

**Hartford Business Journal, August 12, 2002**

**Letters: Leveling technology field for women  
commendable goal for businesses**

The following letter was sent to Managing Editor Liz Haley.

Dear Editor

I would like to commend the HBJ for highlighting Corliss Montesi from UTC in the Q&A section of the July 14 issue. She and the UTC Women's Forum are fine examples of women giving back to and supporting other women in the field, as well as promoting future equity.

The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund works on the issue of "Leveling the playing field" for women and girls in non-traditional occupations every day and it is wonderful to see professional women not only supporting but advancing the cause. Ms. Montesi's comments and philosophy line up perfectly with CWEALF's 10 years of research into the area of non-traditional recruitment for women. The "World of Technology" course created by CWEALF and the state Department of Education attempts to equalize female representation in high-wage technical careers.

This high school technology education course emphasizes the learning of technology skills; explores careers in math, science and technology; makes connections between the classroom and the world of work; and strives to provide girls with a level playing field to pursue technology courses and careers.

A strong piece of the curriculum is the use of female mentors in the classroom and an emphasis on career exploration, as well as the creation of a cadre of young women who enroll in and support one another in technology education classes.

Ultimately, both male and female students are limited by stereotyping in career information. By providing ongoing career information through role models and mentoring, students can make informed academic and career choices and make the connections between the classroom and the working world.

Bravo to HBJ for highlighting this issue!

Krystin Horrocks, Gender Equity Researcher, CWEALF