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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 6, 2012

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NEWS RELEASE

JUNIOR REPUBLIC RECEIVES \$35,000 GRANT FROM ALCOA FOUNDATION

Litchfield – John F. Boyd, Executive Director of the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), announced today that the organization has received a capacity building grant of \$35,000 from the Alcoa Foundation, one of the largest corporate foundations in the U.S. The grant will be used to develop and to implement a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum for the at-risk and special needs boys served by CJR’s Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center in Litchfield over a two year period.

The grant project will enable CJR to engage a consultant who has expertise in developing STEM curriculums and to hire an educator to serve as an on-site coordinator. The consultant will provide oversight, guidance and support in the development of the STEM curriculum. The on-site coordinator will serve as the liaison between the consultant and CJR teachers and administrators and will coordinate the practical and ongoing development and integration of the curriculum into CJR’s special, vocational and alternative education programs.

According to CJR Director of Education and Student Services, James Obst, the development and integration of the STEM curriculum will also include the creation of assessment tools that are aligned with the Connecticut Frameworks, a revised Common Core of Learning endorsed by the Department of Education, as well as with the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT).

Mr. Obst indicated that the STEM consultant will also facilitate four training workshops for CJR teachers and staff, to ensure that technology is integrated into CJR’s academic, vocational, enhancement and independent living lessons plans. He noted that the funds provided through the Alcoa Foundation grant will also ensure that CJR students have the opportunity to learn more about ethical issues relating to technology, as well as the responsibilities, privileges and opportunities associated with its use.

“The opportunity to collaborate with an expert in the field is a vital benefit of this project,” stated Mr. Obst. He noted that the implementation of a STEM curriculum is a major part of the goal statement that was created at

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the time CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center was accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in August of 2010.

"This collaboration will empower our faculty to provide our students with the most effective and productive learning environment, and will also ensure that we are using best practices and in the forefront of national trends to provide at-risk and special needs young people with a competitive education," he continued. "The development of a STEM curriculum will support workforce development programs for students while they are enrolled in our education programs and will help them meet their post-secondary education and employment goals," he explained.

"As the world evolves, so do the skills needed to participate in the economy of tomorrow. To prepare our next-generation workforce for these rapid changes, our schools must engage students in meaningful curriculum that is delivered by well-trained instructors," said Yvette Saxer-Perez, manager, human resources, Alcoa Howmet in Winsted. "This grant will help brighten the future prospects of a sometimes forgotten group of students and strengthen our community's ability to compete in the global marketplace with an expanded pool of technology-savvy workers."

Alcoa Foundation is one of the largest corporate foundations in the U.S., with assets of approximately US\$436 million. Founded more than 50 years ago, Alcoa Foundation has invested more than US\$530 million since 1952. In 2010, Alcoa Foundation contributed nearly US\$20 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the world, focusing on promoting environmental stewardship, enabling economic and social sustainability, and preparing tomorrow's leaders through education and learning. The work of Alcoa Foundation is further enhanced by Alcoa's thousands of employee volunteers, who in 2010 gave more than 720,000 service hours. Through the company's signature Month of Service (October) program, Alcoa employees share their energy, passion and purpose to make a difference in our communities. In 2011, a record 54 percent of Alcoans took part in more than 1,200 Month of Service events across 24 countries, reaching more than 890,000 community members, planting 34,000 trees, assisting 360 schools, and supporting 1,800 nonprofit organizations. For more information about Alcoa Foundation, please access www.alcoa.com/foundation.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides care, treatment, education and family support for at-risk, special needs and troubled young people so they can become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities. Today, the organization's combined programs serve approximately 1,200 boys and girls annually in ten locations throughout Connecticut.

The Junior Republic conducts a residential program for court-referred young men on its Litchfield campus. Special, vocational and alternative education programs are provided for boys from communities throughout Connecticut in this location at CJR's Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center. Transition and related services are also provided.

CJR also provides residential care for boys at its group homes in East Hartford and Winchester and short-term, residential crisis intervention for girls at its Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment (CARE), which is located in Waterbury. A broad spectrum of prevention, early intervention, family support, and intensive home-based services, and aftercare, are provided for boys and girls through CJR's offices in Danbury, East Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, Torrington and Waterbury (two sites).

A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), and Connecticut's public schools. For further information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 252; or by email: hbarton@cjryouth.org.