

Fairfield County Community Foundation Awards \$15,000 Grant to Hord Foundation

Danbury, March 21, 2007- The Fairfield County Community Foundation recently awarded a \$ 15,000 competitive discretionary grant to the Hord Foundation to support the Hord Academy for the 2006 – 2007 academic year. The purpose of the grant is to support the Hord Academy's educational support and enrichment activities to K-12 students and their families by providing resources and assistance. The Hord Academy provides hands-on support that students need in mathematics, reading and writing and resolves to address other areas to include leadership, public service, personal responsibility and technology. Through this program, students receive timely help in order to help keep them on track academically. Participation in the Hord Academy is open to students without regard to race, gender or ethnicity.

Across the U.S., a gap in academic achievement persists between minority and disadvantaged students and their white counterparts. This is one of the most pressing education-policy challenges facing this country. The **No Child Left Behind Act** (NCLB) requires states to set the same performance targets for children. Within a school, if any student subgroup persistently fails to meet performance targets, districts must provide public school choice and supplemental services to those students – and eventually restructure the school's governance. In other words, schools now are considered successful only if they close the achievement gap. Many schools are struggling to meet this benchmark. There are many ways to measure the achievement gap. One common method is to compare academic performance among African-American, Hispanic, and white students on standardized assessments.

In 2003, the Board of Trustees of the Hord Foundation approved the establishment of a Hord Foundation Academy to address the issues associated with the large number of Black and poor students not meeting the standards for scholarship consideration and consequently, limited futures. The Academy, through its collaborations with the Danbury Public Schools and Western CT State University, seeks to identify grade and subject content that causes most students to fall behind and strategically bring effective ancillary interventions to the student, thereby, not permitting the student to fall behind his class peers.

"As chairman of the Hord Foundation Board of Trustees, I am please that the Hord Foundation received this grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation.

Without the support of the FCCF and our other community and corporate sponsors, the Hord Foundation could not fulfill its mission of encouraging and developing the young people in our service area of Danbury and the surrounding towns."

The Hord Foundation partners with the Danbury Public School system, Western CT State University, area schools and other community-based organizations to offer Hord Academy services and opportunities to students and their families. The Board of Advisors of the Hord Academy advises the program director and the Hord Foundation Board of Trustees to items related to the mission of the Academy.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of philanthropy to strengthen local communities and the region. Since 1992, individuals, families, corporations and organizations have established charitable funds and contributed to existing funds that support community and economic development, children and youth, education, the environment, health and human services, and the arts. With \$80 million in assets, the foundation annually awards more than \$7.5 million in grants. In addition, the

foundation provides philanthropic advisory services; convenes philanthropists, nonprofits and community leaders; and develops initiatives to address critical community issues. The Foundation's organizational and financial practices are in full compliance with the Council on Foundation's 43 national standards for organizational and financial practices. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org or call 203/834-9393.

The Hord Foundation was founded by Noel and the late Cora Hord in 1993 to promote education and enhance the career opportunities of young people of African descent from Danbury and the surrounding Towns. The Hord Foundation provides post-secondary education scholarships, education and career seminars, and collaborates with other organizations to achieve its goals. The Hord Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that is governed by a Board of Trustees with the assistance of a Board of Advisory Directors. The foundation receives funding from businesses, other foundations, and individuals. The Hord Academy is the foundation's newest initiative. In collaboration with the Danbury Public Schools and Western Connecticut State University, the program helps students improve in specific subject areas in which they are having difficulty or falling behind.

Since its' founding, the Hord Foundation has awarded over \$2.3 million in scholarship aid. The Foundation awarded \$250,000. In scholarships to 90 deserving students from Danbury and eight surrounding town at its' annual Scholarship Awards Program in June 2006.

For more information contact The Hord Foundation PO Box 4671, Danbury, CT 06813, 203-798-3691 or visit www.hordfoundation.org

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