



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For More Information Contact:
Rachel Alonso-Mendoza, 203.965.7733
ralonso@spefct.org

**Stamford Public Education Foundation hosted graduation ceremony for
Parent Leadership Training Institute Class of 2021**

STAMFORD, CT – June 22, 2021 – The **Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF)** hosted a beautiful commencement ceremony for the **2021 Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)** graduating class on the evening of June 17 at the Stamford Jewish Community Center. The outdoor event celebrated 22 parent leaders' completion of the 20-week enrichment program. Special guests **Mayor David Martin**, Stamford Public Schools **Superintendent Dr. Tamu Lucero**, and SPEF Board of Directors President **Barbara Aronica-Buck**, gave praise to the graduates with eloquent speeches. State Representatives **Caroline Simmons** and **Matthew Blumenthal**, and Board of Education member **Jackie Pioli** were in attendance. Several associate superintendents, principals, and members of Stamford Public Schools were also present.

In partnership with SPEF, PLTI provides the opportunity for community members to become leaders and advocates for children. Participants practice communication, public speaking, and media advocacy skills; learn how to understand budgets, policy, and laws that affect children; learn how to work in political systems; and complete a culminating community project that addresses issues affecting the community, while attempting to bridge the opportunity gap. Final projects were displayed at the ceremony and included, to name a few, Maisam Nouh's "*Show Me the Hotspots*," a project to help families with no internet connection or devices find public hotspots and access to Chromebooks, Michael Field's "*Parents without Parents*," a support group that helps parentless individuals navigate the new space of parenthood, and Hayate Jandar Boujid's "*Mystery Box*," a safe place for students to anonymously report bullying. Many of the PLTI community projects have been implemented in the community.

-more-

"If your children see you involved, they will be motivated to do the same someday," said Ms. Aronica-Buck, referring to the graduates as "shining stars" and speaking about her personal experiences volunteering and her many years of community involvement within Stamford.

SPEF congratulates this year's graduates for completing the Parent Leadership Training Institute program and looks forward to their impact on the community. Their dedication and hard work are recognized, and the skills they have learned will forever change our children's lives.

About SPEF: Founded in 1996, the mission of the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) is to deliver educational programs and resources that elevate student, educator, and parent success by bridging the gap between needs in the Stamford Public Schools and resources in our community. The Foundation strives to enable each and every student in the Stamford Public Schools to graduate high school and enter college, career training, or fulltime employment ready to succeed. For further information, visit www.spefct.org.

###