



**Edition 10:** May 2024

## Commissioner's Corner



Last week, Deputy Commissioner Eleanor Michael and I attended the 2024 National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) Annual Leadership Conference in South Carolina. It was a great opportunity to hear from national experts on some of the important innovations taking place in state governments around the country. These conferences serve as a chance to learn about some of the best practices our colleagues are adopting and help guide strategic decision-making in the year ahead. We come back inspired and ready to work to make state government more efficient and more effective.

This edition of DAS Newsline seeks to keep you informed of the latest updates from the department, including the Round 2 grant award notifications for the HVAC Indoor Air Quality Grant Program for Public Schools; a workforce development partnership between DAS, DEEP, OWS, and the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board; a celebration of World Facilities Management Day; and much more!

## **HVAC Grants Announced**



DAS has announced \$122 million in Round 2 grant awards for public schools throughout Connecticut to make upgrades to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Examples of eligible projects include:

Replacing, upgrading, or repairing boilers and other heating and ventilation components;

Replacing controls and technology systems related to HVAC operations;

Installing or upgrading air conditioning or ventilation systems; and

Other improvements to indoor air quality.

DAS worked to improve processes since the first round of the program, and these improvements included significant additional outreach to all districts, including

Alliance districts. As a result, 41% of the funding in the second round is awarded to Alliance districts, and 54% of the funding is awarded to districts that fall below the state's median measure of wealth based on the State Department of Education's AENGLC ranking of school districts.

Thank you to the many legislators who worked with your districts to help with the application process. You may read the press release and view all grant information on the Connecticut Open Data Portal. Please note that the dataset includes award data for the HVAC Indoor Air Quality Grant Program for Public Schools for Round 1 (FY23) and Round 2 (FY24).

[Press Release: DAS Announces \\$122 million in Grants to Public Schools for HVAC System Upgrades \(ct.gov\)](#)

[HVAC Indoor Air Quality Grant Program for Public Schools Awards \(CT Data\)](#)

## **Park Maintainer Partnership**



DAS was proud to join our colleagues at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Office of Workforce Strategy, and the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board for the graduation ceremony for DEEP's seasonal maintainer training program.

DAS's Alice Pritchard helped bring potential partners in the Waterbury area together to get the program off the ground, in close collaboration with DEEP's Joseph Dickerson and many others.

The result was a first of its kind, three-week program that teaches valuable technical and professional skills to prepare the participants for jobs with DEEP and other employers.

## Celebrating Facilities Management Professionals



May 15 was World Facilities Management Day, an opportunity to celebrate the incredible DAS facilities team.

DAS Property and Facilities Management administers the operations, maintenance and security of state-owned buildings located throughout the Hartford Area and major cities in the state.

Thanks to the DAS professionals who make the state's buildings clean, safe, and well-maintained places to work! Your tireless efforts are appreciated.



## Successful CEN Conference



The 2024 Connecticut Education Network Annual Conference was a huge success.

More than 800 people attended and participated in sessions about everything from artificial intelligence to virtual reality, and much, much more.

Special shout-out to Doug Casey and Lauren Thompson of DAS's Commission for Educational Technology and Graham Fishell of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for hosting an incredible session discussing Connecticut: Everyone Connected, the state's digital equity plan.

## CIO Provides Update on AI Governance



CIO Mark Raymond recently presented at the National Association of State Chief Information Officers midyear conference in National Harbor, Maryland, and provided an update on the safe and ethical use of AI in government.

[State CIO encourages 'hopeful' governance of generative AI \(statescoop.com\)](#)

[Related: Raymond Inducted into UConn Academy of Distinguished Engineers \(LinkedIn\)](#)

## **DAS Supplier Diversity Team Wins Award**



2024 Minority Construction Council

**Government  
Partnership Award**

DAS Supplier Diversity Program

Congratulations to the DAS Supplier Diversity team on receiving the Government Partnership Award from the Minority Construction Council at MCC's May 7 Partnership Awards Dinner, which focused on "Building Inclusion for MBE Contractors" and honored MBE members and corporate and government partners who assist the MCC with fulfilling its mission of advocacy, development, technical assistance, contracting opportunities and partnership.

## Highlighting the DAS Print Shop



Did you know that the DAS print shop is available to all state agencies, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations in the state?

Over the past year, they have produced more than 500 top-quality projects, everything from brochures, flyers and bulletins, to annual reports, booklets and manuals, to posters, calendars and certificates.

Thanks to our print shop colleagues for your hard work and professionalism!

[Video: Highlighting the DAS Print Shop](#)

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