Manchester, CT – Members and friends of the Connecticut Building Congress discussed the changing higher education environment last night at Manchester Community College. The discussion included a range of topics observing the effects to a campus’ facilities caused by Higher Education’s changing approach to recruitment, retention, and increasing costs. Dr. Richard Bachoo (Chief Administrative Office, Central Connecticut State University) and Darlene Mancini-Brown (Director of Facilities and Planning, Manchester Community College) provided the state institution perspective. While Tom Curran, RA (Director of Campus Planning & Design Fairfield University) and Todd Andrews (Vice President, College Relations & Advancement, Goodwin College) completed the story with the private institution’s perspective. The panel was moderated by Tom Beebe (ARCADIS (formerly Vice President of Facilities, University of New Haven))

The panel discussed their institution’s master plans and how that might affect construction planning in the next two, five, and ten years. Attendees were treated to a discussion that touched on Fairfield University’s focus on its campus’ aesthetic, Goodwin College’s efforts to compete against the growing forces of for-profit distance learning institutions, Manchester Community College’s plans to service both traditional age students and continuing education students, and Central Connecticut’s efforts to work with the other state college’s to deliver efficient learning experiences to all students.

Tom DiBlasi of DiBlasi Associates, PC was honored for his long running participation and leadership at CBC, by receiving CBC’s “Special Member Recognition Award”.

CBC will meet again on March 19th in Meriden, CT to discuss New Urbanism & Transit Oriented Development in Connecticut. Registration is available on CBC’s website, www.cbc-ct.org.

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Photographs Attached:
IMG_4196 – The Panel (from Left): Dr. Richard Bachoo, Tom Curran, Todd Andrews, and Darlene Mancini-Brown
IMG_4165 – Tom DiBlasi (left) accepting the “Special Member Recognition Award” from CBC President Ron Goodin (right)

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Contact: Rich Bergan
Marketing Chair
Connecticut Building Congress
rabergan@berganwood.com
203.626.1717

Theresa Casey, FSMPS, CPSM
Executive Director
Connecticut Building Congress
cbc@cbc-ct.org
860.228.0163