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**John Barry Elementary School Selected as a 2017 Model School for Making Dramatic and Innovative Improvements in Learning by the International Center for Leadership in Education**

Meriden, CT—John Barry Elementary School has been selected as a Model School for 2017 by the International Center for Leadership in Education, whose mission is to challenge, inspire and equip today’s educators to prepare students for lifelong success. John Barry is among one of the 25 chosen schools that will share best practices at the 25th Annual Model Schools Conference, June 25-28 in Nashville.

The Model Schools Conference is the nation’s premier event for rapidly improving K-12 schools and districts.

“We are proud to honor and showcase this future-focused school for implementing a rigorous and relevant curriculum that engages and challenges students to think beyond the classroom to solve real-world problems,” said Dr. Willard R. Daggett, Founder and Chairman of the International Center for Leadership in Education.

“The positive transformation at John Barry Elementary School has been truly amazing. I am very proud of Principal Crispino, the John Barry teachers and staff, the parents, and most importantly our hard-working students. To be one of 25 schools across the nation selected for this award is a great honor to the entire Meriden Public Schools community,” shared Mark D. Benigni, Ed. D. Superintendent of Meriden Public Schools.

“Our teachers and staff have embraced new initiatives and transformed the climate and culture into one that puts students at the center of all decisions, which is the Barry Way. I am proud of the Barry team, parents, students and staff, and feel fortunate to work with such dedicated individuals,” said Daniel Crispino, Principal, John Barry Elementary School.

Model Schools are selected annually based on a number of criteria including substantive, data-validated growth year over year; evidence of a strong culture that puts students at the center of learning; and dedication to transforming instruction to meet the needs and demands of the future.

“This year, we celebrate 25 years of empowering educators to implement effective best practices rooted in rigor, relevance, and relationships,” said Dr. Daggett. “At the Model School Conference, John Barry will have the unique opportunity to share inspiring ideas for innovating and transforming teaching and learning to better prepare students for the world in which they will work and live.”

Over the past 25 years, the Conference has attracted thousands of educators who come to learn about exemplary elementary, middle, and high schools.

### **About the International Center for Leadership in Education**

The International Center for Leadership in Education, established in 1991 and located in Rexford, N.Y., is one of the most influential education consulting companies in America. It is best known for identifying and disseminating successful practices to assist all students in achieving higher standards. Dr. Daggett and his team of consultants have assisted numerous state education agencies and hundreds of schools and districts in their improvement initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.LeaderEd.com](http://www.LeaderEd.com).