FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2010
Contact: Jane Bronfman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Capital Community College
(860) 906-5103; jbronfman@ccc.commnet.edu

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMERGES AS LEADER IN NATIONAL STUDENT COMPLETION MOVEMENT

Among seven colleges in U.S. designated as New “Leader Colleges” for Accomplishments on Key Student Achievement Indicators

Hartford, CT – Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national nonprofit organization that helps more community college students succeed, announced that Capital Community College is one of seven community colleges in the country who have emerged as leaders in the national student completion movement. Achieving the Dream designated these colleges as Leader Colleges for demonstrating sustained improvement and accomplishments on key student achievement indicators. Aside from Capital, the new Leaders Colleges are Alamo Community College District, Brazosport College, Martin Community College, Northampton Community College, Northern Virginia Community College, and Yakima Valley Community College.

"Despite – or perhaps because of – the tough economic conditions, more community colleges across the country are not just tackling low student completion rates, but leading the charge to bolster student success," said Achieving the Dream President and CEO Dr. William E. Trueheart. “These seven new Leader Colleges join the ranks of now nearly 30 institutions that have made important advances in the lives of students across the country.”

Through Achieving the Dream, Capital has implemented a number of successful initiatives, including:

- The Black & Latino Male Resource Center: Mentors helping minority men navigate the challenges of college,
- Learning Communities: Interactive environment and tutoring support for students in a developmental sequence, to help them transition to credit courses, and
- Math Intervention: Using imbedded tutors and math tutoring software to help developmental math students in and out of the classroom.

“Capital Community College greatly appreciates the special recognition as a Leader College,” said Wilfredo Nieves, Capital’s president. “Our faculty and staff work hard and use evidence to innovate and implement best practices that lead to student success. We are honored by this recognition and are proud to be part of this important movement.”

Conceived in 2004 as a national initiative by Lumina Foundation for Education and eight national partner organizations, Achieving the Dream (ATD) has evolved into an independent nonprofit working with 130 institutions in 24 states and the District of Columbia, reaching more than one million students. ATD is focused on creating a “culture of evidence” on community college campuses in which data collection and analysis drive efforts to identify problems that prevent students from succeeding—particularly low-income students and students of color—and develop programs to help them stay in school and receive a certificate or diploma or transfer to a four-year institution.