



Blumenthal Greets Capital Students at Travelers Learns About Impact of Corporate Educational Partnership

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HARTFORD, Conn. – U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal recently visited The Travelers Companies, Inc. and listened to Capital Community College students and graduates share their experiences in the Capital Crossroads to Careers (C3) program, a partnership between the College and the insurance company.

“I was a high school drop-out,” said Camron Rafiee. “But one day, as I was working construction and digging a ditch, I realized I needed to take a new path. Through Capital, I learned about the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at Travelers, and decided to give it a try. In 2008, I graduated from Capital, and in May 2010, I graduated from UCONN’s School of Business. Upon graduation, I was offered a job in the Financial Management Leadership Development Program at Travelers, where I am now employed. The program completely changed my life,” he told Blumenthal.



From left to right: Juliet Asafo, Chadia Parnell, Camron Rafiee, Jerell King-Coe, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Dr. Wilfredo Nieves, Pranaya Bhattarai, Jeff DiBona, Dunnia Ulloa

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Blumenthal, who visited Travelers as part of his statewide community college tour, which has included stops at Manchester Community College and Naugatuck Valley Community College, noted the importance of these institutions to workforce development.

“This remarkable leadership collaboration by Capital and Travelers shows how our schools and employers are breaking new ground: they're mentoring students and customizing skill training to fill job openings that now exist, and create new openings. I was excited and inspired by young people whose lives have been changed forever by huge opportunities for achievement and service,” said Senator Blumenthal, who sits on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee in the U.S. Senate.

Capital Community College President Wilfredo Nieves praised Travelers for taking the risk on the partnership as well as investing in the community by supporting the C3 initiative. “From the mentors to the faculty, we are incredibly grateful for the support Travelers has provided. We share a tremendous sense of pride in the success of our students with our corporate partners, and know this will lead to brighter futures for those in the program.”

Marlene Ibsen, Vice President of Community Relations for Travelers, thanked Blumenthal for attending and noted the importance of education to the company. “Last year, more than 50 percent of our annual giving went to educational programs,” she said. “At Travelers, we recognize the importance of preparing today’s students as tomorrow’s workforce, and we are pleased that Senator Blumenthal has taken an interest in our signature education initiative to arm students with the skills and tools for future success.”

Linda Guzzo, Capital’s Dean of Continuing Education, said that the College wants to expand the Crossroads college-to-career model to other partners. “It works,” she told Blumenthal. “It’s a model that can be replicated in other industries. It shows the marriage between education and the workplace.”

Over the last two years UnitedHealthcare (UHC) has become the second corporation to adopt the C3 model, where five Capital students have worked as interns. Several of the UHC interns participated in the discussion at Travelers.

C3 is part of the Travelers college success initiative, Travelers EDGE: Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment, that began at Capital and now involves Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and the University of Connecticut (UCONN). Through mentorships and job shadowing, Travelers EDGE scholars gain real-world experience and access into Capital’s Crossroads to Careers pipeline with bachelor’s degree-granting

The C3 program has created opportunities for 35 Capital students to date, to earn degrees at the associate and baccalaureate level while they gain professional experience in the insurance industry. C3 was recognized with a state merit award in 2010 as a model program by the New England Board of Higher Education. The program will begin its fifth year in 2012, providing a new group of students with financial support, internships, mentoring, advising, and leadership development in the workplace.

About Capital Community College

The Mission of Capital Community College is to provide access to higher education to the diverse residents of the greater Hartford region. The College, an integral part of Hartford’s cultural and economic district, does this by: preparing individuals for transfer education and careers through associate and certificate programs in academic and technical disciplines and workforce training; maintaining programs and support services that enable students to develop academic and professional skills that equip them for ongoing challenges and opportunities; fostering a student – centered environment committed to learning

and teaching, the collegial process, cultural enrichment, and the respectful and vigorous dialogue which nourishes active participation and service to the community

About Travelers

The Travelers Companies, Inc. (NYSE: TRV) is a leading provider of property casualty insurance for auto, home and business. A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Travelers has more than 30,000 employees and generated revenues of approximately \$25 billion in 2010. The company provides support for charitable organizations in the community through the Travelers Foundation and with corporate funding. The company's community giving is focused on education, community development and the arts. Travelers employees are consistently active in community initiatives and perform thousands of hours in volunteer time each year. For more information, visit www.travelers.com.

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