



PRESS RELEASE

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**COMCAST AND DISTRICT NEW HAVEN MARK GRAND OPENING
OF COMCAST BUSINESS INNOVATION LOUNGE**

***Partnership Delivers Space for Innovators and Future Technology Leaders
at The District Innovation and Venture Center***

NEW HAVEN, CT – (January 16, 2019) – Representatives from District New Haven, District Innovation and Venture Center and Comcast were joined today by New Haven Mayor Toni N. Harp, Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney, Governor Ned Lamont’s Chief of Staff Ryan Drajewicz and the Greater New Haven Chamber, to celebrate the grand opening of the Comcast Business Innovation Lounge at The District Innovation and Venture Center, which is located within the District New Haven campus. The Comcast Business Innovation Lounge is a dedicated workspace where innovators and future technology leaders can collaborate and includes access to Comcast’s Xfinity WiFi service and a high-definition video wall featuring Business X1 video service.

Last year, Comcast, District Innovation and Venture Center, CTNext, Elm City Innovation Collaborative, and a group of individual and corporate philanthropists, committed to combine their resources and expertise to create an innovative destination within the District New Haven campus that integrated public space, education in advanced technology and the wider New Haven community.

Comcast has committed nearly \$700,000 of cash and in-kind services to the District New Haven project, including a multi-gigabit (Gbps) high-speed internet connection; a full deployment of Comcast Business VoiceEdge®, which is a hosted cloud-based telephone system; Comcast Business video service, including Business X1 video service; and Xfinity WiFi, which has been deployed throughout the District New Haven campus.

“As Connecticut’s leader in connectivity and technology, we’re pleased to continue making a commitment and investment in the future of New Haven with the opening of the Comcast Business Innovation Lounge,” said Paul Savas, Vice President of Comcast Business in Comcast’s Western New England Region, which is headquartered in Connecticut. “We believe this space, as well as our technology, will play a critical role in helping District New Haven reach its innovation goals, in addition to providing a meeting place for new entrepreneurs and those entering the technology community.”

“Connecticut is home to some of the most highly trained, skilled workers in the country, and having public-private partnerships like this one in New Haven will only further our efforts to let businesses know that our state is where the nation’s future technology leaders are located,” said Governor Ned Lamont. “We are serious about making Connecticut a leading center of technology innovation and entrepreneurial growth. I applaud the efforts of Comcast, District New Haven, and everyone whose efforts helped create this important workspace.”

“District New Haven is exactly the kind of collaboration Senate Democrats imagined when we led the creation of the Connecticut Innovations program,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney. “The new Comcast Business Innovation Lounge has the ability to assemble a community of entrepreneurs who will inspire new and innovative thinking, which helps spur the growth of companies and jobs in New Haven and the region.”

“New Haven is proud to support the development of District New Haven in partnership with companies like Comcast and initiatives like the Elm City Innovation Collaborative, which is funded by the state’s Innovation Places program,” said Mayor Toni N. Harp. “The launch of this Comcast Business Innovation Lounge is one more example of how public-private partnerships deliver spaces and programs to residents that will help power the state’s knowledge-based economy.”

“Comcast has been a catalyst to our organization’s mission of improving the outcomes of the region’s entrepreneurial and technology ecosystem. As a result of their partnership, we have been able to rally the support of additional partners, such as Holberton School and U of Next, that allow us to bring critical education and workforce development programming to the state,” said David Salinas, founder of District New Haven and the District Innovation and Venture Center, a nonprofit located within the District New Haven campus.

The District Innovation and Venture Center also includes the first East Coast location for Holberton School, an innovative two-year higher-education program for software engineers that uses project-based peer-learning to help students acquire the necessary skills for professional success and a lifelong career in the field.

About District New Haven

District New Haven is the only full-service business campus in the northeast using real estate to create entrepreneurial density, excitement and an ecosystem whose purpose is to support and retain innovative people and the businesses they power. District is a one-stop campus that facilitates all stages of innovation and economic growth through small to mid-sized office spaces, coworking, rich amenities, education/workforce development, community, early-stage investment and incubation of startups.

About District Innovation and Venture Center

District Innovation and Venture Center (DIVC), a nonprofit started by District New Haven, creates workforce development and educational programs around technology talent development, and provides entrepreneurial support with the goal of improving the economic impact of the region's business ecosystem.

About Comcast Business

Comcast Business offers Ethernet, Internet, Wi-Fi, Voice, TV and Managed Enterprise Solutions to help organizations of all sizes transform their business. Powered by an advanced network, and backed by 24/7 customer support, Comcast Business is one of the largest contributors to the growth of Comcast Cable. Comcast Business is the nation's largest cable provider to small and mid-size businesses and has emerged as a force in the enterprise market; recognized over the last two years by leading industry associations as one of the fastest growing providers of Ethernet services.

About Comcast Corporation

Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA) is a global media and technology company with three primary businesses: Comcast Cable, NBCUniversal, and Sky. Comcast Cable is one of the United States' largest video, high-speed internet, and phone providers to residential customers under the Xfinity brand, and also provides these services to businesses. It also provides wireless and security and automation services to residential customers under the Xfinity brand. NBCUniversal is global and operates news, entertainment and sports cable networks, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, television production operations, television station groups, Universal Pictures, and Universal Parks and Resorts. Sky is one of Europe's leading media and entertainment companies, connecting customers to a broad range of video content through its pay television services. It also provides communications services, including residential high-speed internet, phone, and wireless services. Sky operates the Sky News broadcast network and sports and entertainment networks, produces original content, and has exclusive content rights. Visit www.comcastcorporation.com for more information.

About Holberton School

With campuses in San Francisco and New Haven, CT, as well as Bogota and Medellin, Columbia, [Holberton](#) trains software engineers using a revolutionary teaching method based on project-based and peer learning. The college alternative is free until students find a job. Graduates have been placed in high-impact engineering positions at companies like Apple, Tesla, Facebook and LinkedIn. Students are supported by mentors and investors who are leaders in technology, sports and entertainment, including: [Grammy-Award winner NE-YO](#), actor and social activist [Priyanka Chopra](#), New York Jets standout [Kelvin Beachum](#); and technology visionaries [Jeff Weiner \(LinkedIn CEO\)](#), [Yahoo! founder Jerry Yang](#), [Docker founder Solomon Hykes](#) and [Upwork CEO Stephane Kasriel](#). Go to www.holbertonschool.com to learn more.

About U of Next

U of Next's mission is to develop literacy and fluency in 21st Century skills, both technical (Data Science, Coding for non-coders, Digital Storytelling) and human (Collaboration & Community, Social & Organizational Leadership). Their work has been

applied in North America and Europe with organizations such as IBM, J&J, and Facebook as well as school districts, non-profits, and social entrepreneurial ventures.

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