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CPTV Focuses on Connecticut's Education System with *The Principal Story: Town Meeting* – Premiering Thursday, April 23 at 9 p.m.

(Rebroadcast: Friday, April 24 at 10:30 p.m.)

HARTFORD, Conn. (April 1, 2009) – CPTV/Connecticut Public Television is putting the focus on Connecticut's education system with *The Principal Story: Town Meeting*, airing live on Thursday, April 23 at 9 p.m. (with a rebroadcast airing on Friday, April 24 at 10:30 p.m.). The show also will be simulcast live on WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio and streamed live on www.CPTV.org and www.WNPR.org.

The Principal Story: Town Meeting is inspired by the upcoming *P.O.V.* documentary entitled *The Principal Story*, which will premiere on CPTV in September 2009. *The Principal Story* portrays the challenges two dynamic elementary school principals face in turning around low-performing public schools and raising student achievement. The film shows the heart, commitment and skill that are required for leaders to improve public schools in which more than 85 percent of students come from families living below the poverty line.

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CPTV's *The Principal Story: Town Meeting* examines how the themes of *The Principal Story* relate to Connecticut schools. For the broadcast, CPTV brings together a panel of experts to discuss school leadership in Connecticut and to explain the most promising practices that have been implemented to improve school performance around the country. The panel guests include Alex Johnston, chief executive officer of ConnCAN (the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now); John M. Dodig, principal of Staples High School in Westport; Stephen Perry, author and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford; and Barbara Mechler, a former teacher and new elementary school principal at Prospect Street School in Naugatuck.

Best of all, *The Principal Story: Town Meeting* provides an interactive forum for viewers to provide their own questions and comments. Viewers can call 1-800-842-2788 during the live broadcast, or send an e-mail to principalstory@cptv.org. Selected viewer input will be addressed live on the air.

The Principal Story: Town Meeting is a CPTV Connecting Our Communities production. The production is part of *The Principal Story* outreach campaign, which is made possible by a generous grant from The Wallace Foundation, a source of ideas for improving school leadership. Visit www.wallacefoundation.org/principal_story. For more information and research about education leadership, visit the Wallace Knowledge Center at www.wallacefoundation.org.

Additional support for *The Principal Story: Town Meeting* is provided by the Connecticut State University System. The Connecticut State University System, with more than 35,000 students, is Connecticut's largest university system, and includes Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut state universities.

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About CPTV

CPTV is a media service of the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN, www.cpbn.org). It is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming, including UConn Women's Basketball, original documentaries and educational programming. CPTV has built a reputation as a leader in children's programming, including playing an historic role in bringing *Barney & Friends*[™], *Bob the Builder*[™] and *Thomas & Friends*[™] to public television. The station offers 11 hours of positive, nurturing children's programs each weekday, reaching 50,000 to 70,000 households daily. The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network also includes WNPR, an affiliate of National Public Radio, Public Radio International and American Public Media. WNPR serves over 200,000 listeners weekly in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island with news and information. Its award-winning local programming includes *The Faith Middleton Show* and *Where We Live*. Overall, the network brings a broad spectrum of public affairs, entertainment, sports and educational programming to viewers, listeners and readers. For more information, visit www.cptv.org and/or www.wnpr.org.

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