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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PROJECT TEAMS!

Hartford, CT – Diggs Construction, LLC, Program Manager for the Hartford School Construction Program, is proud to announce the completion of three Hartford schools. Mary M. Hooker Environmental Sciences Magnet School, Capital Preparatory Magnet School, and Annie Fisher Montessori/STEM School were all recently completed for the start of the 2010 academic year.



**Mary M. Hooker Environmental Sciences Magnet School** will be the first LEED for School Gold Certified project in the Hartford School Program. Diggs Construction, along with Construction Manager PDS Construction and the Architect, BL Companies, provided a state-of-the-art facility that includes an interactive science theater, a greenhouse, a weather station, an aquatics lab, a butterfly vivarium, and an eco-pond for the students' enhanced environmental educational experience. It is

anticipated that the environmental theme will increase awareness of and prepare students for careers that foster conservation, energy sustainability, and support of environmentally friendly initiatives for the future. The construction consisted of the complete renovation of the existing facility and the construction of three new additions. As part of the effort, all MEP infrastructures were replaced with sustainable and efficient energy systems (includes cogeneration) and sophisticated building controls that provide a means for full automation.

Through Diggs' leadership and quality control, the project is comfortably within budget. As a result, the Hartford School Building Committee (HSBC) was able to include substantial additional work into the project within the existing grant commitment. Total project cost is \$41,775,200 and the student capacity is 660.



**Capital Preparatory Magnet School** now dwells within a 1920's vintage masonry building. The project included complete renovation of all MEP systems, technology and code upgrades, restoration of masonry façade, and interior finishes. Part of the challenge was to renovate the existing facility into a modern building while maintaining its classical appeal and appearance, ultimately transforming into an Ivy league campus environment. Hartford Public School's COO, Alexander Nardone, mentioned

that "this is the most beautiful school renovation yet." As a testament to the project's success, the project won the Hartford Preservation Award for Building Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in 2010.

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**Capital Preparatory Magnet School continued:** Furthermore, the project was designed to maximize energy efficiency and with sophisticated controls system that will permit for full building automation. The Capital Preparatory Magnet School prepares its students with college oriented courses that will help them excel with pursuing their undergraduate degree. One hundred percent of the graduates advance to a four year higher education program. Our project involvement included revisions to the educational specifications, oversight/management of all phases: design phase, bidding, construction, and closeout. Total project cost is \$41,070,000 and the student capacity is 600.



The **Annie Fisher Montessori/STEM School** project included construction phases of additions and phased renovations/restorations while fully occupied. The project consisted of Montessori and STEM, two programs operating within a single facility. The STEM portion of the program focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math. The school district's goal with this project was to complete a learning corridor in the Northwest part of the City, hoping that students would attend Annie Fisher Montessori/STEM (PK-8), advancing to University High School of Science and Engineering (grades 9-12 also under the management of Diggs Construction) and then graduating to the University of Hartford.

Part of the challenge was maintaining school operation during construction. The project included complete renovation of entire building, including but not limited to substantial asbestos abatement, new MEP systems, technology and code upgrades, and interior finishes. Furthermore, the project was designed to maximize energy efficiency involving the use of multiple systems. Total project cost is \$38,438,000 and the student capacity is 750.