

**Testimony**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
**February 13, 2009**

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Tracey Josey and I reside in New Britain. Here with me this evening is my husband James, my sister Rana, and my boss Linda.

I work at the YWCA of New Britain in the infant program.... I am here this evening to talk in support about two collaborative programs: Charter Oak State College and CT Charts A Course. Both of these programs have helped me to further my education in an area that I love – early childhood education. Exactly 1 year ago I was hired at the YWCA by Mrs. Linda. She told me in order to obtain the full time position I had to go back to school. I was really excited for one because she hired me and two I was able to go back to school. I was really nervous because I knew I would have to get a college transcript from my previous college which I couldn't because I didn't graduate. And on top of that I owed them money for my past loan.

One of the teachers at my new employment told me to go to Charter Oak State College. She told me that I could matriculate any of my college credits. I received the number to the college and called right away. I did not know the person on the other end was the Assistant to the President or the woman who would help change my life. It was Mrs. Marlene Woodman. I was very surprised that she understood my situation. I must admit that she didn't right away but it didn't take long either. I explained to her the situation about not being able to matriculate my credits right away and she helped me get in contact with another lady - Ms. Stacey Garnett at CT Charts A Course. As I began to explain again the situation she let me know Ms. Woodman had already updated her on my problem. Ms. Woodman and Ms. Garnett helped me obtain a scholarship to take an online class for the first time. I was so excited. Then Ms. Garnett informed Ms. Woodman that I don't meet Charts A Course priorities anymore. That meant I had to matriculate in order to receive financial aid. From another grant fund, Ms. Garnett was able to find funding to issue my old college a check for the amount of the loan, which I said thank you to a million times. Now that I am on my fourth class at Charter Oak State College – and doing very well. I am happy that I am here. And again I thank my husband for believing in me, my boss for hiring me and seeing my true potential, Ms. Marlene for helping and keeping in touch with me. She also helped me encourage my husband to attend a community college. And finally, a huge thank you to Ms. Garnett for helping me with my old college loan.

I know that many of you understand the importance of getting an education – especially for those of us who work in the field of early childhood. Unfortunately, for us working in early childhood, it is very difficult to pay for our college expenses. This could not have happened for me had it not been for the scholarships and others believing in me.

Thank you for your time.