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The Governor's Prevention Partnership Launches Tool for Mentoring Programs Nationwide to Connect and Collaborate in their Local Communities

Regional Mentoring Collaboratives How-To Toolkit funded by Pitney Bowes Foundation

Wethersfield, CT – January 29, 2018. Last week, the Governor's Prevention Partnership announced the release of a significant resource to increase support for local mentoring programs. Funded through a grant from the Pitney Bowes Foundation and drawing on the organization's twenty years of experience in supporting mentoring programs, Partnership staff developed and launched the *Regional Mentoring Collaboratives: A How-To Toolkit* in Washington, DC at the National Mentoring Summit in front of workshop participants from over 30 states. The toolkit is designed to provide how-to tips and resources for mentoring programs and community leaders to start and implement a regional mentoring collaborative designed to coordinate youth mentoring services and work in partnership to address local needs like increased mentor recruitment, training and support and linkages to community resources.

In 2007, The Partnership approached the state legislature for the first round of start-up funding for the state's first regional mentoring collaboratives. Since that time, the Partnership has launched four additional collaboratives across the state supported by public and private funding. The Partnership provides oversight and technical assistance to local mentoring programs participating in each collaborative as well as evidence-based resources.

"We recognize that there is strength in numbers, and everything that we do as an organization is done through partnership," said Jill Spineti, president & CEO of the Partnership. "The mentoring program directors in each collaborative share support, best practices, new ideas and connection to resources so that mentoring is viewed as an effective, positive support for youth by community leaders."

The Partnership operates regional mentoring collaboratives in Hartford, Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Eastern Connecticut (New London/Norwich).

"We are thrilled to have had the support of Pitney Bowes Foundation to make the roll-out of this resource possible," Spineti said. "Our goal was to share our experience and build communities of practice, so that more youth across the nation can be served by a caring mentoring relationship."

In Connecticut, 1 in 3 youth could benefit from a mentor but do not have one.

"Pitney Bowes Foundation is proud to support the development of the toolkit and The Partnership's work connecting mentoring programs across the state," said Kathleen Ryan Mufson, Director, Global Corporate Citizenship & President, Pitney Bowes Foundation. "Given the tremendous need for additional mentors and for collaboration among the various stakeholders serving youth, Connecticut's successful model will provide a clear road map for others to replicate."

If you are interested in finding out how to start a regional mentoring collaborative in your community, please contact Hannah Granfield, Director, Mentoring Services at 860-757-3923.

About The Governor's Prevention Partnership

The Governor's Prevention Partnership has been committed to building strong children across Connecticut for nearly 30 years by preventing underage drinking and substance abuse, bullying and school violence, and promoting mentoring through effective and science-based prevention and intervention strategies. It works with more than 150 mentoring programs across the state serving 13,000 youth and is the state affiliate of MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership.

About Pitney Bowes Foundation

Pitney Bowes and the Pitney Bowes Foundation support literacy and education to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed in school and are prepared to succeed in their career and life endeavors. Our employees worldwide are committed to their communities and demonstrate their engagement through philanthropy and volunteerism. For more information, visit pb.com/community.

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Photo: (Left to Right) Hannah Granfield, Director of Mentoring Services, The Governor's Prevention Partnership; Kathleen Ryan Mufson, Director, Global Corporate Citizenship, Pitney Bowes & President, Pitney Bowes Foundation; Lana Gifas, Executive Director, Women's Mentoring Network, Inc and member of the Stamford Mentoring Collaborative; Art Mongillo, Program Manager of Community Engagement, The Governor's Prevention Partnership gathered in Washington D.C. at MENTOR's National Mentoring Summit, for the launch of the Regional Mentoring Collaboratives: A How-To-Toolkit.