



Department of Economic & Community Development 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106 <http://www.decd.org>

TEAM Connecticut Award Winners Announced *7th Annual Event Expected to Draw 500 Attendees*

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(Statewide) – Four local organizations, one program and one individual are the 2001 Team Connecticut Award recipients for distinguished dedication and contribution to Connecticut's economic development success. A seventh award – the Team Connecticut Governor's Leadership Award, presented annually to an individual by Governor John G. Rowland – will be announced at the [7th Annual Team Connecticut Rally](#) on Tuesday, December 18, at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

Stanley Israelite, an economic development professional for more than 37 years, is the recipient of the 2001 CEDAS Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to an individual whose work in Connecticut's economic development arena has left an indelible mark on the state. Israelite has been chairman of the Norwich Department of Public Utilities for the past four years and has been instrumental in winning state and local approval of the Mercantile Exchange project in downtown Norwich. Among his other achievements, Israelite helped form the Norwich Community Development Corporation in 1964 as a spin-off of the Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, of which he served as executive director. In 1995, while working as the state director and senior advisor for Senator Christopher Dodd, Israelite was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the 12 most indispensable Americans. And, in 1997, Louis Freeh, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, presented Israelite with the Director's Community Leadership Award.

The Bushnell is the winner of the Team Connecticut Project Award, which recognizes a company whose growth has had a significant impact on the Connecticut economy. The Bushnell is the state's largest nonprofit performance hall and is a major economic driver for the Greater Hartford region and the state of Connecticut. Prior to a recently completed \$45 million, 90,000 square-foot expansion, the Bushnell annually held 300 events with a cumulative audience of 300,000. These numbers are expected to increase by 50 percent with the opening of the new addition.

edgelab of the University of Connecticut School of Business is the winner of the Team Connecticut Program Award, which recognizes a program for its contribution to

improving the state's economic development climate. UConn's *edgelab* is a state-of-the-art information technology and e-business learning and research facility located at the Stamford campus. The 9,000-plus square-foot facility features a rotunda laden with multi-media technology, an IT laboratory known as the "technology sandbox" and 44 IT pods with adaptable and constantly changing computer technologies. *edgelab* brings together students, faculty and business executives in an environment that engenders new ideas and solutions to actual business problems through cutting-edge research and curricula development.

The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE CT) is the recipient of the Team Connecticut Inner-City Community Award. This award is presented to an individual or organization whose efforts have significantly improved the quality of life for neighborhoods and inner-city residents. NFTE is a nonprofit organization committed to teaching at-risk inner-city youth the principles of entrepreneurship. The NFTE CT program is a component of Governor Rowland's Connecticut Inner City Business Strategy that promotes economic revitalization through business development and job creation. Since NFTE was launched in February of 2000, approximately 1,000 inner-city high school students have participated in the program, and 47 teachers have become Certified Entrepreneurship Trainers (CET), making it one of the fastest growing programs of the National NFTE program and reaching more students in a year-and-a-half than other programs have reached in three years.

Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner James F. Abromaitis has chosen **MTU Aero Engine Design, Inc. & MTU Aero Engine Components, Inc.** to receive the Commissioner's Award. This award is given annually by the Commissioner in recognition of an individual or organization that has made a major contribution to economic development efforts in the state during the year. Subsidiaries of MTU Aero Engines AG, Munich, the aerospace division of DaimlerChrysler AG, both companies were founded and incorporated in Connecticut to fortify MTU's strategic alliance with Pratt & Whitney and represent a major initiative by the company to establish a manufacturing operation in the United States. The Connecticut facilities combined employ approximately 250 people and are expecting to surpass 300 employees over the next two years.

The Team Connecticut Governor's Leadership Award, to be presented to an individual at the annual Rally, is given every year to an individual who has done an outstanding job in bringing together a wide spectrum of people and resources to bear on a significant economic development issue.

"It is a pleasure to distinguish all of our award recipients who exemplify the Team Connecticut spirit," said DECD Commissioner James F. Abromaitis. "Their contribution to and support of the state's economic development efforts have been key in making Connecticut an unparalleled place to live, work, learn and play."

The awards will be presented as part of the [7th Annual Team Connecticut Rally](#) at the Aqua Turf in Southington on December 18 – an event expected to draw as many as 500

attendees. Presented by DECD, the Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS) and CERC, the Rally is a yearly celebration that recognizes people, organizations, programs and achievements in the state's economic development community.

To commemorate an outstanding year of achievements, the Rally will feature a video showcasing accomplishments of professionals and events that occurred in 2001, including the DaimlerChrysler international technology conference at Yale; the representation of Connecticut at BIO2001 in San Diego; the Norwich Artspace; the filming of Adam Sandler's *Mr. Deeds* in Milford; the groundbreaking of the Proton Energy Plant in Wallingford; the new TJX Companies, Inc. distribution center in Bloomfield; and much more.

The Platinum sponsor for this year's Team Connecticut Rally is *CT Business Magazine*. Sterling sponsors include Artspace Connecticut LLC; BL Companies; Brown Paindiris & Scott, LLP; CBIA; Connecticut Development Authority; Connecticut Light & Power; Connecticut Natural Gas Corp.; Connecticut Radio Network; Connecticut Innovations; Connecticut State University System; The Connecticut Water Company; Connecticut Technology Council; CURE, Connecticut's BioScience Cluster; The Downes Group; First Union; Gaffney Bennett & Associates; Konover Investments; MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance; Mohegan Sun; Mr. Trophy and Co.; MTU; Murtha Cullina; New London Development Corp.; National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship; Norwich Community Development Corp.; Norwich Public Utilities; NSQ Group, LLC; People's Bank; Pfizer; Pullman and Comley, LLC; Robinson & Cole, LLP; SACIA; SBC SNET; Silicon Sound; Spaulding & Slye; UConn School of Business; The United Illuminating Company; Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.; United Technologies Corporation; Verizon; Webster Bank; and Wiggin & Dana.

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