

PRESS RELEASE

David Medina
Director of External Communications
Tel: (860)695-8862
MEDID001@hartfordschools.org

For Immediate Release

Four City High Schools Rank Among America's Best Once Again

(Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011) For the second year in a row, the same four Hartford public high schools – Capital Preparatory Magnet, Pathways to Technology, the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy and the University High School of Science and Engineering -- have made U.S. News & World Report's list of America's Best High Schools.

This was the second year that Pathways to Technology and UHSSE were ranked, the third in a row for Capital Prep and the fourth year for SMSA. A total of 16 high schools from Connecticut made the list.

Superintendent Christina M. Kishimoto congratulated the students, teachers and staff of the four schools on a job well done. She had particular praise for the schools' principals: John Laverty at SMSA, Stephen D. Perry at Capital Prep, Steven Dellinger-Pate at Pathways and Martin Folan and Dr. Elizabeth Colli, the present and former principals of UHSSE.

"This is an incredible achievement for the district," Dr. Kishimoto said. "The quality educational program we deliver to our students is competitive with schools across the country. The Hartford Public Schools provides a unique portfolio of outstanding school choices, and we have the added advantage of being in an urban center with a wealth of art, science, music, and cultural offerings."

The U.S. News & World Report listing is significant because it is based on sophisticated criteria that measure a school's better-than-expected achievement gains within the income levels and racial groups that it serves.

Hartford's four schools were all listed in the Bronze Medal category. This means that they met two key standards: Each school's students performed better on standardized tests than expected for the average student in the state and each school's least advantaged students performed better than the average for similar students in the state.

For example, 80 percent of the low-income minority students at The Sport and Medical Sciences Academy achieved proficiency on the CMT and CAPT examinations, a full 24 points higher than the proficiency rate for disadvantaged students in the rest of

Connecticut. The differential was 21.1 points higher at Capital Prep, 16.2 points higher at UHSSE and 7.3 points higher at Pathways.

Eighty percent of the students in the four schools are non-white and about 62 percent of them are categorized as disadvantaged.

“We are once again thrilled that four of our high schools have been given this honor,” said David MacDonald, chair of the Hartford Board of Education. “They have set a high bar for everyone and we thank them for their high expectations and hard work.”

Schools must also demonstrate that they are serving all of their students well and produce measurable outcomes that show they are educating their students across a broad range of performance indicators. All four of the Hartford schools boast very high graduation rates and high rates of graduates accepted into college.

“We at the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy are exceedingly proud to receive this designation for the fourth time from U.S. News & World Report,” Mr. Lavery said. “This prestigious designation validates all of our hard work and dedication to student achievement.”

###