

NANCY WHITEHEAD

1/29/09

Nancy Whitehead – Committee Hearing Remarks

Good afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Nancy Whitehead, and I am honored to have been nominated by Governor Rell to serve again on the Board for State Academic Awards.

Please allow me to serve a bit about my background. I am proud to report that I am an enthusiastic honors graduate of Charter Oak State College. I understand and have benefitted from the unique opportunities Charter Oak offers to adult learners.

As a former student representative to the Board of Academic Awards, I also have already been exposed to a wide range of responsibilities and challenges assumed by the Board, and I have been an active participant in Board matters.

As a student, I became intimately familiar with – and am an unabashed advocate for – the online adult learning opportunities offered by Charter Oak State College. As is typical of Charter Oak students, I juggled and balanced academics with my professional responsibilities at various companies through the years, currently at Carrier Corporation.

Through the years – and as my working schedule and family responsibilities allowed – I had taken courses at five other institutions of higher learning. What distinguishes Charter Oak was their diverse array of solutions for degree seekers. Yes, other colleges offer online courses; however, Charter Oak is one of only three institutions in the country that will work closely with an adult student to develop an actual degree program. As a Board member, I would look forward to supporting the perpetuation and expansion of Charter Oak's opportunities for adult learners and degree seekers.

My career includes success as a senior executive assistant, bank officer corporate secretary, copywriter and editor. In the community, I was a volunteer for 20 years for Hartford Stage Company, a volunteer with Connecticut Special Olympics, taught Sunday school at my church, and serve on the Board of Connecticut Concert Opera. At Charter Oak, I was also honored to be selected to speak on behalf of the college before the State Legislative Appropriations Committee, to serve on the Student Affairs Committee, and to speak at commencement in June 2008.

In conclusion, I am honored to be considered to serve on the Board for State Academic Awards and if elected will serve with commitment, diligence and personal passion.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.