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Media Advisory

East Coast Industry Forum (ECIF) Focuses on Development of Workforce Skills in Age of Advanced Manufacturing Technology

WHO: The German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) in partnership with the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Metro Hartford Alliance. Keynote Speaker **Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy**

WHEN: Friday, October 12, 2018 | 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

WHERE: UPWARD Hartford, 20 Church Street, Mezzanine Level, Hartford, CT

WHY: As products have become more sophisticated, so have production processes. Factories have become centers for advanced technologies, digital solutions and high-tech informatics. As a result, manufacturers face the need for a new generation of specialized technicians with the skills and savvy to work effectively in today's "smart" factories.

Since 2015, the GACC has organized its annual East Coast Industry Forum at various metropolitan hubs in the region, including New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

This year's forum in Connecticut will feature distinguished representatives of the state's business, government and education community who will discuss how to develop innovative and more efficient ways to train young people to meet the demands of advanced manufacturing. The forum's experts will assess how Germany's successful dual education/apprenticeship program can be customized for American industries.

Hartford, CT is a vibrant location for leading industries in defense, aerospace, power systems and bioscience. Companies benefit from Hartford's central location within the Northeast corridor. One third of the US economy is within a day's drive of Connecticut.

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About the (GACC)

The German American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. in New York (GACC NY) was established more than 70 years ago as an impartial promoter of commerce between Germany and the US.

GACCs support German companies by facilitating: market entry & business development; legal services, intern visas; recruitment and startup guidance.

The German American Chambers of Commerce (GACCs) with their main offices in Atlanta, Chicago and New York and San Francisco, as well as branches in Detroit, Houston and Philadelphia, collaborate under the network of the German Chamber Network (AHKs).

With approximately 2,500 members, an extensive international network and a broad spectrum of activities and services, the GACCs are the first choice when it comes to business between the US and Germany.

The GACCs also partner with the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT), an organization that represents the interests of the German business community vis-à-vis both the US administration and other international organizations based in Washington, D.C.

AHKs are connected to the Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs) in Germany. The umbrella organization of the IHKs is the German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), which advocates for 3.6 million businesses in Germany and supports the AHKs. The German Chamber Network (AHK) provides experience, connections and services in more than 130 locations in 90 countries.

About MetroHartford Alliance

The [MetroHartford Alliance](#) is the region's business and economic development organization that drives economic prosperity by leading a collaborative and unified strategic effort to retain and create jobs and to promote the Greater Hartford Region as an exceptional place to build a business, an industry, a career and a future.

The MetroHartford Alliance was created with a progressive eye on the future development of the Hartford Region. Formed in 2001, the Alliance grew out of a merger between the Hartford Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1799, and the MetroHartford Economic Growth Council, which focused on economic development leadership. We are the leading business and economic development organization in the Region.

About Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

[CRCOG](#) is established under the Connecticut General Statutes as a voluntary association of municipal governments serving the 38 Metro Hartford municipalities. Our members have collaborated for more than 30 years on a wide range of projects related to planning, transportation, service sharing, and cooperative procurement to benefit our towns individually and the region as a whole.

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