

The Connecticut General Assembly



*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

For IMMEDIATE Release
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LAWMAKERS & ADVOCATES ANNOUNCE CREATION OF LANDMARK COALITION TO CLOSE STATE'S ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Press conference Tuesday, 11/17 at 11 a.m. in LOB Room 1C

Lawmakers from the Connecticut General Assembly's Black & Puerto Rican Caucus, led by **State Representatives Jason Bartlett** (D-Bethel, Danbury, Redding), **Douglas McCrory** (D-Hartford), **Patricia Billie Miller** (D-Stamford), and **Gary Holder-Winfield** (D-New Haven), will hold a press conference on Tuesday, November 17, to announce the creation of a new statewide campaign with the objective of uniting and engaging parents, community and faith leaders, and local elected officials across the state in the effort to close Connecticut's achievement gap, which is the largest in the nation.

The lawmakers will be joined by a coalition of education and equal rights advocacy groups who are partners in Campaign LEARN (the Campaign for Leadership in Education, Achievement, and Reform Now). They will discuss the current condition of the achievement gap in Connecticut and also announce a series of town hall forums on the topic that will be held throughout Connecticut during the upcoming months. It is anticipated that information obtained by the lawmakers and advocacy groups during these town hall forums will impact education policy priorities of the General Assembly and lead to the introduction of key legislation during the 2010 legislative session that will address the achievement gap in a meaningful way.

Partners in Campaign LEARN scheduled to be represented at the press conference include: the General Assembly's Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, the Connecticut Black Alliance for Educational Options (CT BAEO), the State of Black Connecticut Alliance (SBCT), the Connecticut Commission on Children, the Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches, the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN), the Connecticut Charter Schools Network, and the Yale Law School Education Adequacy Project Clinic.

WHAT: Coalition of state legislators, education and equal rights advocates hold news conference to announce major new statewide campaign to close Connecticut's achievement gap

WHEN: Tuesday, November 17 at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Legislative Office Building, Room 1C, Hartford, CT

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