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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3-16-2011

Teresa Younger Named to Board of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University

NEW HAVEN -- Teresa C. Younger, executive director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), has been named to the Board of Directors of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University. The Women's Campaign School, now in its 17th year, is widely considered the nation's premiere training program for women wishing to run political campaigns or to advance their careers in public service. The non-partisan, issue-neutral school holds an annual summer session at the Yale University Law School to prepare women for the full spectrum of the challenges inherent in seeking political leadership, from fundraising to constituent services.

"As the head of the State's leading force for women's equality, Teresa Younger understands the importance of women's access to positions of power and influence," said Patricia Russo, president of the Women's Campaign School and a former PCSW commissioner. "Too often, women do not pursue elected office because of a lack of confidence, funds, or concerns about discrimination. Removing such barriers to leadership positions is one of the PCSW's focus areas, so it's a natural for Teresa to bring that knowledge to bear on our work here. And like the Women's Campaign School, the PCSW is non-partisan, so she knows the value of getting many disparate groups united on behalf of women and their families."

Connecticut has among the highest percentage of women serving in state government in the nation. Still, Younger says, the numbers have not reached political parity.

"After some progress, it's unfortunate that the percentage of women holding seats in the General Assembly has dipped below 30, and we need to work to change that," Younger said. "Despite some new female faces at the Capitol, women lost some seats in the last election primarily due to the lack of women running for office, reducing overall representation on the General Assembly from 32% to 29%. That still puts us ahead of most states, but here in Connecticut, women make up 51% of the population, so clearly we've a ways to go to reach political parity."

Before coming to the PCSW in 2006, Younger, who lives in Shelton, was the Director of Affiliate Organizational Development at the American Civil Liberties Union National Office. Prior to her tenure with ACLU National, Younger became the first woman and the first African American to serve as Executive Director of the ACLU of Connecticut.

Younger is the president of the board of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, which serves 44,000 Connecticut girls and is a member of the GSUSA National President's Advisory Council. She also serves on the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut and the National Association of Commissions for Women. She was identified by the Connecticut NAACP as one of the "100 Most Influential Blacks in the State of Connecticut 2009," and was named by *Hartford Business Journal* as one of "2008 Eight Remarkable Women in Business."

About the PCSW: The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 under Sec. 46a 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.