



NEWS RELEASE

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Achieve Hartford! Executive Director Jim Starr Returning to Private Sector; Board Names Paul Diego Holzer Interim Successor

(HARTFORD — SEPTEMBER 13, 2011) The Board of Directors of Achieve Hartford! announced today that it has named Paul Diego Holzer as interim executive director to replace James L. Starr, who will return to work in a CFO role in the health care industry. Holzer's appointment is effective October 1. Starr will remain on as a member of Achieve Hartford!'s board.

Holzer is a former teacher with a strong education policy background. After earning his MBA from Yale, he joined Achieve Hartford! as Education Programs Director, a capacity in which he has served for two years. Prior to that, Holzer was a teacher in the Washington, D.C. area and served as the Director of Higher Education at the Latin American Youth Center where he managed four college preparation programs.

"Under Paul's leadership, Achieve Hartford! will continue to provide an independent perspective on the performance of our school district," said Eric Daniels, Chairman of the Board of Achieve Hartford! "Supporting school improvement is what we are all about; it is what Jim has worked to successfully advance over the past two and a half years - and what Achieve Hartford! will extend into the future."

Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Superintendent of Hartford Schools, noted Achieve Hartford!'s value to the community. "The organization will continue to be an important strategic partner in our citywide school improvement efforts. Its commitment and independent voice matter – and I am confident that its good work will not miss a beat under Paul's leadership."

Board Chairman Daniels emphasized the organization's broad support. "Achieve Hartford! has strong roots and well-established relationships in the business community – and throughout Hartford," he said. "These relationships will be sustained and strengthened in the years ahead."

Achieve Hartford! is an independent, nonprofit organization of business and community leaders that focuses on student achievement and supporting effective and sustained school reform in the Hartford Public Schools. For more information please visit www.AchieveHartford.org.
