



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CONNECTICUT STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT 2026 MANUFACTURING CAREERS ROADSHOW

*Local manufacturers provide students with immersive STEM and manufacturing experiences*

**HARTFORD, CT – March 11, 2026** - The [Connecticut Office of Manufacturing](#) (OOM), part of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), today announced the 2026 Manufacturing Careers Roadshow series, beginning at the University of New Haven on Friday, March 13.

Presented in partnership with ReadyCT and supported through the Manufacturing Innovation Fund, a state program that invests in advanced manufacturing education, workforce development, and industry innovation, the Roadshow gives students in grades 6–12 immersive experiences showcasing modern manufacturing and technology careers.

“Connecticut’s manufacturing sector continues to evolve with cutting-edge technology and innovation,” said **Kirti Patel, Deputy Commissioner, Economic Development and Connecticut’s Chief Manufacturing Officer**. “Through the Manufacturing Careers Roadshow, we are connecting students with industry leaders and hands-on experiences that showcase the exciting, high-tech manufacturing opportunities available to them right here in our state. By investing in early career exposure, we are building awareness among our students and strengthening the talent pipeline that will support Connecticut’s economic growth for years to come.”

“Connecticut students are bright and curious, and when they have the opportunity to see firsthand what today’s manufacturing careers look like, they can be sparked to pursue those careers in ways that help build the workforce our state needs to prosper,” said **Shannon Marimón, Executive Director of ReadyCT**.

During the 2025 Roadshow series, five events hosted by ReadyCT engaged 2,800 students and 123 exhibitors, while the Aerospace Alley® Future WorkForce Opportunities Fair, hosted by the Aerospace Components Manufacturers (ACM) and supported by ReadyCT, drew 1,460 students and 120 exhibitors. These events give students direct exposure to modern manufacturing careers and connect classroom learning to real-world workforce skills.

The Manufacturing Careers Roadshow series brings together manufacturers, educators, and students for interactive exhibits, demonstrations, and career exploration activities that highlight the wide range of modern manufacturing careers, from advanced robotics and precision machining to engineering, design, and technology. Students will also experience robotics demonstrations, virtual reality simulations, and mobile training labs.

### **South Central Roadshow**

**Friday, March 13, 2026**

**9 AM – 12 PM**

**300 Boston Post Road, West Haven (University of New Haven)**

Additional Roadshow events will be held throughout 2026 in other regions of Connecticut.

Schools, students, and educators interested in attending future events can learn more and register at [readyct.org/ct-manufacturing-careers-roadshow](https://readyct.org/ct-manufacturing-careers-roadshow).

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### **About the Connecticut Office of Manufacturing**

The Connecticut Office of Manufacturing (OOM), part of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), acts as a statewide resource to help manufacturers launch, grow, and succeed. Services include grant funding through the Manufacturing Innovation Fund, supply chain support, the CONNEX marketplace online platform, and outreach via the Ambassador Program. To learn more and access resources, visit [manufacturing.ct.gov](https://manufacturing.ct.gov).

### **About ReadyCT**

ReadyCT works to advance academic excellence and career-connected learning for all public school students in Connecticut through collaboration with business, civic, and educational leaders. The work is driven by the belief that schools must prepare all students to become thriving citizens and professionals. ReadyCT is a willing partner in this pursuit, striving to prepare students to pursue whatever college, career, or credentialing opportunity they choose in order to reach their fullest potential. ReadyCT is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization and is part of a strategic alliance with [CBIA](#) and [CONNSTEP](#). To learn more, visit [ReadyCT.org](https://ReadyCT.org).