

Consortium Roundtable Looks at Academic Achievement of Minority Males

Responding to growing data that suggests many minority males are experiencing barriers to their academic success, the Consortium organized a regional roundtable this fall on the topic. A panel analyzed trends and reported on promising programs and policies for a large group of academics and community and business representatives.

Calvin Woodland, President of Capital Community College and Board member of the Consortium, served as moderator. The panel members included Patrick Nicoletti, Assistant Professor, Saint Joseph College; Stephen Perry, Principal, Capital Preparatory Magnet School; and Adrian Wood, Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education.



REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE: *Calvin Woodland, President of Capital Community College, moderated the Consortium Roundtable on The Academic Achievement of Minority Males: Trends, Challenges, and Remedies. The program was held on September 7, 2006 at Capital Community College.*

Adrian Wood reviewed data from Connecticut that showed Hispanic and African American boys and young men lagging behind their white male peers on important indicators, including graduation rates from high school and achievement on the Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test.

Steve Perry encouraged the audience to consider policies that are working well in magnet schools, such as longer school days and a longer school year. He also advocated an

environment that emphasizes choice in public schools. Professor Nicoletti engaged the group with a thoughtful presentation about the relevance of success in early childhood to later academic achievement.

Consortium Executive Director Rosanne Druckman commented, "The Consortium organized and sponsored this program because of the subject's importance to higher education and to MetroHartford. If we cannot turn this situation around, there will be dire consequences for our community." ■

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The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education is a collaborative endeavor of the public and private colleges and universities in the Hartford area. Founded in 1972, the Consortium is a vehicle for the development of joint programs that serve students, faculty, and the wider community. Its programs and initiatives include Career Beginnings, Consortium Grant Program, Cross-Registration, Fifth Graders Go to College, and Regional Roundtables.

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Career Beginnings Program Expands to Serve Bloomfield Students

The Hartford Consortium's Career Beginnings Program is expanding to serve students in Bloomfield High School and the Big Picture High School. With a grant from CIGNA, the program will focus on college planning services for Bloomfield's ninth graders. Students will be offered trips to local campuses, workshops on the information and skills that will assist them in the college

admissions process, and one-on-one advising on education and career planning.

Karen Parks, the Director of Secondary Schools in Bloomfield, said, "Career Beginnings complements the work in our high schools that emphasizes academic excellence and rigorous college preparation. We look forward to a strong partnership." ■

New Publication on Campus Resources

In August 2006, the Consortium published *Campus Resources: A Guide to Community Service Programs in the Capital Region 2006-2007*. The brochure describes local campus initiatives that promote economic development and enhance the quality of life in Metro Hartford. There



is also a sampling of lectures and forums available throughout the year. Your complementary copy is available by calling the Consortium at (860) 906-5016. ■

Thank You, Saint Joseph College

The Consortium regrets that the article on the Fifth Graders Go to College program in the Spring 2006 edition of *Consortium News* did not mention Saint Joseph College as a host campus. This

was an omission. Saint Joseph College participated with twelve other campuses, and we want to recognize and thank their faculty and staff. ■

Service Learning Symposium—A Big Success

Service Learning is not new to local campuses, but its impact is growing. Ten years ago, Trinity College began a dedicated effort to expand the number of courses that included service learning. In order to reflect on that history and learn from the experience of other campuses, Trinity worked with faculty from Capital Community College and University of Hartford and hosted a symposium on service learning for local colleges and universities. Hartford Consortium and the President's Cornerstone Fund at Trinity College provided grants to support the conference, which was held on October 10, 2006.

Several panels provided examples of local service learning projects that had a transformative affect on students and community partners. Margery Steinberg, Associate Professor from the Barney Business School at University of Hartford, described how undergraduates provide business-planning services to small businesses in Hartford's Upper Albany Neighborhood. This project, known as the Micro Business Incubator Program, received an award from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development because of its many successes with Hartford businesses.

Dina Anselmi, Associate Professor of Psychology from Trinity College, reported on a freshman seminar that engaged



SERVICE LEARNING PANEL: *Dina Anselmi from Trinity College is shown participating on a panel at the symposium. The panelists presented information on the Children's Rights project, a highly successful partnership between Hartford Magnet Middle School and Trinity College.*

Hartford middle school students on the issue of children's rights. Trinity students worked alongside the younger students, researching various issues. At the end of the year, the middle school students participated in a miniconference to showcase their new understanding of this complex legal field. In a poignant video shown at the symposium, the middle school students and the Trinity students talked about how this learning experience challenged them and stretched their abilities.

Continuing the momentum generated by the conference, the Consortium will host a meeting of campus representatives in early 2007 to share best practices and explore collaborations. In addition, Trinity College invites local faculty to a workshop on January 17, 2007 from

9:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. that will cover writing with community partners and community mapping. For more information on the Trinity workshop, please contact Elly Jacobson at (860) 297-4275 or elinor.jacobson@trincoll.edu. ■

If you have ideas or comments about future Consortium activities pertaining to service learning, please contact Rosanne Druckman at rdruckman@ccc.commnet.edu

“Service Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community-service instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

—National Service Learning
Website: www.servicelearning.org

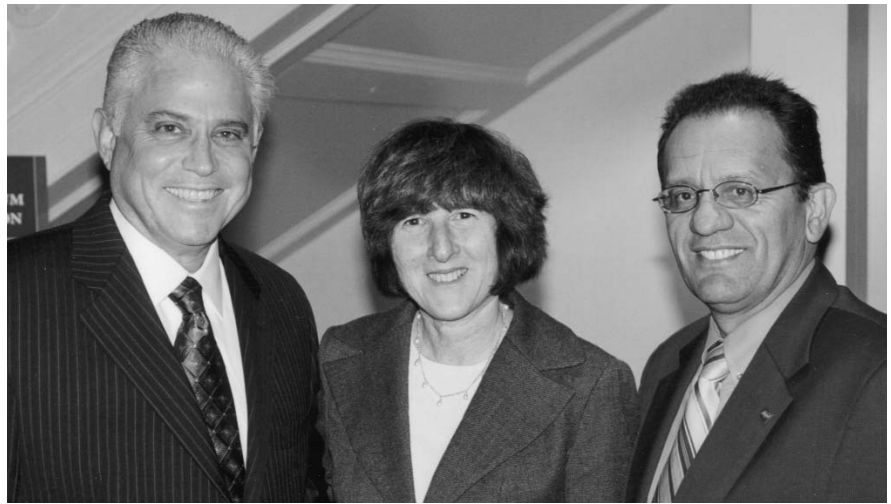
Consortium Welcomes New Faculty

During a program at the Old State House in October, Heidi Hadsell, the Consortium's Chair and the President of the Hartford Seminary, led a program that briefed new area faculty about Consortium activities and the Hartford region. Featured speakers included Ken Kahn, the Executive Director of the Greater Hartford Arts Council, and the Honorable Eddie Perez, Mayor of Hartford. ■■



HEIDI HADSELL, CHAIR OF THE CONSORTIUM: *Heidi Hadsell was the master of ceremonies at the program for new faculty.*

NEW FACULTY AND ACADEMIC LEADERS FROM CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY: *New Provost, Carl Lovitt (right), enjoys the reception at the Old State House with new faculty member, Carlos Liard-Muriente (left), and new director of the George Muirhead Center for International Education, Frank Schorn (middle).*



MAYOR PEREZ DISCUSSES PLANS FOR HARTFORD: *Mayor Eddie Perez (right) briefed new faculty and academic leaders about Hartford 2010, a new planning process that will stimulate private investment in the city. Before the program, Mayor Perez was greeted by Walter Harrison, President of University of Hartford, and Rosanne Druckman, Consortium Executive Director.*



NEW FACULTY FROM RENSSELAER AT HARTFORD AND UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD: *David Williams, Director of the Greater Hartford UConn Campus (left), meets with new faculty members Anupam Saraph, Rensselaer at Hartford (middle), and Lynroy Grant, University of Hartford.*

