NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
45 Temple Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02111-1305 • Phone 617.357.9620 • Fax 617.338.1577 • www.nebhe.org

Office of the President

February 11, 2022

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

Members of the New England Commission of Higher Education:

I write to express support for the proposal to merge Connecticut's twelve community colleges into a single accredited institution as CT State Community College (CT State). For over 60 years, the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) has sought to support innovation, engage conversation, and drive change by working with New England's public and independent higher education stakeholders, as well as with government and business.

CT State is being established to address the internal challenges and systemic barriers that limit the success of the colleges while at the same time helping to make the system a better partner to institutions across the region. A singly accredited community college with an aligned curriculum means that public and independent institutions will not have to negotiate twelve separate articulation agreements to support transferability. Similarly, there will be no confusion about which courses will transfer or if courses from multiple campuses will be accepted. This holds promise for a better and more affordable student experience, as well as for more collaborative working relationships with other higher education institutions.

CSCU and the community colleges are key partners with NEBHE in working to meet the region's workforce and economic development goals, working in close coordination with the Governor's Workforce Council and the Office of Workforce Strategy. The merger of the colleges makes that work more seamless for students and for entities such as ours that collaborate with the system.

Such efforts align well with the regional platform on which NEBHE develops and executes collaborative, multistate projects and programs that maximize cost savings, expand resource efficiency, promote innovation, support policy adoption and forge cross-state alignment and integration.

NEBHE looks forward to working with CT State Community College to improve student outcomes in Connecticut and across our region. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael K. Thomas
President and CEO