



Chairs and Members of the New England Commission of Higher Education,

I am delighted to share this letter of support for the scaled student success and equity work occurring through Connecticut State Community College (CT State) within Connecticut's community colleges. JFF has worked closely with the colleges as well as the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, including its Success Center – a member of the national Student Success Center Network managed by JFF – for close to a decade.

Since 2018, we've worked closely with Connecticut to support the design and implementation of proven student success models for CT State. This work builds upon our longstanding relationship supporting Connecticut's efforts to increase postsecondary success. Over the past four years, JFF has supported Connecticut community colleges by providing systemwide support for the scaled development and launch of their guided pathways policies and practices. Through our partnership, Connecticut has deeply studied the work of the Community College Research Center, the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement, the Dana Center at UT Austin, and other thought and research leaders in higher education. Connecticut has taken this knowledge and directly applied it to the structure and the policies of CT State. We are excited to see the results for the students of Connecticut. Additionally, through our work with Connecticut, we have gained significant insights into how the planned single college model can demonstrably impact equity, student success, and workforce readiness.

In this unified structure and approach, JFF has been able to provide CT State with direct access to support, resources, and/or technical assistance from national partners, including:

- JFF
- The Dana Center at UT Austin
- Achieving the Dream
- The National Center for Inquiry and Improvement
- Dr. Christine Harrington, NJCU
- The Ada Center
- New America
- National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)
- The Aspen Institute
- The National Student Clearinghouse

Unlocking support to CT State for:

- Design and development of math pathways and corequisite course structures
- Policy development
- Case making and student-centered advocacy

- Holistic advising and wraparound supports
- Increased data capacity; and
- Professional learning opportunities for faculty, staff, and administrators on course and instructional design methodologies, accelerated term models, career and transfer readiness, change management, and leadership development.

Connecticut continues to be a strong partner to JFF and leader in our networks as we work to improve equity, access, success, career readiness, and economic mobility for community college students. JFF recognizes the potential and transformational impact a merged college can have on credential attainment, employment, and racial justice for Connecticut residents. We look forward to our continued partnership with CT State as we strive towards our overarching goal of economic advancement for all.

Best,

Stacey Clawson, PhD
Associate Vice President
Jobs for the Future