

News

From the Connecticut Commission on Children



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'It's amazing what one parent can do!'
**Parents from a dozen communities graduate
Wednesday from state leadership program**

Culminating 20 weeks of leadership training and hard work on community projects, 170 parents from across Connecticut will graduate Wednesday from the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), a family civics initiative of the Connecticut Commission on Children.

Parents from **Bridgeport, Danbury, Greenwich, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, Waterbury and Windsor** will graduate in ceremonies that begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, in the atrium of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Local ceremonies already have been held.

Since 1992, more than 1,700 parents have made a difference in their communities with the help of PLTI. They have taken leadership roles for children in local parent-teacher organizations, parent involvement committees, boards of education, town commissions, city councils, nonprofit boards, and in the Connecticut General Assembly. Many of those graduates will be on hand Wednesday evening to congratulate the new class.

A graduation program, including a complete list of the graduates, may be downloaded at:
http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/PDFs/plti/PLTI_graduation_program_062409.pdf

PLTI improves the health, safety and learning of Connecticut's children by helping parents develop the leadership skills for making change in schools, communities, and state and local government. The program requires a retreat to develop group communication, 10 weeks of classes on the self and perception of leadership, 10 weeks of practicing democracy skills, and a community project based on the student's personal passions.

This year's community projects were spectacularly diverse. In Waterbury, one parent worked to create an after-school program on African culture. In Milford, another lobbied to get a traffic signal installed on a busy street. In Windsor, a third gave real-estate agents information about local programs and services for families with young children, so they could pass it along to new families.

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Research shows:

- Parents are their children's first and most important teachers;
- Children with involved parents get better grades and test scores, achieve more long-term academic success, and display more positive attitudes and behaviors; and
- When parents are involved, school and communities also benefit.

A recent longitudinal study of training graduates conducted by RMC Research Corporation concluded that "PLTI provides parents with new skills and knowledge for supporting child outcomes." (Read more at www.cga.ct.gov/coc/plti.htm.)

Graduates are available for interviews before the ceremonies. They will also be available afterward, as will dignitaries, alumni, and local program sponsors.