



# NEWS

30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
P: 860.523.8042 x 50 F: 860.236.9412 [www.preventionworksct.org](http://www.preventionworksct.org)

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**CONTACT:**  
Liz Connelly  
(860) 523-8042 x 50  
[Elizabeth.connelly@preventionworksct.org](mailto:Elizabeth.connelly@preventionworksct.org)

## **Governor Malloy calls for companies to continue support of youth at 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Prevention Partnership Luncheon**

*First Niagara commits \$100,000 to mentoring in CT*

*CEOs from Pitney Bowes and Webster Bank accept Partners In Prevention Awards for Innovation, Leadership*

*Dr. Susan Weinberger honored with William A. O'Neill Legacy Award*

NEW HAVEN Conn. – Governor Dannel Malloy, co-chair of The Governor's Prevention Partnership, announced that First Niagara will commit \$100,000 to mentoring programs in Connecticut during the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Governor's Luncheon held yesterday in New Haven. The Governor, who delivered a keynote rich with hope for creating a healthy future for all children in Connecticut, praised First Niagara, as well as Pitney Bowes and Webster Bank who respectively were awarded Partners In Prevention Awards for Innovation and Leadership. Murray Martin, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Pitney Bowes and Jim Smith, president and chief executive officer of Webster Bank offered acceptance remarks following presentation of the awards.

"These companies and their leadership are delivering on my mission that children are Connecticut's greatest resource," said Governor Malloy. "As hard as government, local and state, is trying to maintain a service level to help this generation of people through some of the most tumultuous times of their lives... as hard as you acknowledge we're trying...you come to the rescue, you find ways to give back, to build bridges, enter into mentoring programs, enter and promote education and intervention programs...to grab each child we can before they go down the wrong road or even after, you find ways, to bring them back and correct their path. I'm proud to have my name associated with this group of people who care so deeply and so passionately about our children. Thank you for what you do. I expect you to continue doing it. And I expect to broaden our partnership in the coming years."

First Niagara's \$100,000 contribution is made through the company's Mentoring Matters program, a corporate-wide charitable giving program that provides monetary and employee volunteer support to organized mentoring initiatives in their footprint. The funding will be used to strengthen the Partnership's efforts in Connecticut by helping local organizations design and implement mentoring programs for their members. First Niagara also will assist The Partnership in its efforts to recruit qualified mentors, specifically during National Mentoring Month in January. First Niagara is proud to

support The Governor's Prevention Partnership in its efforts to provide local organizations with the resources and training needed to meet nationally recognized quality standards for mentoring," said First Niagara New England Regional President, David Ring. "By empowering community leaders to better serve their youth, we are investing in Connecticut's workforce and positioning our state for future success." First Niagara is a community-oriented bank with 346 branches and 5,000 employees providing financial services to individuals, families and businesses in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Upstate New York.

Dr. Susan Weinberger, "Dr. Mentor" as she is affectionately known in the field, received The Partnership's William A. O'Neill Legacy Award given each year to an individual for vision, leadership and commitment in protecting Connecticut's youth.

"Dr. Weinberger truly embodies the spirit of this award," said Jill K. Spinetti, president of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "Always giving of her time and resources, Dr. Weinberger has crisscrossed the state for years meeting in board rooms and back rooms with large audiences and small groups of individuals who catch her enthusiasm and go on to reach more young people through mentoring. Her legacy is a better future for millions of young people."

Despite difficult economic times, hundreds of business leaders from across the state reconfirmed their commitment to keeping Connecticut's youth safe, successful and drug free, yesterday at the annual Governor's Luncheon held by The Governor's Prevention Partnership at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. Along with state officials, non-profit executives and community leaders, many of the state's top businesspeople joined keynote speaker Governor Malloy in support of The Partnership's efforts to build a strong public/private partnership to benefit Connecticut's youth.

"Connecticut's youth face an unprecedented series of dangers – drugs and alcohol, bullying, lack of positive role models – and we're proud that Connecticut's newest leader, First Niagara, has chosen to stand up and help with such a generous commitment," said Spinetti. "First Niagara, along with Pitney Bowes, Webster Bank and our other Partners In Prevention are on the forefront of creating the tools needed to help Connecticut's youth stay safe, successful and drug free so they can become part of a successful workforce tomorrow. Much remains to be done, but we are succeeding because of leaders like these, and the many others here today who have chosen to support The Governor's Prevention Partnership and the youth of Connecticut."

Three companies were recognized with 2011 Partners in Prevention Awards.

**Pitney Bowes** received the Innovation Award for more than two decades of work the company has done on behalf of youth in Connecticut. Over the years, their employees have welcomed young people to their offices to help with homework and share insights about career opportunities through the LIFE tutoring program. Other employees participate in a power lunch reading program, serve as judges with the CT Invention Convention, are involved in the innovative web based Wi-Mentoring program in Fairfield County and other initiatives. From robotics teams in Shelton to Junior Achievement; from world innovation forums to supporting first generation college-bound students, and working to close the academic achievement gap, Pitney Bowes thinks out of the box and extends its reach to ensure our next generation of workers has a healthy future.

"We are proud to receive this award from Governor Malloy and The Governor's Prevention Partnership," said Murray Martin, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Pitney Bowes. "This award underscores our commitment as a global company to support the continued improvement of communities where we live and work. On behalf of Pitney Bowes, I would like to thank the Governor and The Partnership for this great honor."

**Webster Bank** received the Leadership Award for its generous and strategic support for mentoring since 2002. Back then, a committed group of individuals from Webster Bank contacted The Governor's Prevention Partnership to start a youth mentoring program for elementary school children in the communities the bank served. Over the next nine years, the Webster Bank Mentoring Program has expanded to other states in its footprint and in Connecticut, serves nearly 100 children in school-based mentoring programs in 45 schools. Webster's outstanding leadership in corporate responsibility is a model for other companies and sets the bar high in Connecticut. Generously giving time and resources, the bank allows employees to mentor during the workday and supports the school-based mentoring programs with seed money for supplies and games. The bank's program consistently receives national recognition at conferences and meetings.

"Since Webster joined forces with The Governor's Prevention Partnership, nearly 300 bankers have volunteered their time and energy to make a difference in the lives of 500 of our young people," James C. Smith, chairman and chief executive officer of Webster Bank, said. "Giving ourselves to the communities we serve is a vital part of The Webster Way, and we're delighted to be a long-time supporter of The Partnership."

**Clear Channel Radio** received the Media Award for its long-time support and commitment to covering youth prevention issues and airing prevention public service announcements. Clear Channel Radio is a leading radio company focused on serving local communities across the U.S. with more than 237 million listeners. In Connecticut, Clear Channel Connecticut's "My Community Access" is a 30-minute commercial free show that provides a variety of lifestyle information and public service announcements. Community Access is hosted by Renee DiNino and broadcasts on Sundays across all seven Clear Channel Connecticut stations: WHCN, WKSS, WWYZ, WPOP, WKCI, WELI, WAVZ, reaching more than 800,000 listeners.

During the past year, The Governor's Prevention Partnership partnered with Clear Channel to tape monthly segments on "My Community Access" ranging from underage drinking to prescription drug abuse to the impact of mentoring and bullying strategies in Connecticut. In addition, Clear Channel provided air time for The Partnership's public service announcements, ensuring that parents and other adults receive the information and resources about the critical issues affecting kids today.

"We are proud to say that over the past year, Clear Channel has donated over \$100,000 in in-kind air time," said Renee DiNino, Host and Community Affairs Director of Clear Channel Radio Connecticut. "It is our pleasure to be able to work with The Partnership so the people of Connecticut are able to hear their important messages of prevention on such a broad scale."

The annual Governor's Luncheon recognizes companies and community leaders that have stepped up to build a strong healthy future workforce through leadership in mentoring and in creating a positive school climate, including prevention of bullying, and youth alcohol and drug abuse. The annual event, this year held at the Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, attracts over 200 business leaders, state officials, educators and community leaders.

With a focus on Connecticut's youth, The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a statewide non-profit public-private alliance, building a strong, healthy workforce through leadership in mentoring and prevention of violence and bullying, underage drinking, alcohol and drug abuse.

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