

# School At Work Program graduates seventeen employees



The School At Work Graduation Ceremony held at Hartford Hospital on October 12 was a phenomenal experience for students and spectators alike. The program that began in January of 2007 has blossomed into a symbiotic relationship between Hartford Hospital, its employees and institutions such as Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Capital Workforce Partners (CWP), and Capital Community College.

Community leaders such as Hartford's Mayor Eddie Perez, representatives of the Governor Deputy Commissioner Norma Gyle, RN, Ph.D, Tom Phillips, CEO of CWP, and Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D, deputy executive director of CREC, attended in support of students completing the programs. The audience included many students, Hartford Hospital employees, their families, and representatives from the surrounding community. The graduation ceremony offered an array of inspirational speakers.

Graduates of the SAW program were Marcos Lopez, Kareem Gadson, Kewone Irving, Carmen Tirado, Raymond Ortiz, Therese Valentine, Marien Edwards-Sturges and Reginald Meyers.

Receiving *English as a Second Language* and *Adult Basic Education* certificates were: Sonia Grant, Jonathan Barbosa, Clement Gonzales, Aida Santiago, Maria



**In the top photo, SAW graduates and administrators gather with Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez (at far right in photo). Above, Vice President Richard McAloon presents a SAW certificate to Kewone Irving. At far left, Deputy Commissioner Norma Gyle, RN, Ph.D, CWP CEO Tom Phillips and Colleen A. Palmer, Ph.D, spoke to the graduates.**

Duarte, Raymond Richards, Maribel Ayabarreno, Luz Bonelo, Justin Soto, Cynthia Oliver, Maria Valle, Santos Sogesse, Rita Garcia, Vincent Medina and David Kisten.

Deputy Commissioner Norma Gyle, RN, Ph.D, spoke on behalf of Governor M. Jodi Rell. Dr. Gyle applauded Hartford Hospital for its innovative efforts to train and mentor its employees. "Good employees are hard to find, and it is important to nurture them," she said. "Hartford Hospital is investing in the growth and development of its employees, empowering them with the skills and confidence to become future leaders."

Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez said, "The School at Work Program,

as well as other educational programs sponsored by Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Workforce Partners, is a great asset to the community. These programs have helped many Hartford residents improve their math, language, and interpersonal skills and those skills are reinvested in the city."

Richard McAloon, vice president of Human Resources at the hospital, said, "I congratulate all of the students who took the risk to sign up for these educational programs. In making such learning opportunities available to employees, I believe Hartford Hospital is doing what an employer should do. That is, make growth and development opportunities available to employees. The outcomes of these educational efforts were truly outstanding."

"CREC is honored to be a part of the Hartford Hospital education programs," said MaryAnne Pascone,

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## Local high school students participate in Health Careers Collaborative Program

Sixteen junior and senior students from Farmington, Glastonbury and Newington high schools to participate in the annual Health Careers Collaborative (HCC) program. These students will enroll in classroom sessions in human anatomy and physiology on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and participate in clinical observations on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The students are on hospital grounds from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. weekdays, except for school holidays, until January 25, 2008.

Departments hosting the students for their clinical observation experiences include: Diagnostic Imaging, Respiratory Care, Radiation Oncology, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy, Patient Support Services, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Fitness Center, Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, Bliss 8, Bliss 7E, Bliss 6, North 9, North 11 and GI/Endoscopy.

The coordinator for the program is Susan Morison, M.Ed, RT(R)(M). Her office is located in the ERC room 222 and her phone is 545-3947. Feel free to contact Mrs. Morison directly if you are interested in hosting students for clinical observation opportunities.



**Above, high school students participating in the Health Careers Collaborative Program are (front row from left): Jasmine Middleton, Kristen Lowry, Ryan Kelly, Lynette Badu and Nicole Valentine; (second row from left) Kara Zorzi, Arri Musa, Ashley Blair, Katie Skiba, Shaquinda Bennett, Joanna Maciulewski, Alexander Bullard, Nolan Sanchez and Gabrielle Little. Missing from photo: Eva Lipinski and Nicholas Michaels.**

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program manager at CREC. “We witness tremendous growth in the students enrolled in our ABE and ESL classes. The students are wonderful examples for their family and coworkers. We greatly respect the hard work and sacrifices that our students make as a part of our programs. Seeing our students at the graduation ceremony is a very proud moment for our teachers and staff. The program works because of the collaborative spirit among all of the partners: Hartford Hospital, CWP and CREC, and serves as a model for other workplace programs.”

Maureen Wagner, education consultant, Connecticut Dept. of Education, said, “The partnership among Hartford Hospital, CWP, and CREC is a model program that confirms that a coordinated approach to work force education can offer opportunities and success for employers and their employees.

“It is important for education directors to become familiar with the significant role that adult education can play in the broader work force

development arena, the mechanics of providing basic skills and English as a second language instruction in the work place, the impact of customized educational service on employer productivity, and the enormous influence on the work and family life of the student/ employee. What you can earn is a function of what you can learn.”

Cindy Scoville, Bristol Chambers of Commerce, said, “When representing Capital Workforce Partners and working with Leticia Colon and the School at Work Program at Hartford Hospital, I found it not only to be rewarding to the individual that graduated in SAW or Pre-SAW, I also felt self-fulfillment, having been a part of helping individuals grow and find the power in themselves to be able to take steps to move forward in their careers.”

“That I have been able to be a small part of the Hartford Hospital/ CREC/CWP program is one of the most gratifying experiences of my career,” said Ken Schultz, CREC consultant. “The personal growth of each student is truly amazing. There

is simply no comparison between the ‘before’ and ‘after’ students. The support that they exhibit for one another as they continue to better prepare themselves for the workforce and for life demonstrates the value of programs such as this. It is all about the students, and the successes demonstrated at Hartford Hospital prove the value of the program.”

Human Resources’ Educational Coordinator Leticia Colon said, “I am continually amazed by Hartford Hospital’s employees. Their level of dedication to their work and educational growth is exceptional. The partnerships among Hartford Hospital, CWP, CREC, and Capital Community College have been instrumental in creating new opportunities for our employees. I am excited to see the new opportunities we will be able to support at Hartford Hospital as a result of the successes we achieved in 2007. It has been a pleasure to work with each employee during their growth process. I look forward to the next group of employees that will begin their journeys in January of 2008.”