

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

-PRESS RELEASE-

New Haven Promise Names New Executive Director

Patricia Melton joins Promise with 18 years of experience in the education sector

(NEW HAVEN) — After a nationwide search, the New Haven Promise Board of Directors has named Patricia Melton as the new Executive Director of New Haven Promise.

As Executive Director, Melton will be responsible for all aspects of New Haven Promise, a scholarship and support program for students who live in New Haven and attend New Haven public schools.

Melton, a first-generation college student and graduate of Yale, will begin her new post in August. Her career has spanned several educational levels — universities, traditional public schools, public charter schools and independent schools.

She will report to the New Haven Promise Board, which is chaired by Richard C. Levin, President of Yale University and also includes Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.; William W. Ginsberg, President of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven; Dr. Dorsey Kendrick, President of Gateway Community College; and Dr. Mary Papazian, President of Southern Connecticut State University.

Speaking for the New Haven Promise Board, Levin said: "We are confident that Patricia Melton is the right person to lead New Haven Promise to the next level. She brings strong leadership to the program, and she will be an important and visible role model for the young people of our community. We are delighted to welcome her back to her second home."

"The Community Foundation is thrilled at the appointment of Patricia Melton," said Ginsberg. "She will bring ideal experience, extraordinary leadership skills and a real commitment to New Haven in her new role at New Haven Promise. I look forward to welcoming her and working with her."

Most recently, Melton served as the Assistant Dean of Instruction for the Early College program at Vincennes University in Indianapolis, Ind. Early College blends high school and college: students simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate degree.

In that post, Melton developed the strategic plan for Ben Davis University High School and implemented the plan at six other schools. The BDU partnership is one of the highest performing early colleges in the nation: 100 percent of BDU students received their high school diploma and 85 percent completed the associate degree from Vincennes University.

Melton rebranded and strengthened X-Mester, a signature program at BDU. The program pairs mostly first-generation aspiring college students — who study and live on a university campus for two weeks — with “fellows,” elite college students and graduates who serve as teachers, mentors and role models. Several of the fellows have since joined the educational field and participating students’ performance has improved by a cumulative full letter grade in just two years.

“We need our young people to be college ready when they graduate from high school and to have the resources to graduate college,” said DeStefano. “New Haven Promise is a cornerstone of New Haven School Change. Pat Melton brings the personal and professional experiences to get this job done. Her success will be the success of our children. Let’s get to work!”

“Returning to New Haven is certainly special to me, and it is a great honor to be selected to help realize the educational and career dreams of youth in the city,” said Melton. “New Haven Promise is a bold program — fundamentally changing lives and launching 21st century careers for New Haven's youth. New Haven Promise will ensure that our city's youth thrive in the new economy.”

Prior to Vincennes University, Melton was the Chief Academic Officer at Indiana’s third-largest school district, the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. From 2005-07 she was the lead consultant on a Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning project to create 10 Early College High Schools and from 2003-04 she was the senior program officer at the KnowledgeWorks Foundation in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, she earned her B.A. from Yale University. That was followed by a M.Ed. from Arizona State University, where she was an inaugural member of the federally funded Leadership for Educational Entrepreneurs Fellowship Program. Melton is currently completing her doctoral program and dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania.

A former U.S. Olympic Trials finalist and All American in track and field, Melton was honored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) with a 2007 Silver Anniversary Award that recognizes former student-athletes who have distinguished themselves in their professional field since completing their college athletic careers.

In 1994, she became the only woman in 30 years to receive the New England Preparatory School Athletic Association Souders Memorial Award for distinction in life and sports through high ideals, leadership and accomplishment.

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.

-###-