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**CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JOINS NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO HELP MORE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCEED**
Capital is one of three in State chosen to receive support

Hartford, CT - Capital Community College has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to participate in *Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count* by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. Achieving the Dream is a national initiative to improve student success in community colleges. Capital Community College is one of three community colleges in Connecticut selected to join Achieving the Dream this year. The grant will support the College's efforts to develop a plan to improve student achievement. Capital is also eligible to receive up to \$400,000 from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation to implement the plan over the next four years.

Start-up funding for Achieving the Dream has been provided by the Lumina Foundation for Education, which will continue providing funding for the 27 community colleges that joined the initiative in 2004 as well as for other elements of the initiative's work.

Achieving the Dream is a multi-year national initiative to help more community colleges succeed. The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that traditionally have faced the most significant barriers to success, including low-income students and students of color. Achieving the Dream emphasizes the use of data to drive change and focuses on measurable outcomes, especially closing achievement gaps.

"The challenge for Capital Community College is that it serves a community where poverty impedes the progress of many citizens to advance educationally and economically," said Dr. Calvin Woodland, Capital's president. "Without the new strategies and interventions that the initiative will make possible, a generation of under-prepared students who come to Capital will be lost."

Capital Community College was chosen based on its commitment to increasing student success and its vision for accomplishing this goal. The two other Connecticut colleges selected to participate in Achieving the Dream are Housatonic Community College and Norwalk Community College.

Achieving the Dream is providing a range of support to Capital and other participating community colleges. Each college has the support of a coach and a data facilitator. Many Achieving the Dream coaches are former college presidents and help the colleges develop strategies, set priorities and implement institutional improvements.

In addition to Nellie Mae Education Foundation and Lumina Foundation, other partner organizations providing support to the initiative are the American Association of Community Colleges; Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas-Austin; Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; Jobs for the Future; KnowledgeWorks Foundation; MDC; MDRC; and Public Agenda.

Located in the center of Hartford, Connecticut, Capital Community College is a public, open-door educational institution committed to the metropolitan community it serves. Its mission is to provide continually evolving higher education and lifelong learning to people of diverse cultures, abilities and ages, and to serve the needs of community and government agencies, business and industry.

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