



Christian L. DiPentima
President & Chief Executive Officer

February 14, 2022

New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514

Dear NECHE Commissioners:

I am writing today to share support for CT State Community College and the efforts to create a 21st century college for the state of CT. As the President of the CT Business and Industry Association (CBIA), the voice of business in Connecticut, I am keenly aware of the workforce needs of Connecticut and the importance that the community colleges play in providing educated and trained employees in a wide range of positions particularly in the manufacturing field. CT State Community College, as a single institution with 12 campuses, will be uniquely positioned to prepare large numbers of Connecticut students from all walks of life for in-demand jobs that help businesses to grow and our economy to thrive.

In order to play this role, Connecticut's community college system must be on solid financial footing and must improve student enrollment and completion so that businesses get the workers they need post-pandemic. As so many businesses have done, CT State Community College must streamline processes and procedures and centralize back-office functions thus allowing resources to be reallocated to increase the workforce pipelines in our state.

The consolidation of the 12 community colleges into CT State is clearly necessary to ensure the financial viability of the 12 campuses that our member businesses rely on for their future workforce. The consolidation will provide another important benefit for employers; the alignment of the 12 different colleges' curriculum with common learning outcomes, giving businesses confidence that they know what they are getting when they hire a CT State Community College graduate.

On behalf of our member businesses, I am happy to support this consolidation and I look forward to our future collaborations with CT State Community College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris L. DiPentima".

Christian L. DiPentima