



Foundation for Excellent Schools

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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

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600 Hartford Elementary School Students Off to College

On Friday, April 30, some 600 students from the Dwight Elementary School in Hartford, Connecticut take their first step toward higher education with a journey to Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in New Britain. At CCSU, they will spend the morning meeting with college students and professors and engaging in hands-on activities designed to inspire them to pursue higher education.

Joined by Dwight Elementary Principal Kathy Greider, Hartford Public Schools Superintendent Robert Henry, Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, and Travelers Foundation President John Motley, the students (grades K-5) will tour the campus and attend special sessions featuring age-appropriate activities in geography, physics, robotics, music, dance, and story telling. Also participating will be Karen Judge, program director at the Foundation for Excellent Schools (FES), which is coordinating the event. The visit is part of a comprehensive early college awareness program Dwight School has developed in partnership with CCSU, with support from FES, the Kellogg Foundation, and the Travelers Foundation.

“Early college awareness is a key step to raising aspirations,” said Rick Dalton, president of FES. “It helps young students see possibilities in their future and, most important, it helps them understand how to access those opportunities. We are grateful to Central Connecticut State University for their visionary national leadership in helping to launch College Awareness Week.”

CCSU President Richard L. Judd noted that the event is a “wonderful opportunity for Hartford’s children to learn more about higher education. We hope the visit will inspire the students to work harder in school so that they too have the chance to realize their dreams and aspirations. CCSU is proud to be working in partnership with FES, the Kellogg Foundation, and the Travelers Foundation. And I want to single out for my special thanks the Traveler’s exceptional generosity in supporting this effort.”

Dean of the School of Education Ellen Whitford said “Since its founding in 1849, CCSU has a strong commitment to the education of all children and to preparing teachers to work with diverse populations. This program is just one example of the

work CCSU does with public schools through our network of Professional Development Schools.”

CCSU and Dwight Elementary are partners in The Century Program, a nationwide FES initiative that is matching 100 colleges with 100 schools to promote personal and academic achievement for underserved youth. CCSU students and administrators will help Dwight students understand how to access higher education, and to encourage them to achieve the academic excellence that is vital for reaching college and for thriving on its educational opportunities and challenges.

Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez said “The Century Program is an important strategy for helping Hartford reach its goal that 25 percent more students will attend college.”

For information on the CCSU-Dwight partnership, contact Rick Dalton, President of FES, 802-462-3170 (dalton@fesnet.org) Mark McLaughlin, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications at CCSU, 860-832-0065 (mclaughlinm@ccsu.edu) or Kathleen Greider, Dwight Elementary School Principal, 860-695-3400 (kgreider@hartfordschools.org).