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## **Governor Malloy, Co-Chair of The Governor's Prevention Partnership Recognizes Corporate Leaders for Dedication, Support To Benefit Youth**

### **Calls for Renewed, Increased Efforts...Despite Tough Economic Times**

Hartford, CT – Governor Dannel Malloy addressed a group of leading corporate executives about the power of giving back to youth in the communities where their employees live and work, during a special reception held last week at the Governor's residence in Hartford. Governor and Mrs. Malloy greeted leaders, thanked them for their past support and encouraged them to continue their commitment to youth, as the need in Connecticut is great.

"I appreciate the support that every business represented here today gives to the young people of Connecticut," said Governor Malloy. "No doubt, children are our most precious resource. We must make every effort, despite the times, to preserve their health and well-being, and ensure a successful future for every child in Connecticut."

Corporate Leadership Partners in attendance included: Mark Bertolini, Chairman, CEO and President, **AETNA**; David Fusco, President, **Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield**; Marlene Ibsen, President, **Travelers Foundation**; Jeffrey Brown, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, **Webster Bank**; Katie Wade, Vice President State Government Affairs, **CIGNA**; Alan Must, Vice President, State Government and Legislative Affairs, **Purdue Pharma**; Don Langer, Plan President and CEO of **AmeriChoice of CT**; Peter Holland, Director, State Government Affairs, **United Technologies Corporation**; and others including, **COMCAST, Pitney Bowes, LEGO, People's United Bank**; and **Dominion**.

Governor Malloy becomes the fifth Governor in Connecticut history to become Co-Chair of the board of The Governor's Prevention Partnership, a nonprofit, public-private alliance dedicated to building leadership in mentoring and prevention of violence and bullying, underage drinking, alcohol and drug abuse. Representing the private sector as co-chair of The Partnership is Donald Langer, Plan President and CEO of AmeriChoice of CT.

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“We are honored to have Governor Malloy as our organization's co-chair,” said Langer. “His vision and leadership will help bring The Partnership into the future. We are now one step closer to our goal of reaching every child in Connecticut with the help and services they need to succeed.”

The Partnership strives to solve issues that negatively affect a young person's ability to be successful in life and take their place in our future workforce. Right now, The Partnership is addressing the following problems:

- \* 190,000 youth who are “on the edge” need the support of a mentor, yet only 12,000 young people are currently in mentoring relationships.
- \* Nearly 30% of CT high school students and 35% of the state's 9<sup>th</sup> graders reported having been bullied on school property in the last year, and 8% report being threatened or injured with a weapon at school.
- \* For 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, 44% have used alcohol, while 32% have used drugs, including prescription drugs.

Calling them “brave,” the Governor, along with business leaders, listened to powerful stories of success during the reception from 8<sup>th</sup> grader Talan Daigle and his mentor, Patty Murphy, a vice president, at Webster Bank, and from 2010 Miss Connecticut Outstanding Teen, Logan West, who was bullied in middle school and now is an honors student at The Greater Hartford Academy for The Arts.

In the last 20 years, The Partnership has supported hundreds of businesses that are involved in youth mentoring programs, while assisting hundreds more school and community-based mentoring programs, and serving thousands of young people in Connecticut. In addition, The Partnership consistently has provided law enforcement, educators, community providers and coalitions with training and technical assistance and provided materials, resources and one-on-one support to well over 500 prevention programs in schools and communities across the state.

“None of the good work we do is possible without the important contributions and support from our state and private partners, said Jill K. Spinetti, President and CEO of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. “With each partner, we are a stronger force fighting for our children's success and helping them to become valuable members of our state's future workforce,”

The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a public-private alliance dedicated to youth mentoring and prevention of school violence/bullying, underage drinking and drug abuse to support youth and to build a strong, future workforce.

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