

February 9, 2022

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

Dear Members of the New England Commission of Higher Education:

CT State is good for business and workforce development.

According to CBIA's *2021 Connecticut Manufacturing Report*, 88% of Connecticut manufacturers report difficulty finding and/or retaining workers, with skills shortages cited as the main reason for difficulty finding workers; 41% of manufacturers call the labor shortage their main obstacle to growth. CT State Community College promises to help Connecticut manufacturers address the skills shortages that limit their growth and Connecticut's economic vitality.

Having a single, statewide institution with consistent offerings and aligned curricula will help to meet Connecticut's manufacturing workforce needs. I believe that CT State Community College will help address this demand because of its statewide scale and simultaneous ability to serve our communities. As an organization representing over 115 aerospace component manufacturers, suppliers, and processors, we welcome the opportunity to have a streamlined approach to working with what will be one of Connecticut's largest institutions for higher education with 12 campus that offer customized access in every corner of the state.

We will continue to build partnerships to prepare a highly skilled and well-educated workforce, while at the same time work strategically with CT State to plan for and respond to opportunities and challenges. The Connecticut community colleges have been a critical partner of Aerospace Components Manufacturers, Inc. Credit, degree and certificate programs feed into four-year engineering and advanced degrees necessary for innovation and growth. Workforce Development and Continuing Education delivers short-term, just-in-time training that feeds hundreds of small and medium manufacturers that are part of the local aerospace supply chain and companies that ACM represents.

The vision for CT State aligns with our industry – to be exceptional. We supply the world with the highest quality aerospace components while providing livable wage jobs with viable career paths. CT State supplies the talented, skilled workforce. We look forward to continued collaboration to develop opportunities for Connecticut's citizens and meet the needs of employers.

Sincerely,



Jessica Taylor
Executive Director
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