

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,

I hope that the Commission supports the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities' (CSCU) substantive change proposal. The faculty, staff, students, and public supporters have worked tirelessly since 2018 to make this change a reality. As someone who was personally involved in the work, I know the changes, the integration of different educational practices, and the striving for acceptance has been, at times, a difficult and divisive process. However, the reasons for the change, seamless student access, equity, and assurance of student success, are what inspired me to participate in the merger process.

The community colleges merger is, I believe, the best way to realize the full potential of the system for the students and citizens of Connecticut

The substantive change proposal was crafted to assure adherence to NECHE standards for accreditation. I am hopeful that the Commission will formally approve the proposal.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Bouffard, D.N.Sc, RN
Emerita, Dean of Academic and Student Affairs at Naugatuck Valley and Northwestern
Connecticut Community Colleges