



## Bridgeport Public Schools

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Harding Graduate, Carol D. Birks, Appointed Principal of Harding High School**

**Bridgeport, CT – June 18, 2007** – Bridgeport native and Warren Harding High School graduate Carol D. Birks has been appointed principal of Warren Harding High School. Birks is currently serving as assistant principal of Harding.

In her new role as Harding’s principal, Birks will focus her administrative leadership on relationship building, engagement, capacity building, establishing a core curriculum, and including common assessments and social/emotional learning. Birks believes that no significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.

“I am excited and honored to become principal of Warren Harding High School,” Birks said. “I want to encourage my students; as each of them has special gifts and talents. I grew up in similar conditions as many of these young people and I was able to succeed through realizing my purpose, establishing a plan and going through the process.”

In regards to Birks’ recent appointment, Superintendent Dr. John J. Ramos said, “Carol is an educational leader with more than ten years of teaching and administrative experience at all levels of education. I am confident that she will embrace and carry forth the mission and strategic plan of this district.”

Birks attributes much of her success to her mentor. “I am extremely grateful to my mentor, Dr. Janis M. Hadley, President Emeritus of Housatonic Community College. She believes in me and keeps me grounded and committed to this work.”

Her professional experience includes language arts teacher, program manager for the Connecticut Department of Higher Education’s Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) project, administrative fellow to the president of Housatonic Community College, and adjunct professor, and administrator with Hamden Public Schools.

Birks is pursuing her Superintendent’s certification through the Executive Leadership program at the University of Connecticut. She earned a Masters of Science Degree in Education and an Advanced Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport. Birks was awarded her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Hampton University. She has also participated in leadership training at Harvard University and Yale University.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Birks is committed to community involvement. She is a member of the following committees and boards of directors: United Way of Eastern Fairfield County, Housatonic Community College Foundation, New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Friends of New Beginnings Family Academy, University of Bridgeport Education Council, Bridgeport Board of Education Teacher Recruitment Team, Association of School and Curriculum Development, Association of School Administrators. Birks is an active member of the Cathedral of Praise Church of God in Christ International and serves on the Christian Education Board (CE Fitness) and the Pastor’s Aid Committee ministries. She is also a mentor, motivational speaker, and trainer and workshop presenter on both the state and national levels.

*The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students college ready and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit the website at [www.bridgeportedu.com](http://www.bridgeportedu.com).*