



GE APPLIANCES
a Haier company

Appliance Park
Louisville, KY 40225

geappliances.com

February 11, 2022

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

Dear Dr. Schall and Commissioners:

As CEO of GE Appliances, I am keenly aware of the current and future workforce needs of my industry and the important role community colleges play in providing educated and well-trained employees who fill a wide range of positions. It is for this reason that we have been working with Terrence Cheng, President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU), to engage current students in both credit and non-credit bearing workforce and professional development opportunities. CSCU students having been working with my team to launch CoCreate Stamford. CoCreate will bring small appliances manufacturing back to Connecticut, feature an innovative community makerspace, provide hands-on educational opportunities for students, and offer unique brand and product experiences for consumers looking for inspiration in the kitchen and home space.

Right now we are working with approximately a dozen students from three different CSCU community college campuses. But it is my understanding, that with the creation of CT State Community College, the 12 campuses across the state will be unified by curriculum, which will allow companies like mine to recruit even more deeply into the system, with more fluidity and flexibility for the students to engage in initiatives such as CoCreate and more.

I am originally from Connecticut and understand the importance of higher education and its ability to evolve and provide opportunities for our students across the state. I think this merger of the community colleges makes sense not only for students, but for the development and training of our future and current workforce.

CT State will be uniquely positioned to prepare large numbers of Connecticut students from all walks of life for jobs, help businesses grow, and push our economy to thrive. The ability to work with an organization that can educate students across the state with a single unified curriculum is a great asset and allows us to be nimble in response to our future workforce needs.

I am happy to support this consolidation and I look forward to our future collaborations with CT State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Nolan".

Kevin Nolan, CEO
GE Appliances