

Wallace J. Irish, Jr.

Opening statement for Confirmation to the Community-Technical College Board of Trustees- April 16, 2009

Good afternoon Sen. Looney, Rep. Janowski, and members of the committee. My name is Wallace Irish of Manchester, CT and I am honored to be nominated by Gov. Rell for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges. It is also an honor to appear before you today for confirmation.

I attended Manchester Community College and Central Connecticut State College; I have been President of the W.J. Irish Insurance Agency in Manchester, an independent insurance agency serving the greater Manchester area since 1976. Prior to starting my agency I was employed as a claims representative for both the Aetna Casualty and Surety Co. and the Aetna Insurance Co. I am a licensed Property & Casualty and Life and Health insurance agent have held these licenses since 1972. I am a lifelong resident of Manchester and the father of 3 grown daughters, Allyson, Katie and Anna-Marie.

I have spent a great deal of my adult life active within my community as a former volunteer fireman, past President of the Exchange Club of Manchester, member of the St. Bridget Church School Board, member of UNICO of Manchester, the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

I have always believed that it is more important to give back rather than receive. In my professional career I have served as a State Director of the Professional Insurance Agents of Connecticut, and received the outstanding chairperson of the year award during my term. I am a past President of the Manchester Association of Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut. I am still active in both agents associations.

I served 1 term as a member of the Town of Manchester Board of Directors. I currently serve as a member of the State of Connecticut Insurance and Risk Management Board, a member of the Branch Advisory Board of Rockville Bank and an active Corporator with Eastern Connecticut Health Network.

I firmly believe that the competitive fate of our state's economy rests with our ability to provide a well-educated workforce by providing great educational opportunities to all of our residents, and believe that my appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Ct. Community Colleges would allow me to help make the goal a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspectives. I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

Respectfully Submitted

Wallace J. Irish, Jr.