

JOINT STATEMENT

CONNECTICUT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

On March 3, 2022, the New England Commission of Higher Education accepted the substantive change proposal submitted by Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) to join 12 separate community colleges into Connecticut State Community College (CT State), a single institution with 12 campuses effective July 1, 2023.

In its proposal, CT State outlined ambitious plans to assure that it will meet the *Standards for Accreditation* by July 1, 2023. CT State is required to submit three progress reports, the first due in September 2022, the second in February 2023 and the final one due in June 2023, each of which addresses the progress made during that time period. The granting of initial accreditation to CT State is contingent upon the determination by the Commission that there has been successful execution of the plan put forth by CT State to meet the Standards.

CSCU President Terrence Cheng stated: "We are grateful to the Commission for its guidance and direction. The Commission's most recent action is a monumental step forward. We look forward to working with the Commission to formally and officially complete the process by July 2023."

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of education. The Commission accredits 205 degree-granting institutions in the United States, one system with seven campuses, and twelve American-style institutions in other countries.

Connecticut State Community College provides access to academically rigorous and innovative education and training focused on student success. The College supports excellence in teaching and learning, makes data-informed decisions, promotes equity, and advances positive change for the students, communities, and industries it serves.

Further information may be found at:

New England Commission of Higher Education: <https://www.neche.org>

Connecticut State Community College: <https://www.ct.edu/merger>

March 8, 2022

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