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***Capital Workforce Partners Awarded National Jobs Initiative Grant
to Help Frontline Workers Upgrade Skills and Advance Career Opportunities***

Hartford, CT – February 28, 2008 – Capital Workforce Partners has been awarded a \$425,000 grant to help advance the careers of frontline health care workers by providing training to build skills, increase earning potential, and improve the quality of care and services that patients receive. The *Healthcare Partners Promoting Work-Based Learning* initiative was one of eight selected nationwide through *Jobs to Careers: Promoting Work-Based Learning for Quality Care*, a national initiative that supports a variety of projects to develop the skills of workers who deliver direct health care and services.

Through the grant, *Healthcare Partners Promoting Work-Based Learning* will promote career advancement for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and other frontline workers through work-based learning programs in area long-term care facilities. The initiative will be implemented at: Jerome Home, Trinity Hill Care, Southington Care Center with a goal of reaching out to more institutions over time. Other partners in the program include: Capital, Manchester, and Tunxis community colleges, Charter Oak State College, Capitol Region Education Council, Asnuntuck Community College, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, Vernon Regional Adult Basic Education, and, for select facilities, the 1199 Training and Upgrading Fund.

Across the United States, 4.7 million frontline health care workers provide patients and clients with preventive and early intervention services, chronic illness management strategies, and long-term and post-hospitalization rehabilitative care. Despite their critical and expanding role in delivering health care, these workers earn less than \$40,000 per year on average and have limited opportunities to build skills or advance professionally.

“Capital Workforce Partners intends to be on the leading edge in implementing this innovative model addressing the region's workforce shortages and closing skills gaps in health care occupations. Through our partnership network, we will broaden advancement opportunities and create a more robust talent pipeline that will result in a higher level of quality health care and create a best practice training model that can be replicated across the nation,” said Thomas Phillips, president and CEO of Capital Workforce Partners.

This is the second round of grants under *Jobs to Careers*, a four-year, \$15.8 million national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with the Hitachi Foundation and the U.S. Department of Labor. The program encourages partnerships among employers, educational institutions, and other organizations to improve training and advancement opportunities for their frontline workers. Workers who may benefit include medical assistants, health educators, laboratory technicians, home health aides, substance abuse counselors, and dietary aides.

The partnership organizations are working to implement long-term systems changes and test new models of work-based learning – an approach to adult education that emphasizes the employee as learner, and the work process itself as a source of learning. Boston-based Jobs for the Future serves as the *Jobs to Careers* national program office.

“It is an honor to be given the opportunity to help spearhead the change that is so critically needed in preparing the frontline health workforce to meet today's imposing health care challenges,” said Alice

Pritchard, executive director of partner agency Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund. "We are equipped with a great team of partners, and we are ready to deliver."

This project is among eight selected nationwide out of two hundred applicants. The eight projects will be implemented in diverse settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community and behavioral health centers in cities and remote villages. The new grants bring the total number of *Jobs to Careers* projects to seventeen. A full list of all projects and further information about *Jobs to Careers* are available at www.jobs2careers.org.

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Capital Workforce Partners is a regional workforce investment board serving 37 municipalities in North Central Connecticut. The board coordinates comprehensive programs for job seekers and employers, and its mission is to leverage public and private resources to produce skilled workers for a competitive regional economy. For more information about Capital Workforce Partners, visit www.capitalworkforce.org or call 860.522.1111.

Regional Partners Include: Jerome Home, Trinity Hill Care Center, and Southington Care Center, with a goal of reaching out to more institutions over time. Other partners in the program include: Capital, Manchester, and Tunxis community colleges, Charter Oak State College, Capitol Region Education Council, Asnuntuck Community College, Vernon Regional Adult Basic Education, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, and, for select facilities, the 1199 Training and Upgrading Fund.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 35 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.
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The Hitachi Foundation is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, independent, philanthropic organization established to enhance the well-being of economically isolate people in the United States. The Foundation systematically invests in path-breaking practices for use by business and nonprofit organizations to mutually address community problems. These practices alleviate conditions that perpetuate poverty and also help to strengthen business. www.hitachifoundation.org