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**Media Update**

## **Mayor Eddie A. Perez and Foundation for Excellent Schools Hosted Student Leadership Summit at Trinity College**

**Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez hosted a special student leadership summit at Trinity College this past Saturday. 40 Students from Hartford Public High School, Hartford Magnet Middle School, and Sport and Medical Sciences Academy were in attendance.**

While school budget concerns and labor negotiations generate headlines, students are assuming a significant and expanding role in their education. Students from four Hartford Public Schools that are members of The Century Program (TCP), an initiative launched by Mayor Eddie A. Perez and Foundation for Excellent Schools (FES), explored ways to improve their schools and communities. Participants engaged in goal setting and a roundtable discussion about leadership, among other activities.

Students from Hartford Public High School, Hartford Magnet Middle School, and Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, all in Hartford, as well as a high school class from Wadleigh Secondary School in Harlem, NY, were joined by representatives from Trinity College, St. Joseph's College, and University of Connecticut Greater Hartford Campus. The Summit also featured representatives from the Foundation for Excellent Schools, the City of Hartford, a youth development program called Success Enablers, and personalities from radio station Hot 93.7 FM.

Promoting student voice and leadership is a component of The Century Program, initiated by FES and supported by Mayor Eddie Perez and the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education. TCP has facilitated a partnership between Hartford Magnet Middle and Trinity College, one of four partnerships created between Hartford schools and area colleges.

**Mayor Eddie A. Perez says, “I have made higher education my priority, so I consider the partnerships forged between the Hartford schools and local colleges essential in reaching my goal to increase by 25 percent the number of Hartford students who attain bachelor’s degrees within the next four years.”**

**Mayor Perez also says, “The goal of the FES Leadership Summit is to help students assume a significant and expanding role in their education. The Summit reinforces my educational vision for Hartford students to raise expectations in the classroom and get these young people to strive for brighter futures.”**

With a \$1 million seed grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, TCP kicked off in November 2003 to link under-resourced schools with local colleges and universities. Sixty school/college partnerships make up the first two cohorts of The Century Program. This year, the number of participating schools and colleges will grow to 100. Each participating school has selected for TCP at least 100 students who are at risk of dropping out but who have the potential to graduate from high school and succeed in college.

For more information contact Rick Dalton, President, FES at 802-462-3170, [Dalton@fesnet.org](mailto:Dalton@fesnet.org) or visit the FES website, [www.fesnet.org](http://www.fesnet.org).