

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals  
On the DMHAS Budget  
H.B. 6365, the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget**

**By Stephanie Moran, University Assistant, Counseling and Wellness Center,  
Central Connecticut State University on behalf of  
The Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut's Workforce  
DBA The Governor's Prevention Partnership  
February 20, 2009**

Good afternoon/evening, Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Senator Harris, Representative Ryan and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Stephanie Moran, University Assistant in the Counseling and Wellness Center at Central Connecticut State University.

I'm here today to ask for your continued support for prevention programs so that our young people can grow and thrive in nurturing families and communities and one day take their place in Connecticut's workforce.

I'm dedicated to the cause because I have experienced first-hand how prevention programs can impact life choices. As a past CCSU student and as a current employee, I have been a part of many prevention initiatives ranging from The Natural Helper Program, The Town & Gown Taskforce, and The Presidential Advisory Council on Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs (PAC).

The Natural Helper Program is composed of volunteer CCSU students who are nominated because they are good listeners, leaders, and have genuine concern for others. The Presidential Advisory Council on Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs is a collaborative effort between student services, academic affairs, and campus police to reduce the impact of ATOD on the community.

The Town & Gown Taskforce is the newest prevention coalition, and has seen incredible results. This taskforce involves the town of New Britain, Law Enforcement partners, Belvedere Neighbors, and the CCSU community, who work together to help address problem off campus parties. Focusing in on enforcement strategies, the CCSU Police and New Britain Police Departments now have a mutual aid agreement to push aside past jurisdiction issues. Other efforts by both police departments include:

visiting “problem houses” at the beginning of each semester to hand out information relating to underage drinking, considering calls from concerned neighbors as “high priority” versus “low priority”, dispatching party patrols so officers are able to identify potential problems before they become issues, and DUI checkpoints. All of these results are thanks to The Strategic Prevention Framework Grant that has been able to fund over-time wages for both police departments. Positive results have been seen through CORE Data analysis – which I will make available per request.

The Governor’s Prevention Partnership has been a key player and an important part of CCSU’s prevention success because of their ability to offer technical assistance, and coordinate trainings and conferences that help expand the knowledge of law enforcement partners, administration, and overall the students.

The Governor’s Prevention Partnership saves Connecticut money. We know that nearly \$10 is returned for every dollar invested in prevention. The Partnership provides the expertise to help prevention programs grow and enlist businesses to invest in prevention.

In the days ahead, please continue to support their tireless commitment, work, and energy as they tackle the serious issues affecting our children and their futures, from underage drinking and drug abuse to violence prevention and bullying to mastering the skills and schooling needed to succeed. We need The Governor’s Prevention Partnership to protect our future workforce.

Thank you.