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ACG chapter recognized for membership growth

By Mark Ginocchio
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In seven years, the Connecticut chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth has blossomed like a fast-rising Fortune 500 company - its membership increasing from five members to more than 250.

The organization has been recognized for its astronomical growth, as well as its programming and networking events for its members.

The state chapter, which brings together financial professionals focused on middle-market corporate growth, was honored by its parent organization, the Association for Corporate Growth, as Chapter of the Year for all mid-market ACG organizations with less than 400 members.

"This really means a lot to us as an organization because it means we're doing something right," said Ramsey Goodrich, state chapter president and managing director of Carter Morse & Mathias, a Fairfield investment banking firm. "The Connecticut chapter has been absolutely booming. Our programs have been pretty compelling."


ACG has 53 chapters throughout North America, Europe and Asia and for the first time this year, decided to break up its Chapter of the Year award by creating a separate category for mid-market organizations.

That change prevented Connecticut from competing with ACG's seven biggest chapters in markets like New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

"It was just unfair" for mid-market organizations to compete against large market chapters with more financial resources for recruitment and events, said Harris Smith, chairman of ACG, based in Chicago. "If you take a look at Connecticut and what it has done, it has grown exponentially, they have tremendously high-quality programs and they have great leadership. These guys are like the little engine that could."


The Connecticut group was credited by Smith for hosting joint events with other state organizations like the Connecticut Hedge Fund Association and the Connecticut Venture Capital Group.

This month, ACG Connecticut and the Venture Capital Group held a joint conference about growing



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"Not all chapters think big like that," Smith said of the joint forums. "They've aligned themselves and done some exciting things."

Goodrich said the chapter wanted to link with organizations with a "relevant constituency."

Other lower Fairfield County business observers said the success of the state's ACG chapter is indicative of the strength of the region's economy.

"Fairfield County is a very strong hotbed for economic growth, and this clearly indicates there is a tremendous amount of opportunity here," said Jack Condlin, president of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce.

While Goodrich said his organization wouldn't have been recognized without the strength of its alliances and programs, he agreed with the assessment of the region.

"When you look at the world, where are the financial resources?" Goodrich said. "Fairfield County."

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