

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Betsy Yagla
(203) 776-6473, office
(203) 823-0410, mobile

-PRESS RELEASE-

College Summit Expands into Three More NHPS High Schools

*Yale-New Haven Hospital and New Haven Promise help grow
college readiness program in New Haven schools*

(NEW HAVEN) — Hundreds more New Haven Public School students will receive guidance and support through the college application process thanks to the expansion of College Summit into three more NHPS high schools.

College Summit is a nationally recognized nonprofit that works with educators, students and partner high schools to increase the college-going and persistence of low-income students. College Summit helps students connect the dots between college and career goals and the academic decisions they make each day.

Today New Haven Promise, New Haven Public Schools and College Summit announced that, with funding from Yale-New Haven Hospital, College Summit is expanding into Wilbur Cross High School, Sound School and High School in the Community.

The hospital donated \$2 million to be used over four years for the implementation and expansion of College Summit in New Haven. In 2011, Wells Fargo donated \$300,000 to support College Summit roll-out costs in New Haven.

College Summit has been working in Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School since 2009. In the 2011-12 school year College Summit started working in Metropolitan Business Academy and James Hillhouse High School. This school year, Hill Regional Career High School, Hyde Leadership Academy and New Haven Academy are implementing College Summit.

“We understand the importance of a college education to future achievement and we are proud to offer our support for the College Summit initiative,” said Marna P. Borgstrom, CEO, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health System. “Providing access to that education is a fundamental component of New Haven Promise, but ensuring the readiness of students to take on this challenge is essential to its long-term success.”

Together, New Haven Promise and College Summit form an important prong of the school district's School Change program.

Making sure that every student is academically prepared for and financially able to go to college is one of the major tenets of New Haven's nationally recognized School Change Initiative. New Haven Promise and its support programs are increasing college-going culture in all of our schools. New Haven School Change also seeks to eliminate the achievement gap with the state, reduce the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate.

"New Haven School Change is about helping our students achieve success in school, in college and in life. The partnership between New Haven Promise and College Summit, with generous support from Yale-New Haven Hospital, is making that happen. By expanding College Summit to three additional high schools, we are giving hundreds more students the support they need to realize their dream of going to college," said Mayor John DeStefano Jr.

"New Haven Promise and College Summit go hand in hand in creating a college-going culture in our schools. We want all of our students to be prepared for college and ready to succeed when they get there. College Summit is having a real impact on college readiness in our high schools and now students at Wilbur Cross, Sound School and High School in the Community will have the same opportunity," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Reginald Mayo.

During the 2011-12 school year, 79% of seniors at the NHPS College Summit high schools submitted at least one college application; 87% took either the ACT or SAT and 78% submitted the FAFSA (the second highest of College Summit's 11 regional offices).

"College-going culture has the power to transform lives and communities," said Veronica DeLandro, Program Director of College Summit Connecticut. "We're proud of what's been achieved in NHPS and appreciate the opportunity for College Summit to support even more students."

"Yale-New Haven Hospital's support and unwavering commitment to New Haven Promise and College Summit help fulfill thousands of college and career aspirations for our city's students and families," said Patricia Melton, Executive Director of New Haven Promise. "Working in tandem, College Summit and New Haven Promise provide a powerful partnership for our students by helping them get into and through college."

New Haven Promise is a scholarship and support program. New Haven Promise: Scholarship is funded by Yale University. New Haven Promise: Partnership is funded by Yale-New Haven Hospital and Wells Fargo. New Haven Promise is a component fund and program of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.