

February 9, 2022

Dr. Larry Schall, President
New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514

Dear Dr. Schall:

I am writing to support the proposal by Connecticut's community colleges for accreditation as a single statewide institution.

Over the past few years, I and other CCRC colleagues have been invited to speak at multiple gatherings of teams from Connecticut community college about research we and others have conducted on improving student outcomes. During that time, we have observed efforts by most of the colleges to implement research-based reforms including as guided pathways, co-requisite English and math remediation, and more robust program onboarding.

More recently, we have been consulted on several occasions by faculty, staff and administrators from across the college who have been working to design and plan adoption of student success strategies on these same research-based models across the emerging statewide institution. We believe that, with these plans and the new statewide governance structure being put in place, leaders of the new system will be able to accelerate adoption across all Connecticut community colleges campuses of reforms now being implemented separately by individual institutions.

I therefore urge you and your colleagues at NECHE to move forward with accrediting the new statewide Connecticut Community College.

Sincerely,



Davis Jenkins, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scholar
Community College Research Center
Research Professor of Education and Social Policy
Teachers College Columbia University