



# NEWS

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## **CT Delegates Head To Washington D.C. For Historic National Mentoring Summit**

*First Lady, Cabinet Members, to Speak*

**Hartford, CT** – Leaders from The Governor's Prevention Partnership in Connecticut will travel to Washington D.C. today, January 25, to hear First Lady Michelle Obama provide the keynote address for The National Mentoring Summit, titled "Achieving Academic and Social Success: Supporting Youth through Mentoring". The Summit, which has reached capacity registration, will bring together leading mentor organizations, as well as federal and state government and civic leaders, to develop strategies that leverage mentoring to increase graduation rates among America's youth and position them for success.

Participants from Connecticut include: Jill Spinetti, President and CEO of The Governor's Prevention Partnership; Roland Harmon, Program Manager of The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, a program of The Governor's Prevention Partnership; and Diane Raffanello, Senior Program Coordinator for The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership.

"We are proud and excited to attend what promises to be an exciting and highly informative event," said Spinetti. "Over 100 businesses and corporations have already stepped up in Connecticut to be involved in youth mentoring, and we hope to make connections and gain resources at the summit to support even greater corporate involvement. There are 190,000 young people in Connecticut who need mentors and this summit lets them know help is on the way."

The First Lady will announce The Corporate Mentoring Challenge, an initiative led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to encourage U.S. companies to launch a mentoring program, expand existing employee mentoring programs or provide resources to support local mentoring programs that help youth gain leadership skills, achieve their educational goals and increase their confidence. United States Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr., U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service Patrick Corvington will participate in a panel discussion following the First Lady's remarks about the administration's work to use mentoring as a tool to improve educational outcomes and reduce juvenile delinquency. The panel will be moderated by Director of the White House's Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Joshua DuBois.

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“MENTOR and our colleagues hosting this summit are delighted to have government, youth-serving organizations, corporations and researchers focusing on how we can work together to bring quality mentoring to the 15 million kids in America who want and need a caring adult in their lives,” said MENTOR’s President and CEO Dr. Larry Wright.

Companies already stepping up to The Corporate Mentoring Challenge are Bank of America, Deloitte, Viacom, Comcast, Bloomingdale’s, Macy’s and AT&T. They are committing within the next year to either continue building on existing mentoring programs through expansion, launching new programs or developing new tools and resources for mentors.

In Connecticut, The Governor’s Prevention Partnership is gearing up for its annual Corporate Mentoring Honor Roll Breakfast slated for February 3 at The Farmington Marriott. The event is held to recognize and honor Connecticut companies that support mentoring initiatives.

The National Mentoring Summit is hosted by MENTOR, CNCS, the Harvard School of Public Health and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. For further information about the summit, log onto [www.mentoring.org/summit](http://www.mentoring.org/summit).

With a focus on Connecticut’s youth, The Governor’s Prevention Partnership in Connecticut, 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. For information about mentoring in Connecticut, log onto [www.preventionworksct.org](http://www.preventionworksct.org).