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Waddell Elementary Schools named 2008-2009 Success Story School

Connecticut research and advocacy group honors school's progress towards closing the achievement gap

(Manchester, CT– March 30, 2009) The Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN) today honored Waddell Elementary School as a 2008-2009 Success Story School, one of 15 Connecticut public schools around the state selected for progress towards closing the achievement gap between poor, African American and Hispanic students and their white, middle-class peers. Connecticut's achievement gap is the largest in the country.

“Connecticut's Success Story Schools are overcoming odds and making it work,” said Alex Johnston, chief executive officer of ConnCAN. “Schools such as Waddell Elementary School are a hopeful starting point in our effort to ensure every child in our state gets a great public education.”

A short documentary video exploring the success of Waddell Elementary School is available at www.CTSuccessStories.org.

Success Story Schools were chosen for their position in at least one of the top three slots on one of ConnCAN's Top 10 lists this year. The Top 10 lists were for elementary, middle and high school performance gains, improvement, African American achievement, Hispanic achievement and low income achievement. Selected schools must also have at least 60 percent combined low income, African American and Hispanic students.

“We are honored by this designation as it illustrates our commitment to close the achievement gap,” said Waddell Principal Roland Axelson. “Our instructional process is key to our success and we share this honor with everyone in our community,” Axelson added.

The full list of Success Story Schools is: Brookside Elementary School, Norwalk; Commodore Macdonough Elementary School, Middletown; Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School, New Haven; Elm City College Preparatory Middle School, New Haven; High Horizons Magnet School, Bridgeport; J.P. Vincent Elementary School, Bloomfield; King/Robinson Inter-district Magnet School, New Haven; Laurel Elementary School, Bloomfield; Mary M. Hooker Environmental Studies Magnet School, Hartford; Multicultural Magnet School, Bridgeport; Odyssey Community School, Manchester; The International School at Rogers Magnet, Stamford; The Lawrence School, Middletown; Two Rivers Magnet School, East Hartford; and Waddell Elementary School, Manchester.

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