



The Jed Foundation

February 3, 2022

Mr. 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 Members of the New England Commission of Higher Education:

In 2019 The JED Foundation (JED) partnered with Housatonic Community College (HCC) to implement its JED Campus program (JED Campus), a four-year program designed to guide institutions of higher education through a collaborative process of comprehensive systems, programs, and policy development to support the emotional well-being of students. Shortly thereafter, JED began discussions with CSCU System Office about the possibility of implementing the program across the system, including Connecticut's eleven (11) other community colleges and four universities. In 2021, JED received a grant of \$350,000 to implement JED Campus at scale.

JED is working with the CSCU system to conduct a thorough self-assessment focused on policies and procedures, services and other supports that currently exist. A nationally recognized survey administered through the University of Michigan known as the "Healthy Minds Survey" will be administered at the beginning of the process and again at the end of the four years. A strategic plan will be developed to identify specific changes to programs, policies, and systems that will strengthen key measures of functioning while protecting student mental health. CSCU has identified student mental health as a major issue of organizational concern and a heightened priority as a result of challenges caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Working with Connecticut's twelve community colleges as a cohort will allow JED to maximize its impact. Development of communities of practice, policy development work groups and hosting regional and statewide convenings will make efficient use of resources and time and allow college faculty and staff to be supported in their efforts to serve students. These efforts are expected to impact over 100,000 community college students over the four-year project and many more in future years.

Based on growing need and proven outcomes, JED Campus is increasingly being implemented at the state system level, as is now the case in Georgia and Utah (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington also have large cohorts of JED Campus schools). We look forward to our expanding work with Connecticut and believe that, working as a system, will enable Connecticut to move more quickly and efficiently toward sustainable change on behalf of students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethan Fields".

Ethan Fields, M.S.Ed.
Director, Higher Education Program Outreach and Promotion
The Jed Foundation (JED)

PROTECTING EMOTIONAL HEALTH FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Jed Foundation | info@jedfoundation.org | 212.647.7544 | jedfoundation.org