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**CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AWARDED TWO GRANTS FROM NELLIE MAE
TO ADDRESS COLLEGE SUCCESS**

Hartford, CT – Capital Community College has been awarded two grants from The Nellie Mae Education Foundation to support college initiatives that tackle the issue of better preparing students for college.

Last year Capital was one of only 35 community colleges in the country invited to participate in *Achieving the Dream*, a national initiative to improve student success in community colleges. The \$122,009 recently awarded will sustain Capital's efforts in developing a plan to help those students who have traditionally faced the most significant barriers to success, chiefly low-income students and students of color.

Achieving the Dream emphasizes the use of data to drive change, and one of the startling discoveries uncovered early on in Capital Community College's tracking was that up to 90% of first-time, degree seeking students entering the college require extensive supplementary academic support in reading, writing and math. This statistic mirrors a growing national trend, particularly among non-traditional adult learners making the transition from adult education to community college.

To address this issue, Capital was awarded the *Transition to Post Secondary Education Urban Corridor Project* grant of \$30,368. This grant will strengthen the existing bridge programs in Hartford that non-traditional students often rely upon before entering college. Although college transition bridge programs have reduced the skill gap in reading and writing, in mathematics that is not the case. In order to close the skill gap in their math curriculum, instructors from Hartford and Capital Community College will align and develop math curriculum to improve the level of math instruction at the adult secondary level. Capital and the adult education programs in Hartford, which already have strong partnerships, will design an approach to addressing this critical basic skill to increase college success for adult education students.

The grant will also support a one-day symposium to share and disseminate practices that demonstrate effective strategies and collaborations between the adult education and the community college. The program will include a national expert and/or colleagues from other urban community colleges who will share successful models.

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