



## WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CONNECTICUT

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Leading Medical Professionals from China visit Hartford's Institute for Community Research**

HARTFORD, Conn., July 28, 2004 – The Institute for Community Research received a visit on July 16<sup>th</sup> from three Chinese government health professionals as part of the International Visitor Leadership project on HIV/AIDS sponsored by the US Department of State. The World Affairs Council of Connecticut coordinated this visit in partnership with the Delphi International Program, both members of the National Council of International Visitors. Hartford was the first city in the visitors' seven city US itinerary.

Mr. He Qiya from the Health and Epidemic Prevention Station in Hainan Province along with Mr. Wu Hongui and Mr. Yang Haitoa from the Centers for Disease Control responsible for HIV/AIDS awareness, education and prevention activities as well as HIV/AIDS research and treatment in the Jiangsu Province specifically requested the meetings at Hartford's Institute for Community Research. The Chinese visitors spent a full day at The Institute for Community Research (ICR) to discuss the institutes many

programs and projects. Presentations on training health advocates and HIV/AIDS prevention were conducted along with a meeting held with Dr. Jean Schensul, Executive Director, Dr. Margaret R. Weeks, Associate Director and Ms. Maryanne Abbot, Project Director of the Microbicide and Female Condom Acceptability study in Hartford and China. “It was great to exchange ideas and experiences with these visitors, especially because we are involved in AIDS research in China. Our organization currently has a relationship with one of the two provinces these visitors represent and we hope to develop more cooperative projects in the near future,” said Dr. Margaret Weeks, Associate Director, The Institute for Community Research.

The International Visitor Leadership Program promotes and facilitates the mutual exchange of information and ideas between countries and cultures. As a member of the National Council for International Visitors, the World Affairs Council of Connecticut coordinates local visits that allow leading international visitors to meet their counterparts in Connecticut. Sponsored by the US Department of State, this program annually brings to the United States approximately 5,000 foreign nationals to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience America firsthand. The visitors are selected by American Foreign Service Officers overseas, and are current or potential leaders in government, politics, the media, education, labor relations, the arts, business and other fields.

### **About the World Affairs Council of Connecticut**

The World Affairs Council of Connecticut is a nonprofit, nonpartisan international affairs

and educational organization that promotes public awareness and dialogue on economic, political, and social issues.

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