

**Get CONNected At**

# **THE MEWS+**

Middletown Entrepreneurs Work Space + More

The MEWS+ is an exciting concept that will serve as a key component to the economic development initiatives currently underway in Middletown, and as a bridge to the manufacturing and engineering communities in Middlesex County.

The concept, as it currently stands, is to use the currently vacant second floor at the chamber office as headquarters for The MEWS+, a Middletown Co-Working initiative which offers much more than a traditional co-working space.

We envision kicking off this program by setting up a series of “Meet-ups” in Middletown and in the Greater Middletown area. We will invite representatives from local technology companies and manufacturers, young professionals, home based businesses and Wesleyan students and Middlesex Community College students.

We will work with local property owners and commercial real estate professionals to find accessible and “cool” locations for these meet ups. We hope to identify local spaces that have the layout and the logistical capacity to be “co-working” spaces down the road. In addition to networking, we will invite speakers such as successful entrepreneurs, Wesleyan professors and alums, and other individuals that have an interesting story to tell.

We want our initiative to be a resource for freelancers and entrepreneurs, start-up businesses and small businesses, and the Wesleyan and Middlesex Community College communities. It will be a great place to start a new business or grow an existing company. As a co-working initiative, it provides not only a place to work, but also a collaborative working environment. This shared workspace environment will attract a creative class of developers, designers, strategists, artisans, writers, inventors, engineers and professional office nomads.

Connecting to local manufacturers and engineering firms will be a critical part of this initiative. We hope to work with Pratt & Whitney, and Pratt & Whitney suppliers and vendors. The Middletown Engine Center is critical to the economic health of Middlesex County, and we hope to strengthen our already strong relationship with Pratt & Whitney through this important initiative.

The MEWS+ will also work to foster local health care innovation by collaborating with Middlesex Hospital, which works in partnership with Mayo Clinic by sharing the latest lifesaving research with Mayo Clinic Specialists, and Community Health Center, which is building a world class primary healthcare system by serving more than 145,000 patients since its inception.

Throughout our Innovation Places planning process, we envisioned Middletown as a sort of connector to the other IP locations in the state. Through the support of this initiative, we hope to create sort of a “passport” to the communities that got funded: Hartford/East Hartford, New London/Groton, New Haven and Stamford. We will establish contacts in these regions of the state and will set up “field trips” and other methods of engagement.

Our goal is to create a truly dynamic public/private partnership that will fuel local innovation.

With your support, we will help get Middletown and Middlesex County CONNected at the MEWS+.