

Theresa Eberhard Asch

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

I am deeply honored by Governor Rell's nomination to the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees.

As a Western CT State University graduate where I earned a BS and an MS and as a graduate of Southern CT State University where I earned a 6th year certificate in school administration, I have been involved in many aspects of education. I am so proud to be a member of this board and, as a member, to ensure that Connecticut residents who wish to attend the CSU system indeed have that opportunity. I have enjoyed a successful career because of the opportunity given to me by Western CT State University. My family could not afford a college education for me at any private institution so I considered myself fortunate to be able to receive an excellent education at this university system. As a first generation college graduate, I was an influence to my extended family, who followed my example and pursued college degrees.

As a result of my experience, I am very cognizant of the importance of our CSU family to be available to those who wish this opportunity and without it would not be able to pursue a college degree.

As you know most students who attend our system come from within CT and stay within CT to work as I did. Our schools and businesses in the state prosper as a result of the education received at the four universities. I am proud of the graduates of these universities and I will continue to

work for the programs we need and ask for the support we need to capitalize on keeping this wonderful brain pool in Connecticut.

My thirty years as a Brookfield teacher and Brookfield administrator has given me a unique opportunity to watch children grow and be educated and to see what happens when missed opportunities for education occur. I sometimes see some of my students on the campuses of the universities and it is an uplifting feeling to know that I might have helped to get them there.

I believe that the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System is a unique group of individuals who work together to ensure that an excellent education and college experience is afforded to all who have a desire to pursue this. Our children in Connecticut are our future and they will be our caretakers. I want to make sure that they are well-educated and ethical citizens of Connecticut who have a sense of service to our state.

Thank you so much for your time. I am aware of the many responsibilities each of you must attend to each day. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have for me.