

Dear *Partnership for Connecticut* Board of Directors:

After serving as President and CEO of the *Partnership for Connecticut* for 30 days, on May 4th at 8:30 am, I was asked to be on a call with Erik Clemons, Barbara Dalio, and Andrew Ferguson. During this call, I was was ambushed with a set of false and defamatory accusations (read by Andrew Ferguson) and then told to voluntarily resign by 12:00 noon that day or the allegations would become "much more public." I categorically denied all of the allegations because they were false and then was told they did not want to hear me speak. They also said that they had been talking about my "ineffective tenure" for "some time", which bewildered me given my short tenure and the fact that I had regular, required "check in" calls with either Barbara or Andrew literally every day of the week (and periodic calls with Erik as well), providing many opportunities for redirection if that's what they felt was truly needed. None of our prior conversations prepared me for what happened on May 4th.

As you'll see below, last Thursday I requested that the Board Secretary and Chair call a special meeting of the board given the requirements in both the Partnership's by-laws as well as our grant agreement with the State of Connecticut. I'm concerned that a week has passed, the meeting has not been called, and I believe that not all members of the board have been apprised of what has transpired. Additionally, I've been given no formal, written notification of the reasons for my "paid administrative leave" nor specifics regarding what a fair and unbiased process might look like going forward.

I'll be very pleased to share with the board what I specifically did during my first month. I've acted in the best interest of the Partnership and with a desire to understand the statewide landscape and key assets that could be more effectively aligned (and/or resourced) to successfully meet the needs of disconnected and disengaged youth (aged 14-24).

I do not believe that I have been treated fairly or appropriately during these past eight days. Additionally, I believe my treatment is in violation of the by-laws of the Partnership. I seek to understand what the allegations are and to be given the opportunity to protect my reputation and name, and in the best interest of the Partnership address any concerns that any board member may have regarding my current performance as President and CEO, as well as my prior performance in any previous employment.

I'm deeply disappointed that this has happened, since it distracts from our ability to carry out the mission of the Partnership, which has been my life's work. My prior experience prepared me well to support a genuine effort to drive more equitable access to both education and workforce development opportunities, leading to more equitable access to meaningful jobs and productive citizenship for Connecticut's disconnected and disengaged youth and young adults. I look forward to being given the opportunity to address any and all questions you may have and to returning my focus to the achievement of the goals and mission of the Partnership.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne

Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey

President and CEO

Partnership for Connecticut