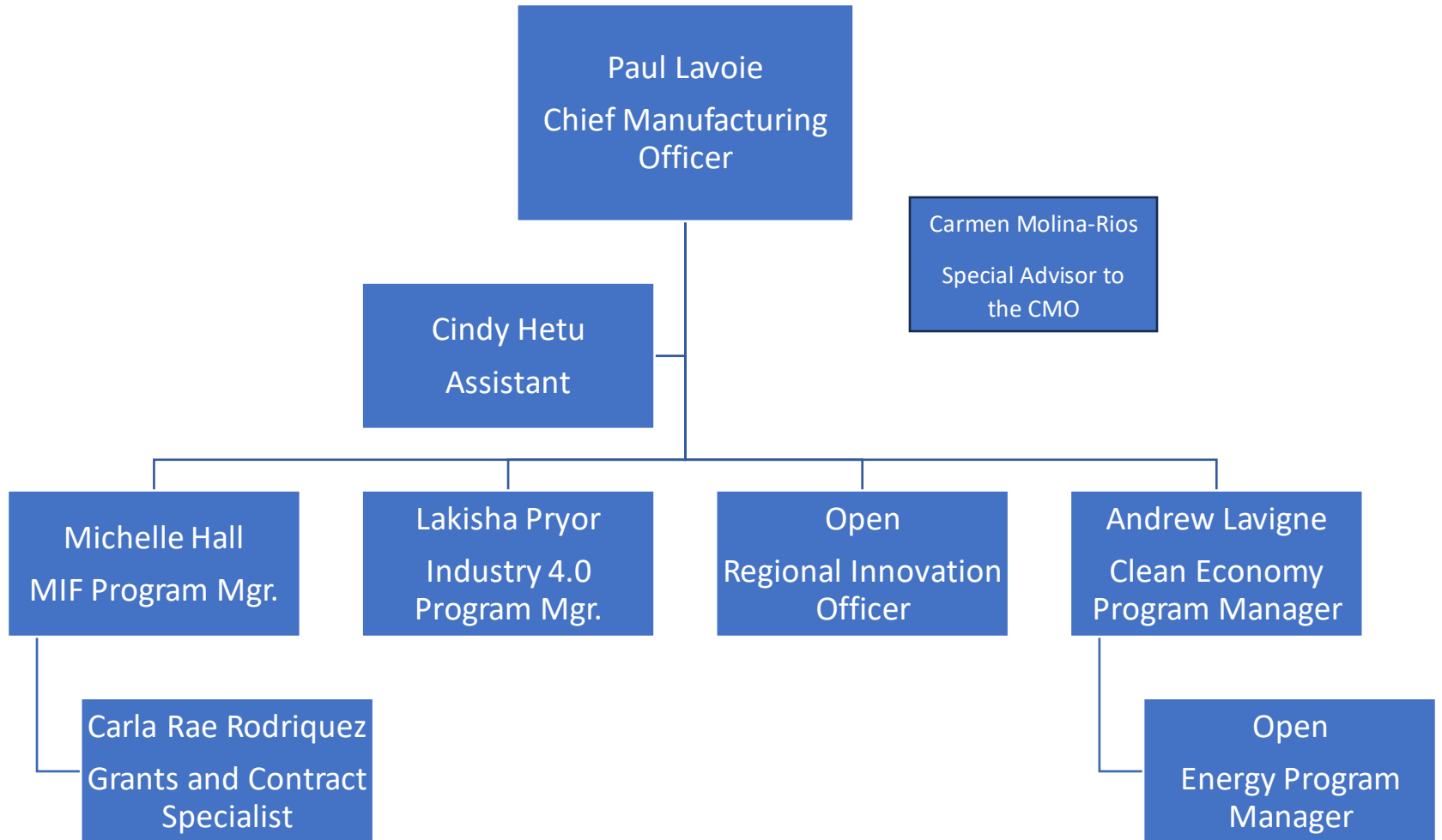
Member, Connecticut Manufacturing Simulation Center

Member, CT Cybersecurity Committee

2024 Speaking Engagements and Events

As of 7/7/2024

Date	Event	Location	Link	Comments
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Holochrome 95 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Wallingford	N/A	Speaking
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Trident Tool Open House	Windsor	N/A	Speaking
July 20 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	Farnborough Air Show	England	N/A	Representing CT
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Manufacturing Ambassasor Event – Birdon	Portland	TBD	Ambassador Event
August 26-28 <sup>th</sup>	Senedia Defense Innovation Days	Newport, RI	N/A	Attending
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Manufacturing Outlook – Central Chamber	Farmington	TBD	Speaker
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Goodwin Manufacturing Expo	Goodwin	TBD	
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	CCAT Digital Technologies	CCAT – East Hartford	TBD	Speaker
October 28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	Association of Manufacturing Excellence	Atlanta, Georgia	<a href="#">AME Atlanta 2024 International Conference   Association for Manufacturing Excellence</a>	Speaker



# Connecticut Office of Manufacturing

## Resource Guide



### CONNEX Marketplace

Online platform connecting U.S. suppliers and buyers with an accurate, searchable supply-chain database



### Manufacturing Ambassador Program

Become an Ambassador and help move manufacturing forward by sharing your passion for manufacturing



### SIRI and Cyber Assessment

Use assessment to further cybersecurity requirements and plan for digital adoption



### Apprenticeship Program

Access Registered Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship to train and fill critical positions required for stability, continuity, and growth



### Manufacturing Voucher Program

Purchase technology (e.g. equipment, software, etc.) to keep pace with state-of-the-art product development and manufacturing



### Model-Based Definition Adoption

Start your digital transformation using model-based definition (MBD) processes and technologies



### Additive Voucher Program

Purchase additive manufacturing technology – hardware, software and related third-party integration services



### Engineering Internship Program

Connecticut offers paid internships across the state working with local manufacturers. Learn in CT. Earn in CT. Stay in CT.



### Incumbent Working Training

Train your incumbent workers in the appropriate skills to meet current and emerging market needs



### Innovation Voucher Program

Funding to adopt IoT solutions. Projects must fall under I4.0 technologies: MBD, extended reality, and adaptive automation.



### FORGE Impact

Get help navigating the journey from physical prototype to commercialization. Invent in CT. Manufacture in CT.



### UConn Proof of Concept Center

Access state-of-the-art prototyping and fabrication equipment that facilitate new product development – from concept to full prototyping assistance