

CCAT PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release February 8, 2010

National Entrepreneurship Week Celebration

EAST HARTFORD, CT: The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. (CCAT), in collaboration with the Connecticut Community College System, is hosting a series of panel discussions to help celebrate National Entrepreneurship Week, February 20 - 27, 2010.

The panel discussions entitled "**Lessons in Excellence**" will feature successful business owners and budding entrepreneurs who will share their stories of success. The program is designed to inspire students to explore the possibility of starting and running their own businesses.

This is the fourth year of the annual National Entrepreneurship Week, a celebration of the heritage of entrepreneurship in America and NEW opportunities for a NEW GENERATION! The week is promoted by The National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education, whose mission is to champion entrepreneurship education, provide advocacy and leadership, and promote quality practices and programs. (For more information, go to www.nationaleweek.org).

The "Lessons in Excellence" events are offered at no cost and will be held on the following four Community College campuses:

- Three Rivers Community College (Norwich)
Tuesday, February 23, 11:00am – 12:30pm Room B127 (Open to the Public)
Panelists:
Maria Miranda, Founder & Creative Director – Miranda Creative, Inc.
Brian Weinstein, President – Chapco Inc.
Joel Douglas, Founding Partner & Chief Technology Officer – eGen LLC
- Manchester Community College (Manchester)
Tuesday, February 23, 12:30pm – 1:50pm M.S.B. Auditorium (Open to the Public)
Panelists:
Giovani Tomasi, Founder, CEO and Chief Technology Officer - RSL Fiber Systems LLC
Paul Tieger, Founder & CEO - Speed Reading People, LLC
Adam Alfin, Co-Founder & CEO - PageFad, LLC
- Gateway Community College (New Haven)
Thursday February 25, 9:30am – 11:00am Room 160 (Community Room) (Open to Students)
Panelists:
Carlton Highsmith, Vice Chairman - SPG PaperWorks Corporation
Ben Berkowitz, Co-Founder & CEO – SeeClickFix, LLC
Nathan Burger, Founding Member - KnockMedia
- Housatonic Community College (Bridgeport)
Thursday, February 25, 9:30 – 10:50am Room A101 (Open to Students)
Panelists:
Bob Abbate, President - Bob Abbate Marketing, LLC
Mary Jane Paris, Founder & President - Positive Impact Consulting Services, LLC
Phyllis Haynes, Founder & CEO - Southern Relishes, LLC

"Learning and innovation are connected," said Elliot Ginsberg, CEO of the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology. "Today's students will be the innovators of tomorrow and entrepreneurship will be a driving force in our economic recovery. The Entrepreneur Center at CCAT is pleased to be working in partnership with the Connecticut Community College System to recognize National Entrepreneurship Week and the importance of entrepreneurialism in our society."

According to the November 2009 Kauffman Foundation report *Where Will the Jobs Come From?*, "...nearly all net job creation in the United States occurred in firms less than five years old...young firms (defined as one to five years old) still account for roughly two-thirds of job creation, averaging nearly four new jobs per firm per year...it is clear that new and young companies and the entrepreneurs that create them are the engines of job creation and eventual economic recovery."

"The Connecticut Community College System is pleased to partner with CCAT to spotlight the statewide economic importance of entrepreneurship, and to encourage the role of Entrepreneurship Studies within the Community College System," said Gail Coppage, Director of Workforce Development for the Connecticut Community College System.

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology is a non-stock, tax exempt corporation that provides services and resources to entrepreneurs and businesses, and through collaboration with industry, academia, and government, helps companies innovate and compete, thereby strengthening our nation in the global market. CCAT's Entrepreneur Center works to deliver key services and resources to technology-led small businesses by cultivating a thriving ecosystem that stimulates business formation and growth, and job creation and retention.

For further information, contact Paul Striebel, 860-282-4231, pstriebel@ccat.us