



Edition 4: November 27, 2023

Commissioner's Corner



We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving! Each month we use *DAS Newsline* to update you on department initiatives and our work to support state agency, municipal, and community partners.

This month, we have exciting updates on long-awaited upgrades to the Quinebaug Valley Fish Hatchery and Berkshire Hall at Western Connecticut State University, the approval of Connecticut Education Network's broadband infrastructure plan, the recognition of International Project Manager's Day, and our employees' efforts to give back to those in need this holiday season. We are grateful for your support and partnership on these important initiatives!

Improvements at the Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery

DAS and DEEP announced filtration and pump infrastructure improvements at the Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery, which will save thousands of gallons of water daily, in line with Governor Lamont's GreenerGov Initiative.

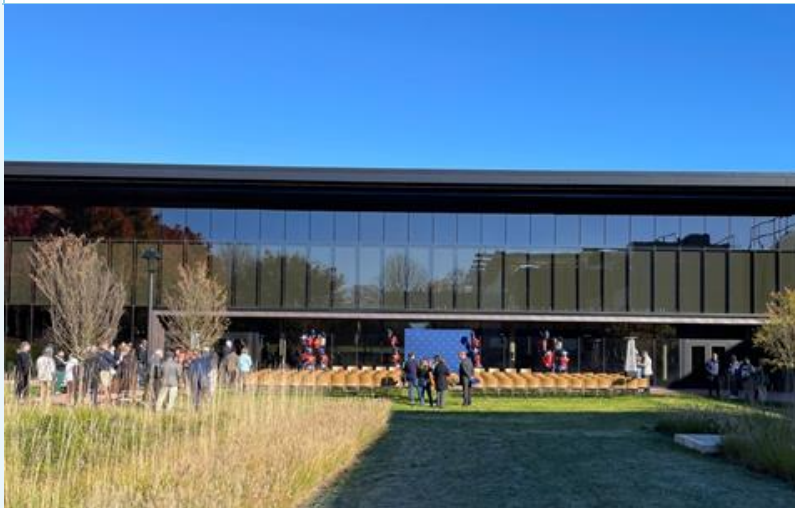


Commissioner Gilman (DAS) and Commissioner Dykes (DEEP) announced the completion of infrastructure upgrades that will save thousands of gallons of water daily, reduce the hatchery's environmental impact, and get the State of Connecticut closer to goals set out in [Governor Lamont's Executive Order 1](#), including a 10% reduction in the state's water consumption by 2030.

The improvements include the installation of new filters and pumps, as well as the rehabilitation of the hatchery's water treatment system. The project was executed by DAS and funded by [DEEP's Lead By Example Program](#) for \$6.7 million.

[View the Press Release](#)

Newly Renovated Berkshire Hall at WCSU



Above: The newly renovated Berkshire Hall on Western Connecticut State University's Midtown Campus.

In early November, DAS was thrilled to participate in a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Berkshire Hall at Western Connecticut State University. The 56,000+ square-foot renovation creates a beautiful new student center with dining options (including a pizza oven 🍕) on WCSU's Midtown Campus.

DAS was proud to work with the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities on this important project.

Federal Approval of CT Education Network's Broadband Infrastructure Plan

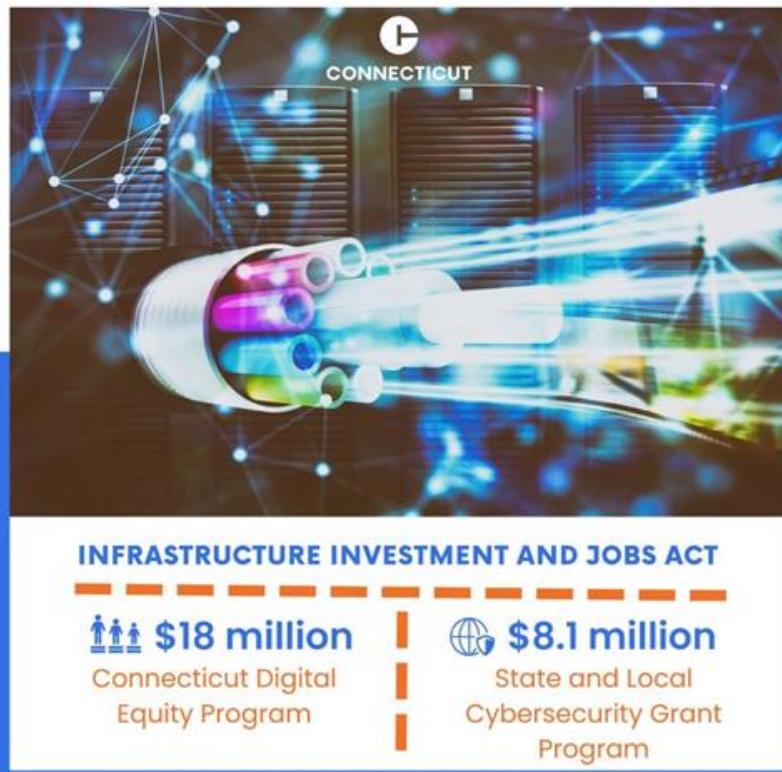


Governor Lamont announced in early November that the U.S. Department of Treasury has approved the administration's plan to invest a **\$70.9 million grant** the state received from the American Rescue Plan Capital Projects Fund to upgrade network and cybersecurity infrastructure in the [Connecticut Education Network \(CEN\)](#), connect up to 170 community anchor organizations to CEN, and expand public WiFi service.

CEN has been providing access to modern technology to our communities for decades. As **DAS Commissioner Michelle Gilman** stated, "Federal approval of CEN Connect is a major step forward in our state's efforts to support digital infrastructure for our valued community anchor institutions and improve connectivity for residents who have been traditionally underserved. The Department of Administrative Services, through the Commission for Educational Technology and Connecticut Education Network, is proud to support these priorities."

[Click Here to Read More!](#)

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



We have heard a lot about the critical investments in our roads, bridges, and other physical infrastructure in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed by President Biden two years ago, but did you know that the IIJA also made significant investments in Connecticut's digital equity and cybersecurity efforts?

DAS and the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security are emphasizing two key components of the IIJA:

\$18 million to address inequities in access to affordable broadband, computers, training, technical support, and services among traditionally disenfranchised groups in Connecticut.

\$8.1 million to make targeted cybersecurity investments in both state and local government agencies.

[Read More on our DAS Blog!](#)

International Project Management Day



DAS recognized and celebrated the project managers who keep the state's projects moving forward. The State of Connecticut owns a lot of property and buildings that are required for governmental administration, education, defense, recreation, etc. These facilities require additions, renovations, maintenance, and repairs. DAS Construction Services Project Managers are the “pointy end of the spear” in administering and managing these efforts.

In recognition of International Project Management Day, DAS is all about appreciating the important role project managers play in our organization. Read more on this week's Employee Spotlight with [Rahul Abraham](#) and [Steven Westerberg](#), both Project Managers in DAS Real Estate and Construction Services.

Giving Back this Thanksgiving!



We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday. On November 15th, DAS partnered with Connecticut Foodshare to support Connecticut families this holiday season. We had a great turnout for our Turkey Drive! 🦃

Thank you to our other state agencies and employees at 450 Columbus Blvd including OEC, OHE, SDE, DECD, DOAg, DRS, and CHRO that donated on line and in person. State employees always step up when needed.

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