

**CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PARTNER IN UNIQUE PILOT PROGRAM FOR
CERTIFIED NURSE AIDES (CNAs)**

Hartford, CT — Capital Community College, along with Capital Workforce Partners (CWP), Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and the 1199 Training and Upgrading Fund, are partners in a pilot program designed to prepare Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) for more advanced allied health or related fields. The 60-week program, Bridges to Health Care Training, emerged from a grant awarded to CWP, and was officially launched on January 31st of this year. It is expected to conclude in May, 2006.

"Providing a career ladder opportunity to these individuals is such a critical step in addressing today's health care employment needs, in addition to building a skilled workforce into the future," says Tom Phillips, CEO, Capital Workforce Partners.

Monday, February 28, at 4 pm, a press conference will be held at the College in the second floor Community Room. Speakers will be Capital Community College's Interim President Booker T. DeVaughn, Mayor Eddie Perez, Capital Workforce Partners' Tom Phillips, CREC's CEO, Bruce Douglas, and 1199's Steve Bender. In addition, four students will share their experiences about the program, which is already up and running.

Marie Spivey, RN of Capital Workforce Partners and a Capital Community College nursing alumna, is pleased that Hartford is taking action to deal with the shortage of skilled health professionals. "This unique partnership and the investment provides professional advancement opportunities to 25 fortunate health care nursing assistants, and is so important to addressing staffing needs throughout our healthcare community as the nationwide shortage of nursing and allied health professionals heats up," she said.

Twenty-five (25) employed CNAs with a high school diploma or GED were recruited from a variety of sources. The participants are now earning college credits applicable to continued study as well as specialized employability skills training applicable to their field of study. The program provides a "bridge" to other educational programs that offer personal career growth, advanced opportunities for individual and family economic success, and a quality, more diverse workforce in the Hartford region.