

Ronald S. Gambardella

Opening Statements to the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee – April 16, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and members of the committee. My name is Ron Gambardella of Hamden, CT and I am honored to be nominated by Governor Rell for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees for Community-Technical Colleges. It is an honor and a privilege to appear before you today for confirmation.

I graduated from South Central Community College now Gateway Community College in 1976 with an Associate Degree and went on to Southern Connecticut State University where I graduated with a BS in Economics and Accounting. I completed my MBA in Finance from the University of New Haven. It is from my personal experience as a beneficiary of Connecticut's higher education system that I can appear before you today with the confidence of knowing that our community college system works. I was well prepared to continue my studies in the areas of accounting and finance where I graduated with honors from Southern.

I later returned to school to become certified as a beginning educator in the areas of history and business at the secondary level. Here again, the community college system worked perfectly. I was able to return to Gateway to pick up courses that were required to meet the established standards to teach history. The credits that I earned at Gateway were all transferable. Consequently, I was able to fulfill the requirements at an extremely reasonable cost.

In my professional career, I held finance and accounting positions at Northeast Utilities, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and AT&T. I am currently self-employed and have been since 2001 where I provide tax preparation and investment services to my clients. All of this was made possible by first graduating from Gateway. Additionally, since I was a veteran of the US Navy during the Vietnam Era, my tuition was waived during my initial attendance.

When Governor Rell nominated me to join the Board of Trustees for Community-Technical Colleges, I could not possibly refuse. I only hope I can give back just a small part of what was given to me. I believe my appointment to the Board of Trustees for Community-Technical Colleges would allow me to serve in a capacity that will help insure the community college system is healthy and vibrant for the next generation of students. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.