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(Released: Nov. 6, 2014)

PRESS CONFERENCE is WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12; 10:00 A.M.

PCSW Releases New Report on the Status of Women in Connecticut's Workforce

Gender-based Wage Gap Still Pervasive; Women of Color Suffer Most

HARTFORD -- While Connecticut women rank fourth nationally and second in the region in a composite index of employment and earnings, they still lag behind men in all career categories but one. And women of color, and those in urban areas, fare worse than white women in terms of wages and opportunities.

This analysis comes from *The Status of Women in Connecticut's Workforce*, a new report just released by the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW). The PCSW commissioned the report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), a non-partisan research group affiliated with The George Washington University. The 2014 *Status of Women in Connecticut's Workforce* contains nearly 40 pages of information, figures, charts and recommendations, and analyzes how the circumstances of women differ across five distinct geographic areas designated as "Rural," "Suburban," "Urban Core," "Urban Periphery," and "Wealthy," following the categorization of cities and towns developed by the State Data Center at the University of Connecticut. This demographic/data tool is known as "The Five Connecticut's."

"The data in this report should prove a very valuable resource for legislators, advocates, community leaders and policymakers," said Natasha M. Pierre, PCSW's Policy and Legislative

Director and director of the report. “All enlightened public policy depends upon reliable, insightful data, and so we hope this report will be widely used by everyone who cares about improving the economic status of all of Connecticut’s women.”

“Women in Connecticut strengthen the state’s economy and local communities in many ways,” said Cynthia Hess, Ph.D., IWPR Study Director and author of the report. “They are active in the workforce and more likely to have a college degree than two decades ago. While the status of women overall in Connecticut is strong, women’s status varies across the state’s cities and towns. Many women in Connecticut face substantial challenges that need to be addressed through improved policies and programs.”

According to PCSW Executive Director Carolyn Treiss, “As the new data in this report clearly shows, systemic gender discrimination continues to plague women in the form of the wage gap. And for women of color, this discriminatory practice is even worse. We need to face these longstanding problems armed with the latest, irrefutable data, so that leaders in government, and the private sector, can make the most informed policy decisions.”

News Conference:

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 12; 10 a.m.

WHERE: Legislative Office Building, Room 1E

WHO: Carolyn Treiss, Executive Director, PCSW

Natasha Pierre, Policy & Legislative Director, PCSW, and director of the report
Cynthia Hess, Ph.D., IWPR Study Director

Following the News Conference the principals will hold a briefing session at which advocates and community leaders will learn about the report’s findings and discuss ways the data can help individual groups in their work.

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes to study and improve Connecticut women’s economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assesses programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state’s women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media, in order to promote awareness of women’s issues.