



Edition 5: December 18, 2023

Commissioner's Corner



Season's Greetings & Happy Holidays!

Each month we use DAS Newsline to update you on department initiatives and our work to support state agency, municipal, and community partners.

As we celebrate the holiday season, our DAS team has been hard at work doing everything from preparing the Governor's Residence for the public open houses, to making sure our ski lifts are up to code, to participating in a two-day virtual supplier matchmaking event. We also held a successful leadership event on Connecticut's digital journey, bringing in a world-renowned expert to talk about improving the possibilities and challenges of digital government. And, as always, we celebrated our employees' successes in public service.

DAS Helps Deliver the Holiday Spirit



With the 2023 holiday season in full swing, the Department of Administrative Services is playing a major role in bringing a beloved Connecticut tradition to fruition.

Each year, Governor Ned Lamont and First Lady Annie Lamont invite Connecticut residents to attend the holiday open house at the Governor's Residence. You may not know that DAS staff helps support a group of three dozen volunteers and several generous vendors, who donated their time and talents to the monumental task of decorating the Residence for the holiday season. All of the decorations at the Governor's Residence, including Christmas trees, wreaths, and seasonal greenery, are donated at no cost to the state. Donations were provided by the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, the Nurserymen Association, Jones Family Farms, and students from Lyman Hall Future Farmers of America.

[Watch how we set everything up at the Governor's Residence!](#)

Connecticut's Digital Journey Event



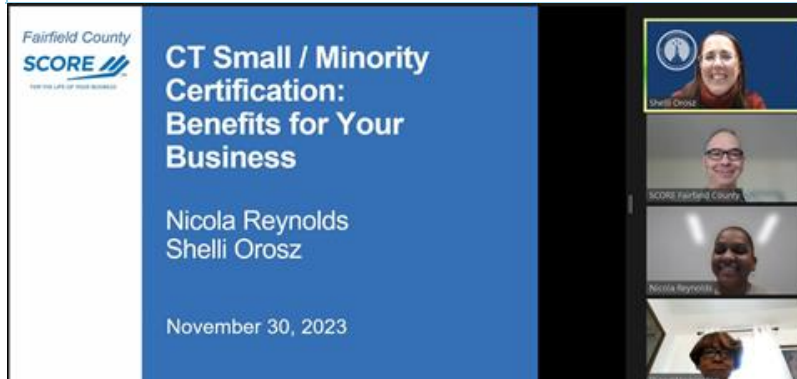
Above: Victor Dominello, Former Minister for New South Wales, Australia

On December 8th, DAS hosted a leadership-level meeting on Connecticut's digital journey, which featured Victor Dominello, the former minister for customer service and digital government for the government of New South Wales, Australia. Dominello is a highly renowned expert in the space of digital government and shared his insights with our departments as Connecticut progresses in its journey to an all-digital government.

DAS, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Secretary of State's Office presented valuable information to the group on the progress Connecticut has made, the challenges that remain, and the steps

we will be taking in addition to hearing about and learning from Dominello's experience.

7th Annual CT Supplier Connection Growth Summit & MatchMaker Event



The 7th Annual CT Supplier Connection Growth Summit is a 2-day virtual event designed to specifically help the region's small and diverse suppliers meet the large buyers and prime contractors in Connecticut.

The purpose is to strengthen the local supply chain community and its ability to grow in a post-pandemic market. Both days of the event included Matchmaking meetings where small and diverse companies met with Connecticut agencies and prime contractors. Our DAS contracting team interviewed several suppliers, giving businesses the opportunity to share information about their products and services, while learning about current opportunities to contract with the state. Meanwhile, our Business Outreach Team managed a virtual resource table for suppliers, providing guidance on our procurement programs including the Small/Minority-Owned Business Certification and Construction Contractor Prequalification.

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**Deputy Commissioner Darren Hobbs
Wins AIA Award**



Congratulations to Deputy Commissioner Hobbs who was awarded the Public Service Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Connecticut Chapter. Darren has had a variety of roles in public service, spending almost a decade within DAS. He provides executive leadership for teams overseeing state construction projects, property management, leasing, and more.

“This award is an absolute honor, but it’s really about the incredible teams I have been fortunate to be part of throughout my career, and none more so than my colleagues here at DAS. Public service is a huge team effort, and we have one of the very best here at DAS, so this is recognition of our whole team”, Darren reflected.

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Go Behind the Scenes with DAS



Did you know that DAS elevator inspectors help to make sure ski lifts across the state are up to code? Just before the beginning of the season, our teams helped ensure ski areas were ready to go for opening day. One of our DAS Elevator Inspectors, Jim Latorra let us take a ride to the top and even led us through a real inspection! 🧰

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