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**Connecticut Campuses Set to Curb Drinking, Drug Abuse
*College and University Presidents to Sign Commitment Pact***

More than a dozen college and university presidents from campuses around the state are slated to gather at the University of Hartford's 1877 Club in the Harry Jack Gray Conference Center, 10 a.m. Friday, January 20th to sign an unprecedented agreement supporting Connecticut College Campuses' Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative to reduce occurrences of high risk alcohol use on their campuses.

The ceremony will feature the presentation of proclamations signed by Governor Rell, The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction services, and the Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education, and by participating university Presidents. In addition to a panel discussion among Connecticut college presidents, there will be an opportunity for press to interact with the participants. Panelists include James W. Schmotter, Ph.D., President, Western Connecticut State University, Walter Harrison, Ph.D., President, University of Hartford; and Calvin Woodland, President, Capital Community College.

The initiative is part of a federally funded grant awarded to the Governor's Office and administered by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. It seeks to implement and evaluate evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs that reduce the progression of substance use and abuse among young adults, ages 18-25, in college campus settings.

The Connecticut College Healthy Campus Initiative includes partners from 25 Institutions of Higher Education throughout the state, The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, The Department of Higher Education and The Governor's Prevention Partnership. This partnership in the spring of 2005 finalized a statewide action plan around alcohol and other drug prevention, with the goal of fostering a campus-community culture that reduces occurrences of high-risk alcohol use, other drug use and related consequences of high-risk behavior among college students.

The initiative will:

- Create campuses, communities and a state that actively engage in prevention efforts to reduce high-risk alcohol use, drug use and the negative consequences of high-risk behavior;
- Implement science-based prevention and intervention initiatives on Connecticut campuses; and
- Facilitate a support network for information sharing and action planning on statewide issues related to high-risk alcohol use, drug use and the negative consequences of high-risk behavior among Connecticut's college students.