



February 11, 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 the health and well-being of Connecticut.

Annual demand for new healthcare workers in Connecticut exceeds 7,000, with major shortages in nursing, nursing assistants, skilled technician roles, and long-term and home health care. The health care sector consistently has far more job openings than any other industry. 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 one of the state's largest employers, 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 campuses that offer customized access in every corner of the state.

We will continue to build partnerships to create a highly skilled and well-educated workforce, while at the same time working strategically with CT State to plan for and respond to opportunities and challenges. The Nursing and Allied Health programs at the campuses have long been an important source of hiring for Trinity Health. As the pandemic illustrated, the resiliency of the healthcare system is wholly dependent on its skilled workforce. We cannot meet the lingering challenges of COVID 19 or be prepared for the future without skilled workers.

CT State's credit degree and certificate programs will continue to feed into four-year nursing programs and advanced degree programs, while the Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs produce skilled candidates who meet our immediate need for sterile processing technicians, certified nurse aides, pharmacy technicians and more.

As Connecticut's 12 community colleges prepare to become one CT State Community College with 12 locations, we affirm that having a single, statewide institution with consistent offerings and aligned curricula will be critical in meeting Connecticut's health care workforce needs.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at stuart.rosenberg@trinityhealthofne.org or by phone at 860-684-8101.

Sincerely,


Stuart E. Rosenberg
President