



hartford region

For Immediate Release

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## YWCA Hartford Region Annual Meeting Inspires Women to Take the Lead

More than 100 people attended YWCA Hartford Region's 143rd Annual Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at Real Art Ways in Hartford to celebrate the organization's commitment to *eliminating racism and empowering women*. Keynote speaker Dr. Elsa M. Núñez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, gave a riveting speech inspiring guests to do their part to close the achievement gap in Connecticut's schools.

The theme for the evening was *women leading across generations*. "A woman leader must look in the mirror and ask, 'The problem is so huge, but what's my part in it?'" said Nunez. "Follow the lead of the YWCA and *prioritize* early education for our young children," she added. YWCA Hartford Region promotes equal access to quality education including tackling the achievement gap and lowering high school truancy and drop out rates. Currently, Connecticut has the largest achievement gap in the country.

Janet M. Castricum, retiring Board Chair, discussed upcoming YWCA Hartford Region events including *Stand Against Racism* on April 30th, and the *In the Company of Women* Luncheon on April 6<sup>th</sup>. She also talked about YWCA's 2011 Public Policy Agenda. "In 2011 YWCA Hartford Region will advocate for equal opportunity and protection of our most vulnerable populations," said Castricum.

In addition, YWCA Hartford Region presented Creating Opportunity Awards to ING, City of Hartford's Office for Young Children and Yvette Meléndez. The awards are presented annually to individuals, businesses and other entities that support YWCA's mission.

YWCA Hartford Region would like to thank MotleyBeup, LLC for sponsoring the event.

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs

and services in the greater Hartford area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment. For more information, visit [www.ywcahartford.org](http://www.ywcahartford.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).