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THE MDC AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER SPONSOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**For Immediate Release
December 22, 2014**

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Metropolitan District (MDC) partnered with the University of Hartford’s Entrepreneurial Center this past November to host the 2014 Executive Leadership Academy, an event designed to help local minority- and women-owned small businesses market their products and services to large contractors. Several of the attendees at the two-day event were recently honored at a “Supplier Diversity Recognition Reception” ceremony held at the State Capitol in Hartford on December 19th.

In addition to representatives from the MDC and the Entrepreneurial Center, the event featured speakers from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency Business, the Connecticut Construction Industries Association, and the U.S Small Business Administration.

Nancy Garthwaite and Jerardo Reynolds, two academy participants, shared personal stories of how they have grown their businesses as a result of participating in the Academy and working with the MDC and University of Hartford as part of the Supplier Diversity Strategic Partnership Council. Participants were presented with plaques from the University as well as certificates from Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman’s office.

“Today we are recognizing minority- and woman-owned small businesses that have shown a commitment to their professional development and persistence in implementing improvements to their business operations. It has been a privilege for the Entrepreneurial Center to partner with these business owners to ensure their success,” said Sandra Cahill, Director of the University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center.

About the University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center: *The University of Hartford’s Entrepreneurial Center provides hands-on coaching and business training for new and expanding small businesses, as well as aspiring entrepreneurs, throughout Connecticut. Part of the nationally-renowned Barney School of Business, the Center helps small business owners and employees to gain the business skills needed to succeed in the marketplace through business advising, technical assistance, educational programs, and networking events. For more information, visit www.hartford.edu/ec.*

About the MDC: *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington and East Granby.*

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