

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,

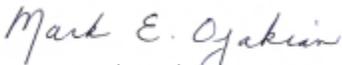
Over the past five years, the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR), the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system, and the community college teams have done tremendous work toward the merger of the state's 12 community colleges into the single Connecticut State Community College (CT State). Throughout the process, despite tremendous external challenges, the core pillars have remained the same: access, student success, and equity.

As the request in front of you today makes clear, the new CT State structure will make significant improvements on all three fronts. Just as importantly, it will do so while strictly adhering to the Commission's standards for accreditation.

I am hopeful that the Commission is ready to formally grant this request for a substantive change and allow the CT State team to fully stand up the single college before its launch in the fall of 2023.

I thank you for your partnership over the years, and I am excited for the future of CT State and the CSCU system at large.

Sincerely,



Mark Ojakian

Former President, CSCU