



Mark E. Ojakian
President

October 2, 2015

Mr. Warren Farr
U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid
830 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

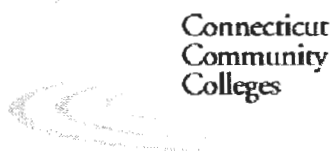
Re: ESI 2015—Pell for Students Who are Incarcerated—Request to Participate

Dear Mr. Farr:

The Board of Regents Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (BOR CSU) is pleased to submit this letter of interest on behalf of the Connecticut Community Colleges (CCCs) to participate in the Second Chance Pell pilot program under the Experimental Sites Initiative (“The Experiment”), in order to test expanded access of the Federal Pell Grant program in conjunction with post-secondary educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals at correctional facilities throughout Connecticut, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Correction (CT DOC), through Unified School District #1.¹ The following lists the 12 colleges and their OPEID number.

1. Asnuntuck Community College (011150)
2. Capital Community College (001399)
3. Gateway Community College (008037)
4. Housatonic Community College (004513)
5. Manchester Community College (001392)
6. Middlesex Community College (008038)
7. Naugatuck Valley Community College (006982)
8. Northwestern Connecticut Community College
9. Norwalk Community College (001399)
10. Quinebaug Valley Community College (010530)
11. Three Rivers Community College (009765)
12. Tunxis Community College (009764)

The CCCs will provide college certificate and degree programs in the correctional facilities that align with opportunities for completion upon re-entry into the communities. The partnership will support incarcerated individuals toward successful re-entry and help facilitate successful transition back into society. This initiative aligns well with Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy’s “Second Chance Society.” On July 9, 2015, the Governor signed House Bill 7104, the “Second Chance Society” legislation to further



reduce crime and successfully re-integrate nonviolent offenders into society. The legislation was approved with strong bi-partisan support and includes a number of newly funded initiatives.

Our Strengths

The CCCs have a long history of partnering with the CT DOC to offer college courses and programs in correctional facilities. Between 2009 and 2012, Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) offered college courses and certificate programs at four correctional facilities. Manufacturing courses and certificate programs were offered at state prisons: MacDougall, Osborn and Robinson. Additional courses including business and mathematics were offered at these correctional facilities and at Willard/Cybulski Correctional Institution. Over 2,400 students enrolled in courses at the correctional facilities between 2003 and 2011 with an almost 96% completion rate. Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) served over 2,000 inmate students between Spring 1999 and Summer 2012 at York Correctional Institution for girls and women and Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Institution. Courses were offered in Accounting, Anthropology, Art, Business, Economics, English, Environmental Studies, Finance, Biology, History, Marketing, Music, Political Science, Sociology, and Psychology. 40% of the students were male and 60% female. 75% received grades of C or above.

Prior to 2008, several community college classes at multiple CT Correctional Facilities were offered through state and federal funding, including Business, Management, Human Resources, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor (DARC), Economics, English, Math, Nutrition and Food, Speech, Human Development, Social Development, Geography, Creative Writing and Computers.

Commitment to Student Success:

Based upon their demonstrated commitment to student success, in 2014 the CCCs received funding from the Kresge Foundation for the Connecticut Student Success Center (CSCU SSC). The CSCU SSC joins a group of small but influential Student Success Centers in other states (Arkansas, California, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Texas) that together comprise a growing national network organized by Jobs for the Future (JFF), a policy-based organization located in Boston and Washington D.C. JFF has played a leadership role in the nationwide institutional adoption of many of the research-based high impact practices learned from the past decade of work involving the Completion by Design (CBD), Achieving the Dream (ATD) initiatives, and other national student success movements. The CSCU SSC aims to foster a collaborative process in which faculty, staff, students, and administration work together to develop a culture of academic and personal success for community college students across the state of Connecticut. Consistent with the mission of the colleges, the CSCU SSC aims to promote communities in which students are encouraged to succeed and excel as they work toward achieving their goals of degree and certificate completion. Technical assistance, professional development, and resources offered through the CSCU SSC will directly impact the successful reintegration of students affected by this ESI at our colleges upon their return to the community.

Workforce Initiatives

The BOR CSCU successfully works with federal, state and private partners as a unified system on a number of statewide initiatives with a strong focus on addressing Connecticut's workforce needs, offering programs which lead to jobs that provide family-sustaining wages and utilizing nationwide best practices to help students succeed.

Over the past five years, Connecticut has identified a critical workforce need in advanced manufacturing and numerous initiatives have been launched in response. In July, Connecticut received one of 12 federal designations under the "Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership" (IMCP). With the IMCP designation as a framework, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) (along with the Advisory Board, which oversees a \$30 million Manufacturing Innovation Fund established to support the modernization and innovation of processes, equipment, and workforce for manufacturers) will provide the organizational structure to lead the effort to revolutionize the Advanced Manufacturing Communities Region's aerospace and shipbuilding industries. This effort will focus its resources in three main areas: workforce, supply chain, and innovation. For workforce and training, the region will seek to expand and modernize regional Advanced Manufacturing Centers in the Community Colleges and Technical High School system and to create a future pipeline of trained workers by enhancing programs that expose students to careers in manufacturing.

In response to the critical need to fill current and anticipated manufacturing jobs, the BOR CSCU has also responded with a number of system-wide initiatives. The CT Jobs Bill funded the replication of Asnuntuck Community College's highly successful Advanced Manufacturing Center program at three additional locations—Housatonic, Naugatuck Valley and Quinebaug Valley Community Colleges. The two-semester Manufacturing Machine Technology Certificate was developed and replicated at each center. 955 students participated between 2012 and academic year 2014-15, with a job placement rate exceeding 90%. Funding from USDOL for the Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Initiative will provide new labs and equipment at Manchester and Three Rivers Community Colleges, as well as develop new certificate programs in specialty areas identified by manufacturers throughout the state. These initiatives have led to the development and strengthening of state and private partnerships including post-secondary education to meet Connecticut's most critical workforce needs.

Our Approach

CT DOC has identified 4,519 potential students statewide who will be eligible for release within five years of the start of the Experiment, including a breakdown by district and population demographics. CT DOC will recruit students into classes offered at the correctional facilities and schedule classrooms and other logistics. The Connecticut Talent Assistance Cooperative's Educational Opportunity Center program (CONNTAC-EOC) has established relationships with the community colleges and CT DOC provided through TRIO Title IV Educational Opportunity Center funding. CONNTAC-EOC Educational Counselors will assist incarcerated students with FAFSA completion. Currently there are 10 satellite locations at the CCCs at which CONNTAC-EOC provides additional support services to students on campuses.

As a result of the planning work between BOR CSCU and CT DOC, we propose a two-phase approach. Phase I will include colleges that have experience working with Connecticut's incarcerated population and formerly incarcerated individuals; Phase II will involve all of the CCCs, to provide opportunities for released individuals to complete their academic programs in the communities they return to upon release. Over the course of the Experiment, Phase II colleges may also include an expansion of programs offered in additional correctional facilities. (Please see detailed information in chart below.)

Phase I

College	Correctional Facilities	Programs to be Offered	Est. # of Participants
Asnuntuck	Enfield, MacDougall, Osborn, Robinson and Willard-Cybulski	Certificates and associate degree programs in business administration, human services management and marketing	300 per semester (two courses per prison, 10 courses per semester, 30 students recruited per class)
Manchester	MacDougall I	Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor (DARC)	15-20 per class, one-two classes per year
Capital	MacDougall, Robinson, Enfield, Osborn, Cheshire, Manson, and York	Accounting, Architectural Engineering, Communication Media, Computer and Information Systems, Computer and Information Systems: Mobile Application Developer Option, Construction Management; Management: Entrepreneurship Option, Music Industry, Social Services: Community Change Studies, Gerontology, Library Technical Assistant, and Mental Health	20 per class, number of offerings to be determined
Three Rivers	York, Radgowski	Business Administration and Exercise Science	20 per class, number of offerings to be determined
Naugatuck Valley	Cheshire, Manson Youth Institution	Business: Accounting, Administrative Support, Management; Arts and Humanities: Visual Arts (will choose two of above)	20 per class, number of offerings to be determined

Phase 2 Colleges:

Gateway, Housatonic, Middlesex, Norwalk, Northwestern, Quinebaug Valley and Tunxis Community Colleges will offer the programs listed above and additional programs to students when they re-enter

their communities. Over the course of the experiment, they may offer programs at the correctional facilities.

Acceptances and approvals from the 12 community colleges Financial Aid Directors follow. Appendix A provides additional information on institution type and control, geographic location, enrollment, Title IV HEA participation levels, evidence of program compliance and cohort default rates for each of the 12 colleges. Appendix B is a letter of support from the Department of Corrections.


Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or contact Ms. Shelly Jewell, Director, Workforce Development, Strategic Partnerships and Sponsored Programs, jewellr@ct.edu or 860-723-0089.

Sincerely,


Mark E. Ojakian
President


Beth-Anne Egan
Acting Director of Financial Aid Services
Asnuntuck Community College

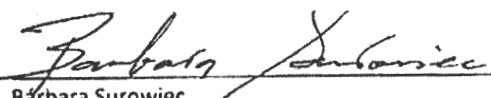
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Margaret Malaspina
Director of Financial Aid Services
Capital Community College

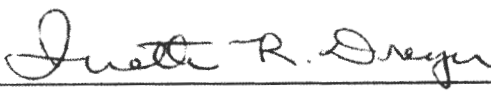
Date: 9/30/15


Raymond Zeek
Director of Financial Aid Services
Gateway Community College

Date: 9/30/15


Barbara Surowiec
Director of Financial Aid Services
Housatonic Community College

Date: 9/30/15


Ivette Rivera-Dreyer
Director of Financial Aid Services
Manchester Community College

Date: September 30, 2015

Irene Martin

Irene Martin
Director of Financial Aid Services
Middlesex Community College

Date: 9/30/15

Catherine Hardy

Catherine Hardy
Director of Financial Aid Services
Naugatuck Valley Community College

Date: 9/30/15

Louis Bristol

Louis Bristol
Director of Financial Aid Services
Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Date: 9-30-2015

Ashley Ruszczyk

Ashley Ruszczyk
Associate Director of Financial Aid Services
Norwalk Community College

Date: 9/30/15

Kimberly Rich

Kimberly Rich
Director of Financial Aid Services
Quinebaug Valley Community College

Date: 09/30/15

Kenneth M. Briggs

Kenneth M. Briggs
Director of Financial Aid Services
Three Rivers Community College

Date: 9/30/15

David Welsh

David Welsh
Acting Director of Financial Aid Services
Tufts Community College

Date: 9/30/2015

Appendix A

Definitions:

- Enrollment Size: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, and Fall 2013 Headcount at Census
- Completion Rates: Graduation Rate of first-time, full-time students in 150% of normal time

PHASE 1 COLLEGES

Asnuntuck Community College (011150)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Enfield, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 1,571 Fall 2014: 1,603 Fall 2013: 1,715
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement
Cohort default rates	7.1% for FY2011 14.0% for FY2010 9.0% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 25.0% 2012: 40.3% 2011: 30.3%

Capital Community College (001399)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Hartford, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 3,503 Fall 2014: 4,075 Fall 2013: 4,168
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	17.5% for FY2011 7.0% for FY2010 8.1% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 8.9% 2012: 7.7% 2011: 8.1%

Manchester Community College (001392)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Manchester, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 6,981 Fall 2014: 7,300 Fall 2013: 7,571
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	10.7% for FY2011 9.6% for FY2010 2.1% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 18.3% 2012: 17.0% 2011: 15.4%

Naugatuck Valley Community College (006982)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Waterbury, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 6,976 Fall 2014: 7,102 Fall 2013: 7,294
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133
Cohort default rates	11.6% for FY2011 12.7% for FY2010 7.3% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 12.0% 2012: 13.6% 2011: 8.4%

Three Rivers Community College (009765)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Norwich, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 4,259 Fall 2014: 4,530 Fall 2013: 4,749
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	13.1% for FY2011 11.2% for FY2010 12.0% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 13.0% 2012: 11.2% 2011: 10.6%

PHASE 2 COLLEGES**Gateway Community College (008037)**

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	New Haven, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 7,980 Fall 2014: 8,200 Fall 2013: 8,186
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	9.8% for FY2011 12.1% for FY2010 12.0% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 7.9% 2012: 8.0% 2011: 9.5%

Housatonic Community College (004513)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Bridgeport, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 5,369 Fall 2014: 5,286 Fall 2013: 5,813
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	15.1% for FY2011 17.7% for FY2010 14.7% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 8.3% 2012: 8.0% 2011: 9.1%

Middlesex Community College (008038)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Middletown, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 2,902 Fall 2014: 3,005 Fall 2013: 2,899
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	11.7% for FY2011 19.2% for FY2010 18.0% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 14.4% 2012: 13.6% 2011: 12.7%

Northwestern Connecticut Community College (001398)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Winsted, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 1,521 Fall 2014: 1,614 Fall 2013: 1,549
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	4.0% for FY2011 7.6% for FY2010 2.0% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 13.5% 2012: 10.2% 2011: 10.3%

Norwalk Community College (001399)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Norwalk, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 6,054 Fall 2014: 6,363 Fall 2013: 6,556
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	10.2% for FY2011 6.2% for FY2010 14.5% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 8.1% 2012: 8.0% 2011: 9.7%

Quinebaug Valley Community College (010530)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Danielson, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 1,680 Fall 2014: 1,883 Fall 2013: 1,929
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	10.5% for FY2011 **% for FY2010 **% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 13.8% 2012: 15.1% 2011: 1834%

Tunxis Community College (009764)

Institution type and control	Public Two-Year
Geographic location	Farmington, CT/New England
Enrollment size	Fall 2015: 4,055 Fall 2014: 4,193 Fall 2013: 4,547
Title IV HEA participation levels	Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study Program, Direct Loan Program
Evidence of programmatic compliance	Annual participation in Statewide Single Audit in accordance with OMB Circular A-133; Program Participation Agreement; Program Participation Agreement.
Cohort default rates	14.1% for FY2011 11.9% for FY2010 16.7% for FY2009
Financial responsibility ratios	N/A – Public IHE
Completion rates	2013: 10.3% 2012: 10.2% 2011: 6.9%

'Unified School District #1 is the legally vested school district within the Department of Correction. The school district provides academic, vocational, re-entry, special education and transitional services to the correctional population at all 15 facilities. Unified School District #1 will assist the colleges to provide post-secondary opportunities to their students.