Technology and Manufacturing didn’t disappear from the Quiet Corner. They’re being transformed.

Quiet Corner Innovation Cluster (QCIC) is a part of that transformation.

QCIC, funded by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), UConn, and Connecticut Innovations, supports business growth potential of small and medium-sized technology and manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) in rural Tolland, Windham, and New London Counties.

QCIC forms partnerships with select SMEs to enhance or expand their product and service offerings by leveraging UConn’s extensive R&D capabilities and office of commercialization. SMEs that participate in the program collaborate with faculty who specialize in their particular area of focus and benefit from the new Proof of Concept Center at the UConn. In addition to the POCC, UConn will be creating the new Connecticut Manufacturing Simulation Center (CMSC) to enable SMEs rapid prototyping capabilities and further facilitate growth.
Did you know?

Today, we call Eastern Connecticut the “quiet corner.” But did you know that this region has a long, rich history of manufacturing and innovation?

- The first silk mill in America was located in Mansfield, CT.
- Mansfield Four Corners was once the site of a comb factory.
- Railroad service to Mansfield, CT began in 1850.
- At the height of traffic, 40 passenger trains per day stopped in Willimantic.
- The Hotel Hooker in Willimantic was the first hotel between New Haven and Boston to have central heating and bathrooms on every floor.
- Until 1870, the only direct rail line from New York to Boston passed through Willimantic.
- The Willimantic Footbridge is the only pedestrian bridge east of the Mississippi to span a road, railroad tracks, and a river.
- American Thread Mill #4 in Willimantic was the first industrial building designed to have electric illumination.
- In the early 20th Century, the largest factory complex in Connecticut was located in Willimantic.
- The Algonquin Gas Pipeline was constructed in the 1960s to stabilize energy supplies to New York and Boston.
- The Windham Freeway, a four-lane section of highway through Columbia, Mansfield, and Windham, was intended to be part of an Interstate connecting Hartford and Providence.
- The Mansfield Hollow Dam was constructed in 1949 to protect downstream communities from flooding during Hurricanes.
- Thread for space suits and baseballs was produced in Willimantic.

This history of manufacturing innovation continues today. Learn more about the Quiet Corner Innovation Cluster.

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