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## **HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HIRE STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FACILITATOR**

--New position jointly funded with businesses and foundations--

(HARTFORD, December 14, 2004) – Dr. Shuana K. Tucker has joined the Hartford Public Schools as Facilitator of Strategic Alliances. In this newly created position, she will be responsible for evaluating, focusing, and coordinating the dozens of partnerships between the city's schools and the business community, area colleges and universities, as well as non-profit agencies.

Dr. Tucker will look at the school-community alliances to determine how they can most effectively improve students' learning, especially in reading, mathematics, and writing.

This new position is jointly funded by Hartford Public Schools and the Hartford Education Collaborative, a group of businesses and charitable foundations. Members of the Collaborative include The Hartford, Mass Mutual, The Phoenix, St. Paul Travelers, Travelers Life & Annuity (Citigroup), United Technologies, The Robert and Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, Aetna, CIGNA, Bank of America and Northeast Utilities.

Currently, there are 38 private sector business partnerships and 14 higher education institutions involved with the Hartford Public Schools. Also, approximately 50 Hartford-area nonprofit agencies are working with the schools. According to a recent report, the total value of these partnerships is \$8.6 million, mostly in donated services and materials.

Commenting on Dr. Tucker's hiring, School Superintendent Robert Henry said, "We are indeed fortunate to have so many friends who are willing to step up to the plate to help our schools. By creating this position, we will be able to evaluate and focus all of this positive energy so that we can be sure these resources are being applied to yield maximum results."

Lynda Godkin, Senior Vice President at The Hartford, said, "It's not that we need more help. We need reorganized and streamlined help in order to leverage our collective resources to maximize students' academic achievement. We want to see the needle move in a positive direction."

John Motley, President of the St. Paul/Travelers Foundation, said, "What's critical is that we find a way to show a direct correlation between our partnership efforts and student success as measured by test results, high school graduation rates, and the number of students going on to college."

A native of New Orleans, Dr. Tucker comes to Hartford from Washington, D.C., where she held positions at the U.S. Department of Education, the McKenzie Group, and Texas Instruments. She also has experience as a private consultant on education.

She holds a BS degree from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Masters of Public Administration from Louisiana State University, and a Ph. D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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