For Immediate Release:  February 9, 2011
Contact:  Jane Bronfman, director of marketing, Capital Community College, 860-906-5103; jbronfman@ccc.commnet.edu

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SELECTED FOR CARNEGIE-FUNDED INITIATIVE
TO IMPROVE MATH ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS

Hartford, CT – Capital Community College is one of four Connecticut community colleges and 19 institutions nationally expected to receive support from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to improve student achievement in developmental math and statistics.

Grant funds totaling $190,000 for Connecticut community colleges will be used in collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin to eliminate barriers that many students face in taking developmental math courses and transitioning successfully into degree programs. The $14 million three-year initiative is supporting the re-design of developmental math and statistic courses and building a networked improvement community comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators from participating institutions.

Known as the Statistics Pathway (aka Statway), an accelerated pathway for developmental math students at Capital will be created so that students will be able to complete transfer-level statistics in a single year. Currently, these developmental math students need three semesters. They must take one developmental math class and one college-level math class prior to Statistics. Not only does that create a logjam of students in those courses, but the extended cycle of classes presents too many opportunities for students to become discouraged and opt out – of a particular course - and of college altogether. Studies show that when students experience unexpected success in math, their confidence grows and their ambitions expand.

Statway courses will be designed to support not only students’ quantitative learning but also their learning how to “do college.” The courses will integrate strategies for learning about college resources and will support student growth in self-reliance, motivation and persistence. Statway will draw on learning theory and cognitive science, as well as practical, real-life situations, and it will be taught in a learning environment where students learn by doing, communicate mathematical and statistical thinking, and employ technology to explore and strengthen their understanding of key concepts.

Statway courses are scheduled for Fall 2011, with a goal of moving developmental math students to and through transferable college statistics in one year. Participating students will include those interested in careers such as social service and public safety, as well as students planning to transfer to four-year institutions with a non-STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) major in the social sciences or humanities.

- CCC -