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CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GRADUATES OVER 400
AT COLLEGE'S 61ST COMMENCEMENT

Hartford, CT - Last night Capital Community College celebrated the college's 61st commencement at the Connecticut Convention Center. The largest graduating class in the college's history, 450 degrees and certificates were awarded.

Kathleen Bolduc, chief marketing officer at Travelers, was the keynote speaker. Bolduc is the driving force behind *Capital Crossroads to Careers*, an initiative Travelers partnered with Capital Community College to launch last fall that provides financial support, mentoring and paid internships in the insurance and the financial services industry.

She told the story of her own struggles with math, and how she conquered it by earning her master's degree in economics at Trinity College. Bolduc implored students to seek out positive mentors who can help them navigate the ups and downs in their lives, but to not just seek out those of position and wealth. "You can learn something from everyone who crosses your path...and you, in turn, can enhance their lives," she said. "It's about mutual respect and being fully present every moment of your life."

Jenna Cosker of East Hartford, this year's salutatorian, spoke. Cosker said that the personal attention she received at Capital, where professors knew her by name after the first week of classes, boosted her confidence and helped her excel. "There is genuine support at Capital -- academic help, of course, but also real listening -- real concern --- about my goals and needs," she said.

Joan Marchessault, Capital's Business & Technology Department Chair, was presented with the Educational Excellence & Distinguished Service Award, and a Merit Award was given to Charles Teale, Chief of the Hartford Fire Department and a Capital alumnus. A posthumous degree was presented to the family of Jessica Rodriguez, an Early Childhood Education student who died last year.