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**GE Foundation Grant Supports NUA Education Initiative**  
Award to Strengthen Literacy Skills of Urban Youth in Bridgeport, CT

**Bridgeport, CT** - The GE Foundation, a philanthropic organization of the General Electric Company, awarded the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA) a \$100,000 grant to further the partnership with Bridgeport Public Schools and the education program called, "The Bridgeport/NUA Literacy Initiative." Earlier this year, GE recognized NUA with an additional grant of \$100,000, which brings the overall GE contribution for the initiative to \$200,000.

"We are honored that the GE Foundation recognizes NUA's mission to impact the lives of children in urban schools and the education reform that is needed in the community of Bridgeport," says Eric J. Cooper, President and Founder of NUA. "Bridgeport is committed to excellence in education for all youth, and this grant will further the development of this initiative."

The Bridgeport/NUA Literacy Initiative will include the participation of 34 public schools and will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of classroom instruction and student performance. The grant is in support of the education reform initiative of Bridgeport and NUA and is the focus of Superintendent John Ramos.

"With our recently launched campaign, "Expect Great Things from Bridgeport," we understand that at the heart of improving student achievement is the quality of teaching," states Dr. John Ramos, superintendent of Bridgeport public schools. "We are certain that the Bridgeport/NUA Literacy Initiative will not only provide our teachers with the necessary tools to enhance student learning, but will also raise literacy scores. As a result, our students will gain the confidence to pursue any professional or academic endeavor in the future."

This initiative is a community effort that includes the support of Mayor John Fabrizi, the Board of Education, community-based organizations, such as the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County, the Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc., the Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut and faith-based and business leaders in Bridgeport. The Bridgeport/NUA Literacy Initiative joins other successful NUA education partnerships in cities such as Seattle, Minneapolis and Birmingham, to name a few.

“We feel that education is vital for turning around many of our nation’s disadvantaged communities,” says Robert Corcoran, President of the GE Foundation. “All of our future leaders deserve a quality education, and NUA’s program provides an opportunity for these young men and women to envision a future.”

The GE Foundation provides an investment to strengthen important initiatives that improve educational opportunity and community organizations around the world. For more than 50 years, the GE Foundation has helped to build programs based on a fundamental premise: a quality education ushers in a lifetime of opportunity, which helps build a strong and diverse workforce and community.

“Bridgeport, as in all urban school systems, struggles to overcome financial shortfalls and the challenges their students face because of poverty,” states Cooper. “The promise of America for all of its citizens will only be met when we face the inequities in urban education. The answer to the challenge resides in how we provide leadership and apply resources to support those who need it.”

NUA’s mission is to ensure that no child is left behind, regardless of race, culture, or economic status. By engaging all sectors of the school community to accelerate student achievement, NUA provides educators with ongoing professional development and provides them with the latest knowledge, tools and techniques for effective learning.

*The National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA) ® was founded in 1989 with a vision of school reform based upon three beliefs: all children are capable of attaining high educational standards; intelligence is modifiable, not fixed; and all stakeholders in the community must be involved in addressing the social, cultural, and intellectual needs of our youth to improve learning and teaching.*

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