

OPENING STATEMENT OF

VIRGINIA D. ZAWOY

Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee

March 31, 2009

Good morning Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and members of the Committee. I have had the privilege of being a member of the Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges Board of Trustees since 2001. I am honored to be before you today and to be one of Governor Rell's nominees.

I was born and educated in New York City, moving to Connecticut in 1964. Since that time I have been involved in political and community service in my town of Clinton as well as the surrounding region. During the years 1985 to 1991, I served as Clinton's First Selectman. For 16 years, up until November 2008, I was employed as the Corporate and Foundation Relation Director for the University of New Haven. During that time I participated in writing grants that would benefit the West Haven educational community. I also assisted in meeting with students in the New Haven/West Haven area through my involvement with the West Haven Chamber of Commerce and the New Haven Rotary Club.

During my time on the Board of Trustees, I have participated in many of the colleges ongoing events as well as the appointments of college presidents. I have been impressed with the quality of the presidents as well as with many of the faculty that I have come to know. I have attended many graduations and have had the opportunity of speaking with students of a number of backgrounds, all of whom felt they received an education that would be of value to them throughout their working career.

I am prepared to knuckle down with my fellow Board members and our Chancellor to ensure the best education possible under these distressing economic times. I fully understand the many challenges that lie before us but am confident that we can meet those challenges and create new educational opportunities for our broadening student base.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.