

For Immediate Release: October 27, 2006
Contact: Jane Bronfman, Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(860) 906-5103; jbronfman@ccc.commnet.edu

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES NEW DEGREE PROGRAM IN GERONTOLOGY

Hartford, CT – Capital Community College is proud to announce a new degree program in Gerontology, beginning January, 2007, the start of Capital’s spring semester. The program will prepare students interested in working with older aged populations, for gerontological certification in specific health care fields, such as nursing, physical therapy, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, as well as promoting knowledge about aging for those working in social service agencies and community centers. Knowledge in gerontology is applicable for those working in housing, architectural, and advertising fields, as well. It will also provide a foundation for students planning to earn Baccalaureate and Master’s degrees in Gerontology in order to teach, conduct research and assume administrative positions in the field of aging.

According to Charles F. Longino, former president of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, most students today, regardless of their careers, will spend their peak working years “selling to, providing services and designing things for persons of retirement age.” With 35 million people in the U.S. age 65 or older, he makes a good case for those who know, understand and like older people having a clear competitive edge in almost any market place.

“We’re excited about this wonderful new program that addresses a significantly underserved area in Greater Hartford,” said Joan Leach, professor emeritus in nursing at Capital (MS, ME, Certified in Gerontological Nursing/American Nurses Association, Certified in Gerontology/University of Connecticut). “Not only is it a clear career opportunity, as prospects in the field continue to grow, but it will also impact the needs of the growing aging population itself.”

Josiah Ricardo, associate professor and coordinator of the social service degree program at Capital, is equally enthused about the new Gerontology curriculum. “This program provides students interested in working with an aging population with an essential educational experience in an area of employment progressively more in demand,” he said.

In addition to the Associate Degree program, Capital Community College will offer a Gerontology Certificate Program. The certificate program will help physical therapists, social service workers, medical assistants, nurses and others who want to acquire a specialization in their field. It should also attract workers changing careers, or those who wish to enhance their knowledge of issues related to the aging, for instance a lawyer whose clients are elderly and in need of legal guidance in estate planning or elsewhere.

For more information, call Josiah Ricardo at (860) 906-5233 or email jricardo@ccc.commnet.edu

- CCC -