NEWS

Connecticut Technical High School System

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg Commissioner Dr. Abigail L. Hughes Superintendent

For immediate release:

Friday, February 18, 2005

Contact: Tom Murphy 807.2217

Regional Business-Health-Education Team Formed to Recharge Wright Tech

A regional coalition of education, health, business and community leaders began work Thursday to pinpoint ways to reclaim and reinvigorate Wright Tech.

"J.M. Wright Technical High School in Stamford has a rich history and a strong reputation for building the careers of hundreds of Fairfield County's business leaders. We had a frank and productive discussion of what needs to be done to help restore this great institution's name and its connection to our families, communities and regional economy," said leaders of the new group.

The group includes representatives of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce, the Wright Tech PFO and Alumni Association, Stamford city hall and board of education, local employers and community leaders.

Also supporting the work of the group and participating in the discussions Thursday are state senator Andrew McDonald and representatives Jim Shapiro and Carlo Leone.

The Committee will focus on the following:

- o Improved partnerships with employers, community agencies and higher education;
- o Region-wide recruitment efforts;
- Search Committee for new principal;
- o Establish non profit foundation to support scholarships and other student opportunities;
- Review and expand technical programs; and
- o Keep the community/school informed on progress.

Norwalk Community College and CTHSS are drafting partnership agreements to connect their programs of study, beginning with the new health technology program at Wright Tech and extending into other technical fields. CTHSS will be working with Stamford and Norwalk Hospitals to provide internships and cooperative work experiences for students who will enroll in Wright Tech's new health technology program next year.

The committee met at the Stamford Chamber of Commerce offices on Thursday, February 17, 2005.

Members attending include: Mayor Dannel Malloy, Stamford; Archie Elan, Stamford Board of Education; Jack Condlin, Stamford Chamber of Commerce; Michael Dimenstein, Norwalk Hospital; Pam Kaprowski, Stamford Hospital; Michael Ego, UConn Stamford; Jeffrey Cantor, Norwalk Community College; Al Barbarotta, AFB Facilities Management; Parent Faculty Organization (PFO) members Carlos and Nellie Valez, and Glenda Perry; and J.M. Wright Alumni Association members Al Sanseverino, Frank Macchio, and Tony Good. The group will be working with CTHSS superintendent Dr. Abigail L. Hughes and staff to bring new programs and improve existing programs at the facility.