



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

SESTCONNECT

October 2026



From Blueprints to Bridges: Experiential Learning in Action

A bridge connects two points. For our civil engineering students, it represents something much greater: the bridge between learning and doing, classroom and community, and today's education and tomorrow's possibilities. Under the guidance of engineering professors **Drs. Bin "Brenda" Zhou** and **Young Moo Sohn**, students designed and constructed two timber bridges in the 2025-2026 academic year - a "Sophomore Bridge" for Student Center Circle at Central and another for the town of Naugatuck, CT. Since the project's inception, eight bridges have been completed, with the latest dedication taking place on August 19, 2026.

Students, **Gavin Fraczek**, **Andrew Hedges**, **Travis McClay**, and **Jack Villano**, worked closely with **Salvatore Cintonino**, Vice President of Operations, and his team, **Steven VanVoorhis** and **Henry Altman**, to finalize the bridge design and prepare the installation site on Central's campus.

Kamil Kwiecien, **Nassem Abughneim**, **Gabriel Quinn**, and **Abdallah Abukwaik** worked tirelessly to design and construct two "twin" bridges to meet the needs of their community partner.

Continued

A New Motto to Inspire Your Journey with SEST

The School of Engineering, Science & Technology (SEST) empowers students to turn curiosity into possibilities and ideas into action. Whether their interests range from biology, chemistry, and the environment to engineering, computing, or emerging technologies, SEST prepares graduates with the technical expertise, problem-solving ability, teamwork, communication, and professional experience needed to contribute across disciplines while building deep expertise in their chosen field. At SEST, students shape their futures with the skills, perspectives, and confidence to make an impact.

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL. BUILD YOUR FUTURE. SHAPE YOUR WORLD.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

SEST Welcomes New Faculty

Join us in welcoming our newest faculty to SEST as they bring new ideas and expertise to support our continued growth and success.

Biology

Dr. Paul Dougherty (spring 2027)

Biomolecular Sciences

Dr. Maxwell Baymiller

Dr. Mike Griffith

Chemistry & Biochemistry

Dr. Patrick Fernandez

Mr. Rafal Popek

Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology

Dr. Mastaneh Mokayef

Computer Science

Dr. Owana Marzia Moushi

Earth & Space Sciences

Dr. Rebecca Matecha

Manufacturing & Construction Management

Dr. Erich Carlton

Engineering

Dr. Syed Nikham

Dr. Sara Pedram

Dr. Reza Pirayesh

Mr. Sherif Salem

Mathematical Sciences

Ms. Nargis, Akhter

Physics & Engineering Physics

Dr. Christopher Pierce

Sharing SEST Expertise Beyond the Classroom

Dr. Haoyu Wang, chair of Manufacturing & Construction Management, appeared on Fox61/CW20 with James Brino, Sr. Technical Trainer and Curriculum & Training Manager with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), to share how model-based definition (MBD) can help prepare students for the future of advanced manufacturing.

Dr. Wang participated in a 12-month Faculty Fellowship program offered through CCAT that introduces faculty from Connecticut colleges and universities to advanced manufacturing and Industry 4.0.

[View full video.](#)



Photo: Fox61/CW20

From Blueprints to Bridges *Continued*

This project was funded by Central's Faculty-Student Research Grant and the generous support of International Building Supply, demonstrating a creative and collaborative funding model. This bridge, to be installed at Baummer Pond Park, will serve park visitors for many years to come, standing as a lasting testament to the dedication of Central students and the strength of our community partnerships.

Students gain valuable experiential learning through the annual bridge project, taking a real-world municipal project from design to construction while partnering with members of the community.

At the new student convocation, the academic deans from each school presented first-year students with a keepsake lapel pin that depicts the new Sophomore Bridge on campus and the words "Begin your journey." The bridge will become part of a ceremony for sophomores who have successfully completed their first year and are set to begin the next leg of their college journey.

Submitted by: Dr. Bin Zhou, Engineering

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

Construction Management Students Compete in Mass.



Students from the B.S. Construction Management Program competed for the first time in the fourth annual Northeast Student Competition in Heavy Civil Infrastructure Design/Construction, sponsored by the Construction Industry of Massachusetts – Labor and Relations Division on Saturday April 11, 2026. Students completed a design for a proposed underground train station in Boston, as well as determined the construction methods, cost estimate, and schedule with the guidance of **Prof. Cindy DeSellier, Dr. Talat Salama**, and industry coach Bob Murphy from J. F. White.

The five-student team—**Michael Alves, Inderpreet Behal, Luis Barajas, Orion Inkel, and Jeremy Zahner**—presented their design in a PowerPoint presentation before a 6-person panel of industry experts. Their presentation secured a fourth place finish out of eight schools, earning the department a \$5,000 prize. Each school also received \$10,000 that was divided equally among the students. Other competing schools this year included Tufts, UConn, Roger Williams, Northeastern, University of New Hampshire, University of Vermont, and UMass Lowell.

Submitted by: Cindy DeSellier, Manufacturing & Construction Management

SEST Launches Inaugural Student Leadership Summit



The School of Engineering, Science, and Technology (SEST) is investing in the next generation of leaders with the launch of its inaugural **SEST Student Leadership Summit**, sponsored by the SEST Dean's Office in partnership with the **National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (NCNGM)**.

Designed for student clubs and organizations across SEST and faculty advisors, the Summit will provide a dedicated space for student leaders to connect, collaborate, develop new skills, and turn ideas into action. At the heart of the initiative is a simple goal: to cultivate a strong culture of student leadership and empower students to reach their full leadership potential.

A student planning committee has been hard at work developing a robust and engaging program that reflects the interests, experiences, and needs of SEST student leaders. Through interactive sessions, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to build connections across disciplines, the Summit will encourage students to learn from one another while exploring what effective leadership looks like in today's world.

The inaugural SEST Student Leadership Summit will be held on **Friday, October 23, 2026** in the Connecticut Room of Memorial Hall.

Student Leaders - Be sure to reserve your seat!



Discover Your Community

Central is home to more than 120 student clubs and organizations that provide a sense of community, involvement opportunities, and events and activities for our students. Create your experience.

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
 BIO/BMS Club
 Chemistry Club
 Combat Robotics Club
 Computer Science Club
 Construction Management Club
 Geology and Planetary Science Club
 Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
 Multi-Powered Vehicle Club
 Physics Club
 Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME)
 Society of Mathematics
 Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
 Space Exploration Architecture & Research Club (SEAR)

The **SEST Industry Advisory Board (IAB)** is composed of external executives, technical experts, and alumni who provide non-binding strategic guidance to academic departments.

The IAB strengthens the connection between industry and education, helping SEST prepare graduates to innovate and lead in a rapidly evolving technical landscape.

Scheduled Board Meetings

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Connecticut Room | Memorial Hall

Wednesday, January 27, 2027

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Connecticut Room | Memorial Hall

SESTEVENTS

Central Hosts CT State College of Technology



The College of Technology (COT) COT is led by a State Director and a Site Coordinator's Council, which meets monthly, includes representatives from 4-year public and private university partners, all campuses of CT State Community College, as well as the Connecticut Technical High School System, and business and industry partners. Central hosted the COT on September 25, 2026.

COT provides career pathways for students to earn certificates, Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in Engineering and Technology disciplines. COT was established in 1992 under Connecticut Public Act 92-126 to form articulation agreements between all twelve Connecticut community colleges and public and private partner universities. This unique infrastructure and governance provides seamless articulation between the community colleges and their four-year partner universities, providing multiple points of entry for degree completion.



For more information, visit: [COT website](#).



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CAREERLINK

OFFICE OF
**CAREER AND
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



Create a Handshake account



COCC

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Hilltop Cafe

Academic Interests: Computer Science, Computer Engineering Technology, Cybersecurity



Henkel

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Connecticut Room, Memorial Hall

Academic Interests: Chemistry, Biology, Biomolecular Science, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering



Phalcon/McPhee

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Hilltop Cafe

Academic Interests: Computing, Manufacturing & Construction Management, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering



CT Department of Transportation

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Hilltop Cafe

Academic Interests: Civil, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction Management



ASML

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Hilltop Cafe

Academic Interests: Computer Engineering Technology, Computer Science, Data Science, Electrical, Mechanical, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Physics, Robotics & Mechatronics, Software Engineering



The Lee Company

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Hilltop Cafe

Academic Interests: Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Business Administration, Marketing, Accounting



State of Connecticut STEM Panel

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Time: 5:00 - 8:00 PM (Meal provided)

Location: Connecticut Room, Memorial Hall

Event Info: Come chat with representatives from various Connecticut State Agencies, including Departments of: Administrative Services, Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Health, Transportation, and Emergency Services and Public Protection.

State of Connecticut Application Workshop

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM (Lunch provided)

Location: Hilltop Cafe

Event Info: After the panel visit earlier in the week, learn how to navigate opportunities and the application process with the Connecticut State Agencies Human Resources department.



[CCSU.EDU/SEST-CAREERLINK](https://ccsu.edu/sest-careerlink)

DID YOU KNOW?

New Home for Math Support. Where Math + Community = Success



In addition to tutoring offered in The Learning Center, the **Department of Mathematical Sciences** created a Math Learning Community (MLC), specifically for support in lower-division math courses.

The drop-In tutoring is available to students who need assistance in any math course, but especially MATH 099, MATH 102C, and MATH 102. Foundational mathematical skills are important as building blocks for advanced levels of math - which

are required by SEST programs. Math faculty and student tutors are available to assist students with practice and teaches logical thinking and reduces anxiety around difficult topics. Students will gain confidence in the individual or small-group sessions.

Come and visit the MLC as often as needed. Refer your students. Let's make math happen!

Location: Maria Sanford Hall, Rooms 207 & 209

Fall Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- **Drop-In Hours**

- **No Need to Schedule** - faculty and tutor schedules are posted in the MLC.

- **Come for help, stay for community.**

Blue Devil Events

Homecoming & Family Weekend



Date: October 8-10, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Various

Info: Blue Devils of all generations celebrate Central Pride, connect with friends, and create new memories.

For full schedule of events and to register, visit:

[Central Homecoming website.](#)

Save the Date

Thursday, December 10, 2026

SEST Dean's Office, Faculty, and Staff - Celebrate the Season!

Graduate Showcase

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Applied Innovation Hub Lobby

Info: Learn about graduate and accelerated programs and how to prepare for admission.

Undergraduate Open House

Date: Sunday, October 25, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Huang Recreation Center, Applied Innovation Hub, Copernicus Hall

Info: Interact with faculty & staff, learn about enrollment and student life.

SESTCONNECT

Submit your stories, programs, events, and questions:
SESTDeansOffice@mail.ccsu.edu

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