



## **COMUNIDAD DE PRENSA**

**PARA DIFUSIÓN INMEDIATA:** 13 de septiembre del 2017

**PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN:**

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***Lanzamiento del Programa  
“Embajadores Cívicos de Connecticut:  
Envolviendo a estudiantes y residentes a través del estado***

- ¿QUIÉNES?: La Secretaria del Estado **Denise Merrill**,  
Directora Ejecutiva de Everyday Democracy **Martha McCoy**,  
(otros ponentes mencionados abajo)
- ¿QUÉ?: Conferencia de prensa para anunciar el lanzamiento del  
**Programa “Embajadores Cívicos de Connecticut”**
- Esta iniciativa es parte del Proyecto de Salud Cívica de Connecticut, el cual tiene como meta promover alianzas y colaboración entre residentes y líderes comunitarios para fortalecer la “salud cívica” del estado de Connecticut.
- ¿DÓNDE?: Legislative Office Building, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Salón 1B
- ¿CUÁNDO?: lunes 18 de septiembre a la 1 de la tarde
- ¿RAZÓN?: Tomando en cuenta que mucha gente en nuestro estado y en el país han perdido la confianza en las instituciones públicas, la participación cívica de nuestros residentes, unos con otros y con sus representantes de gobierno, es ahora más importante que nunca. Los “Embajadores Cívicos de Connecticut” ejercen la importante labor de llevar ese mensaje a sus comunidades y además de ser intermediarios para catalizar acción que fortalecerá la salud cívica de nuestras comunidades y nuestro estado. Este trabajo contribuirá al mejoramiento económico y social de nuestras comunidades, sobre todo la comunidad Latina/Hispana. Los ponentes en la conferencia de prensa ofrecerán ejemplos de cómo ellos se envuelven y envuelven a otros en esta misión cívica y como todos pueden formar parte de esos y otros esfuerzos similares.

Los ponentes que harán comentarios son:

- La Honorable **Denise Merrill**, Secretaria del Estado de Connecticut
- **Martha McCoy**, Directora Ejecutiva de Everyday Democracy
- **Stephen Armstrong** del Departamento de Educación de Connecticut
- **Richard Frieder** del Proyecto Hartford Decides (Hartford Decide)
- **Dana Miranda**, Coordinador del Proyecto de Diálogos Universitarios en UConn
- **Marilyn Calderón**, Directora Ejecutiva, y **Melissa Serrano-Adorno** madre líder de CT Parent Power, organización que envuelve a los padres en la educación y desarrolla su liderazgo cívico

**DOCUMENTO ANEXO: Descripción de la iniciativa “Embajadores Cívicos de Connecticut”**



### **About the CT Civic Ambassadors Partners:**

#### **CT Secretary of State, State Department of Education - *Red, White, and Blue Schools Project***

Launched in 2016, the Red, White, and Blue Schools Project is a collaboration between the Secretary of State's office and the State Department of Education. The theme last year was Teaching the 2016 election: schools were recognized for teaching the 2016 election in innovative and multidisciplinary ways. Last year 11 schools and/or districts were officially named as "Red, White, and Blue Schools." This year's theme is civic engagement at the local level. Students will be asked to design projects and initiatives that address local issues and concerns. This program will help students develop the critical skills necessary to be effective civic ambassadors. Schools include E.O. Smith High School, Storrs; Lincoln Memorial Middle School, Meriden; Norwich Free Academy; Tolland High School; Westhill High School, Stamford; Windsor High School; Enfield High School (Outstanding High School Program); Amity/Regional District #5 (Outstanding 7-12 Program); and South Windsor (Outstanding K-12 Program).

[http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/rwbschools/red\\_white\\_blue\\_schools\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/rwbschools/red_white_blue_schools_presentation.pdf)

#### **Everyday Democracy:**

Founded in 1989, Everyday Democracy is a project of The Paul J. Aicher Foundation, a private operating foundation dedicated to strengthening deliberative democracy and improving the quality of public life in the United States. Since its inception, Everyday Democracy has worked with more than 600 communities by providing advice, training, tools and resources. It also partners with national and local organizations to strengthen the field of dialogue and deliberation and promote a stronger, more equitable democracy.

<https://www.everyday-democracy.org/>

#### **Hartford Decides:**

Now entering its third year, Hartford Decide\$ (HD) is a participatory budgeting (PB) process in which diverse community members (aged 13 and up) decide democratically how to spend part of a public budget on projects that improve their neighborhoods. HD gives the community real power over real money. First developed in Brazil in 1989, PB is now being used in about twenty cities in the United States. Hartford is the first Connecticut city to use PB. Richard Frieder, of Community Capacity Builders, was one of the founders of HD. A civic innovation, HD provides a unique opportunity for ordinary Hartford residents to work with their public officials, one of the important indicators of strong civic health.

<http://www.hartforddecides.org/>

### **UConn Initiative on Campus Dialogues:**

Part of the Humanities Institute at UConn's Humility & Conviction in Public Life Project, the **Initiative on Campus Dialogues (ICD)** seeks to bring together research in the humanities with community outreach and engagement. This community-building effort brings together UConn students, staff and faculty, as well as non-university practitioners, around a two-step model focused on dialogue and implementation. ICD's ultimate goal is to plan and promote productive dialogue over divisive issues in order to create sustainable and infrastructural change, at the university and local level, in the tenor and tone for discussing controversial topics. By creating resources and networks and providing trainings, ICD seeks to build capacity and collaboration for dialogue to be robustly and collectively pursued and promoted within the UConn campus and in its surrounding communities. The initiative builds civic skills and habits for civil dialogue and deliberation on contentious issues.

<http://humilityandconviction.uconn.edu/events-2/initiative-on-campus-dialogues/>

### **CT Parent Power:**

CT Parent Power builds civic and leadership skills among diverse parents who want to engage and advocate on education issues for their children of multi-age groups through a co-created model of empowerment. CT Parent Power uses a multigenerational approach to work with Connecticut parents and their children to address "real issues" that families are facing today including social, emotional, educational and economic challenges to realize sustainable change.

<http://www.ctparentpower.org/>

### **CT Kid Governor**

Connecticut's Kid Governor<sup>SM</sup> is a national award-winning statewide civics program for 5th graders created by the Connecticut Public Affairs Network (CPAN) in 2015. Timed to coincide with Election Day in November, the program offers each school in Connecticut the opportunity to enter one student candidate into a statewide election that other 5th graders vote in. Classes can vote in the election, nominate a classmate to run for office, or both! This year's Kid Governor is Jessica Brocksom of Milford.

<http://ct.kidgovernor.org/what-is-ct-s-kid-governor>