The Naval & Maritime Consortium kickoff event is Thursday, November 8 at the UConn Avery Point, Branford House, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. The event will be the official launch of the Consortium and its resources, including networking opportunities with other members of the undersea and offshore wind supply chain. It is important that anyone attending the launch event register their car here.

LAUNCH

Community Concierge, which was formed as a program of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, released a new resource for welcoming new and current thinkers, workers, and innovators to our region. The five-minute long video showcases the strong communities, unique amenities, and beauty of Connecticut. This resource is available for regional businesses such as General Dynamics Electric Boat as they introduce new employees to the Thames River region or share with existing employees to raise awareness of everything our region has to offer. The full video can be found here.

In addition to a new video, Community Concierge has launched a new program to save local businesses money while encouraging investment in the Thames River economy. The Community Concierge Discount Card provides a 10% discount on goods and services at participating businesses in the region. For a full list of discounts, and to purchase discount cards for your or your business, visit here.

NAVAL & MARITIME CONSORTIUM

The official Naval & Maritime Consortium officially launches on November 8, and the Consortium would like to invite regional industry leaders and stakeholders in the Connecticut maritime economy to join them for their launch event at UConn Avery Point, Branford House, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. This launch will be the official kickoff event and membership drive with the new resources available through the Naval & Maritime Consortium.

Additionally, the Naval & Maritime Consortium made tremendous leaps forward in September as they supported Southeastern Connecticut’s global maritime presence at the USA - Australia Defense Trade Summit in Mystic, CT on September 17-18. The summit consisted of workshops and talks with commercial maritime leaders to discuss the economic outlook and potential of private Australia - U.S. partnerships.

This event was designed to foster strong trade relations between Australia and the U.S. and creates opportunities for international partnerships and innovation. As we continue to build business relationships within our community, it will remain important to be a key part of the global maritime supply chain. Through partnerships and programs such as this, we are ensuring that the Thames River region remains on the map as the submarine capital of the world.

IGNITE

In September, Ignite hosted the Accelerator for Biosciences in Connecticut (ABCT) workshop to help local bioscience innovators have the resources they need as they apply for the ABCT program. ABCT is a competitive entry, 6-month long program designed for entrepreneurial research students and faculty, MBA’s and MD’s interested to form new ventures in biosciences.

Ignite, in partnership with Project Oceanology, hosted the first Marine Makerfaire on September 29. The full-day event provided students in grades 7 – 10 to the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with emerging marine technology. Activities included time on the water on one of Project Oceanology’s research vessels, and a session learning Arduino programming and building a sensor. Another, larger Marine Makerfaire is currently being planned for the spring.

Upcoming Events:

Women & Girls in STEM Mentoring Dinner: Friday, November 16 at 4:30 PM at the BioCT Innovation Commons.
THAMES RIVER INNOVATION PLACE

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TRIP has experienced incredible growth in its first year, with our collaborative, industry driving programs hard at work to build a business environment that fosters innovation and drives new ideas and partnerships in Southeastern Connecticut. We are beginning to experience the fruits of our labor as we receive responses to year two funding and see our programs grow as resources in the community.

I am pleased to announce that TRIP has officially received year two funding from CTNext’s Innovation Places Program to continue expanding our programs and strengthening our commitment to the Thames River business community. Securing this funding means the near future looks very bright for TRIP as we work to establish Southeastern Connecticut as a center for innovation and economic growth.

Our maritime economy continues to be one of the most valuable and underutilized resources for our region. Though the dedicated work of the Naval & Maritime Consortium, formerly the Undersea Supply Chain Consortium, we have taken great steps toward unifying the maritime business community and improving the way we do business in Southeastern Connecticut. We are looking forward to the launch of the rebranded Consortium on November 8, and the

many upcoming events and programs that will further reinforce the Thames River region as the submarine capital of the world.

In addition to investment in our maritime economy, we are also in the early planning stages of creating the Thames River Business Exchange, a new platform where businesses can sell and trade equity in their respective businesses. More information on the Thames River Business Exchange will follow in the coming months.

Year two is shaping up to be a big year for TRIP, as we continue our momentum of growth through the end of 2018. We are looking forward to the continued expansion of our programs and to at last execute the many projects and events that have been discussed over the past year. To keep up with TRIP and get involved, I welcome you to visit our website or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Looking Forward to Year 3

The Board of Advisors for TRIP is reviewing its strategic direction as it prepares for year three projects and priorities. Entrepreneurs who are interested in partnering with TRIP in the future should contact David McBride, Executive Director, at info@thamesriverinnovation.org.