

President's Perspective

Thoughts, ideas and perspectives from Larry L. Bingaman, President and CEO

Educating Future Leaders

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At the Regional Water Authority (RWA), our higher purpose goes beyond the technical aspects of delivering water for life. It also includes the overall well-being of our community and a deep belief in tapping the power of education to transform lives.

We believe that educating tomorrow's leaders is the key to economic growth as education opens the door to endless opportunities and broadens horizons.

That's why, for the past 25 years, the RWA has offered hands-on environmental education programs to show young people how their actions impact the ecosystem. Our Whitney Water Center, located a few feet from where our region's water system began in 1862, serves as the base for water science and environmental programs for over 10,000 students in our district each year.

Our education programs also build partnerships between schools and the business community. Earlier this year, as part of our continuing commitment to mentor and educate future leaders of the water utility industry, we officially adopted New Haven's Common Ground High School, a unique learning environment on a 20-acre campus where students learn about local and global environmental issues.

Down through the years, the RWA has worked with Common Ground students and staff through our annual environmental careers summer camp and by providing support for several other initiatives. Through our new partnership with the school, we are not only building on these opportunities and investing in students and their families – we are investing in our communities and the region through both financial and experiential support.

And, to meet the region's workforce needs, the RWA recently collaborated with Gateway Community College and Southern Connecticut State University to pioneer a first-of-its-kind public utility management degree and certification program. This landmark initiative provides opportunities for students to pursue careers in the water, electric and natural gas utility industries.

When the business community becomes intertwined in the education process, both the students and businesses prosper. The learning opportunities for students and business employees are invaluable, and there's no better way for employers to prepare tomorrow's workforce than to invest in student training and adopt-a-school programs.

In today's fast-changing world, education is a critical element for organizational success. It is how companies like the RWA continue to succeed.

Simply put, a safe, reliable water supply is essential to a healthy, thriving and vibrant community. Our future success depends on our ability to innovate. And, our ability to innovate relies on our ability to tap a world-class education system.

Join the conversation. Tell us how your business is advancing educational opportunities and economic growth in the region.