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New office brings new promise for CT's youth *The Governor's Prevention Partnership opens Wethersfield office*

WETHERSFIELD – Having completed its move to new, modern offices at 30 Jordan Lane in Wethersfield, The Governor's Prevention Partnership stands poised to aid community groups, schools and government agencies with efforts to protect young people from alcohol, drugs and bullying across the state as plans begin for the new school year. The Partnership's new facility includes expanded meeting rooms and a community training room. The training facility will be used to support community organizations and programs across The Governor's Prevention Partnership's core programming areas of mentoring, positive youth development and creating positive school climates.

The opening of the office was celebrated by a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, July 28, at 5 p.m., during an open house that offered The Partnership's many partners across the community a chance to see the new facility.

"The new Wethersfield office allows us to expand the range of trainings and events we can hold without having to rent space," said Jill K. Spinetti, President and CEO of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "That benefits our partners across the public and private sectors because it maximizes how much of our time can be spent on training, collaborating and working for the youth of Connecticut."

The move to the new office coincides with an increased focus on creating positive school climates in order to prevent bullying, preventing prescription drug abuse among Connecticut's youth and guiding youth through career mentoring. These efforts include adding two new program coordinators. One will provide resources and trainings to school administrators and educators in order to eliminate bullying; the second new program coordinator will work to engage employees from a wide variety of businesses to serve as mentors to help youth explore career options.

"We have been serving youth for over 20 years, and as the needs of our partners and Connecticut's youth change, we must adapt to meet those needs," said Spinetti. "The new office gives us another tool in the ongoing battle to keep Connecticut's youth safe, successful and drug-free today for a stronger work force tomorrow."



The increased focus on school climate follows The Partnerships sold-out 2010 Best Practice Conference, which drew over 200 teachers, social workers, principals and other school leaders from 58 Connecticut towns. The April conference focused on eliminating bullying and assisting with implementing Connecticut's 2008 anti-bullying law, which The Governor's Prevention Partnership helped to pass.

Raising awareness on the dangers of prescription drugs has been an increasing focus of The Governor's Prevention Partnership, highlighted by a partnership with Comcast to create the community forum "Tackling Prescription Drug Abuse Among Connecticut's Youth." This panel discussion, now being aired on Comcast On Demand and available on DVD, included young people and representatives from the medical, prevention, treatment and recovery fields.

About The Governor's Prevention Partnership

A not-for-profit partnership between state government and business leaders with a mission to keep Connecticut's youth safe, successful and drug-free today for a stronger workforce tomorrow, The Governor's Prevention Partnership has four key initiatives: The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, which establishes and supports youth mentoring programs across the state; The Operation Respect CT Initiative, which focuses on giving schools and communities the tools to create positive school climates and bully-free communities; The Connecticut Youth Wellness Initiative, focused on prevention of underage drinking, drug and prescription drug abuse; and The Media Partnership, which creates direct relationships with media to raise awareness of each initiative. The Partnership works in collaboration with local, regional and statewide providers and its efforts impact youth in every community in Connecticut. Co-chaired by Governor M. Jodi Rell and Donald Langer, President of AmeriChoice by UnitedHealthcare, The Partnership has worked since 1989 to maximize youth development and create Connecticut's work force of the future.

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