

Following the ground breaking ceremony for UConn's new Engineering and Science Building on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, three members of the Connecticut General Assembly visited and toured UConn's Center for Clean Energy Engineering and Fraunhofer Center for Energy Innovation. The focus of their visit was to learn more about the cutting edge technology and research being conducted at the centers.

- Rep. Lonnie Reed, 102nd General Assembly District serving Branford/Short Beach, Pawson Park, Indian Neck & Branford Hills and House Chair for the Energy and Technology Committee
- Rep. Tim Ackert, 8th General Assembly District serving Columbia, Coventry, Tolland, and Vernon and Ranking Member of the legislature's Energy and Technology Committee
- Rep. Gayle Mulligan, 55th General Assembly District serving Andover, Bolton, Hebron, and Marlborough and serves on the Appropriations, Education and Environment committees



Left to right: Prof Ugur Pasaogullari, Reps. Gayle Mulligan, Tim Ackert, Prof. Prabhakar Singh, and Rep. Lonnie Reed

Professor Prabhakar Singh, Center Director for the Clean Energy Engineering and the Fraunhofer Center for Energy Innovation led the laboratory tour and provided an overview of current research activities at both centers. Professor Singh spoke about transforming "Discovery to Deployment" and how the centers have developed research with federal and state agencies, industry, and research organizations. The representatives participated in discussions pertaining to enabling technologies ranging from fuel cells to anaerobic digestion, nano-filtration, electrochemical energy storage,



power management and UConn's plan for micro-grid on the Depot campus. Breakthrough in advanced catalysis, adsorbents, membrane materials were discussed along with overview of federal, state and industry supported programs.

During the laboratory tour, Professor Singh also provided an overview of the innovative research that is currently being conducted with local industries and addressed the CT energy roadmap for distributed power generation, large scale energy storage, farm waste utilization and combined heat and power generation, water filtration, zero emissions vehicle and transportation infrastructure. Fuel cell technology was of particular interest and how the centers are engaged in developing materials and processes for enhancing life, performance and reliability.

The representatives were very pleased and excited about the research that is being conducted at both centers. The center looks forward to many more visits from the state, federal and industry partners and the opportunity to collaborate and work on projects that address Connecticut's energy roadmap.