

State of Connecticut

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Statement by

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Good afternoon, Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and members of the Committee. I am delighted to be appearing before a committee whose co-chair is an active alumna of Manchester Community College. Others on the Committee, I am sure, have taken courses or have had family members or friends, employees or neighbors who have been touched by one or more of Connecticut's community colleges.

It is a huge honor to be nominated for a position on the community colleges' board of trustees.

As you can tell as soon as I open my mouth, I am an immigrant; an American by choice. So I feel very privileged to be nominated by Governor Rell and, I hope, confirmed by you.

I retired in 2008, having been a college president for over thirty years: nine-plus in Massachusetts and almost twenty-one in

Connecticut. If confirmed, I hope I can demonstrate that I understand the difference between the roles of a president and a trustee. My passion for community college education remains.

There are, I believe, three major duties that a trustee can fulfill for the citizens of Connecticut and for the institutions he or she holds in trust:

1. Ensure that processes are in place so that dollars are well spent. Quite frankly, this will not be an issue while Marc Herzog, whom I have known for almost a quarter of a century, is chancellor. And I might add here that the fewer the dollars, the less the need for paper-generating regulation.
2. Ensure that the twelve community colleges, which are very different ... and rightly so ... that they stick to the basic mission, which is to offer access to high quality higher education to people who otherwise couldn't dream of going to college. The open door must never become a revolving door.
3. Third: help tell the community college story. Legislators like yourselves know that story well, since you are connected to the colleges that serve your districts, but I do believe that the story needs to be told again and again, and to different audiences throughout our state.

I cannot think of a higher honor than to serve on the community colleges' board of trustees, if confirmed, and, of course, welcome the opportunity to respond to any questions you may have.