

PRESS RELEASE

546 South Broad St.; Suite 2C | Meriden, CT 06450 | P: 203.235.7901 | E: info@midstatechamber.com

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Contact: Rosanne P. Ford
Midstate Chamber of Commerce
203.235.7901 | r.ford@midstatechamber.com

The Midstate Chamber of Commerce and the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce announce the creation of the Nutmeg State Chamber Alliance

HAMDEN, CT - The Midstate Chamber of Commerce and the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce are pleased to jointly announce the creation of the Nutmeg State Chamber Alliance. This partnership is not a merger but is a deliberate and a concerted effort to best support individual chamber members on both a local and a regional basis.

The new Alliance continues the local chambers by retaining their Boards, Presidents and staff while establishing a new Alliance Board.

The Alliance model creates an opportunity to best support the small, midsize and larger business. Highlights are:

- Continued local focus on local activities and businesses
- More opportunities to connect with individuals
- Greater outreach to more markets
- Many combined events and activities
- Increased political voice and influence
- More face to face opportunities to grow our businesses
- Larger geographic area to work in

The Alliance creates a framework for individual chamber control, through the boards of directors and staff, and regional cooperation at the Alliance Board level. The benefit to the chamber members is the opportunity to connect with twice the membership base and at the “member only” rate.

Combined educational and networking events will include Governor’s Breakfasts, Business After Hours, Legislative Agendas, social activities and more.

“The Nutmeg State Chamber Alliance is a fantastic opportunity for the Hamden Regional and Midstate chambers and their members to grow their base, extend their reach and strengthen their impact,” said Jennifer Rignoli, Esq., of Parrett, Porto, Parese and Colwell, P.C., a member of the HRCC Board of Directors who will also serve on the Alliance Board. “The Alliance of two strong chambers with a century of experience and a combined membership of almost 1,000 is a formula for success and is certain to provide abundant

benefits for current and future members. I am proud to be a part of Connecticut's pioneer Chamber Alliance and I look forward to its growth and prosperity."

President of the Midstate Chamber, Rosanne P. Ford noted, "This is a model built for success and the opportunities that it will bring for members of both chambers are beyond limits. We look forward to working with the Hamden Regional Chamber with the goal of continued growth in terms of members, programs, services and activities."

"I'm excited to bring this new model to the chamber industry and to our respective Chambers" said Nancy Dudchik, President of the Hamden Regional Chamber. "It's an innovative approach that puts our members first and offers them increased opportunities for broader reach in new market territories. We have always had a great working relationship with the Midstate Chamber and now this alliance will work in the best interest of both our organizations and for the future."

"This is a great day for Connecticut business. This new Alliance model gives our members the power and reach of a metro Chamber of Commerce with the individual attention and focus of our excellent local Chambers. Local control and local community focus is joined with the ability to reach nearly a thousand other businesses and to speak as one to influence decision-makers at the state and regional level. We look forward to providing our members with greater exposure, influence and programming as an alliance, and the ability to participate in each individual Chamber's networking, events and sponsorship opportunities for the same cost as local members," said Thomas J. Welsh, Esq. of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

The Chamber Alliance has a combined membership of over 900 members.

A kick-off celebration to mark the start of the Alliance will be held on Wednesday, January 29 at Il Monticello in Meriden. Special membership rates will be offered at the event.

About the Partners:

The Hamden Regional Chamber has been one of the region's powerful economic drivers for more than 90 years. Founded in 1925, the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce, now has more than 400 members and growing. The Chamber is an inclusive culture of "pay it forward" business professionals that nurtures and supports our diverse business community in Hamden and all our surrounding towns.

The Midstate Chamber of Commerce, with its headquarters located in Meriden, Connecticut was founded in 1896, and is the leading business membership organization in the mid-state Connecticut region with over 550 active members. The mission of the Chamber is to Advocate for, Promote, Educate and Connect our members and communities.

Contacts:

Nancy Dudchik, President of the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce – (203) 288-6431

Rosanne Ford, President of the Midstate Chamber of Commerce – (203) 235-7901

Ian Williams, Chairman of the Board of the Hamden Regional Chamber Board of Directors – 203-530-1786

Nathaniel Bottone –Chairman of the Midstate Chamber Board of Directors – (203) 630-0181