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**Goodwin College to Host Connecticut River Academy Groundbreaking**

EAST HARTFORD— Goodwin College is preparing to break ground on the site for its permanent home for the Connecticut River Academy, the College's environmental science-themed magnet high school.

Guests and media members are invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. at 1-5 Riverside Drive, site of the former Ambassador Limousine at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Colt Street.

The College is set to begin construction on a 103,000 square-foot, four-story facility on the north end of the River Campus, just off of Route 2. Once completed, it will house 480 students in a state-of-the-art building.

The facility will include nine college-level science labs, a green roof featuring garden space, a habitat center, collaborative spaces for students and staff, Connecticut River ecology and history displays in the main entrance, music and art rooms, and a university-style lecture hall. There will also be a full-size gymnasium and fitness center, which will be used by both the College and the Connecticut River Academy. There will also be a brand new parking garage.

Presently, the Connecticut River Academy consists of grade 9-11 divided into two buildings on the Goodwin College campus at 195 and 167 Riverside Drive. The Academy will be expanded next year to include a senior class.

Once completed, the new building will be the permanent home for the Connecticut River Academy. The College will continue to utilize 195 and 167 Riverside Drive for classroom and office use. 195 Riverside Drive is also a brand new building, opening at the start of the 2011-12 school year.

Work is also set to begin soon on two other magnet schools on the Goodwin College campus. One will be the Pathways Academy of Technology and Design, a magnet high school operated by the Hartford Board of Education. The school is currently located in Windsor.

The third magnet school will be the Goodwin College Early Childhood Magnet School, which will be constructed on the Willowbrook School property just across the street from Riverside Drive. The school will offer a comprehensive prekindergarten and kindergarten experience to 240 children, drawing students from throughout the region.

If you are interested in attending the Connecticut River Academy groundbreaking, please contact Matt Engelhardt at 860-913-2033 or Elizabeth Bessette at 860-913-2037.