

Testimony for Charter Oak State College – Kym Mckoy
Appropriations Committee – Public Hearing
February 10, 2010

Good evening- Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Kym McKoy, and I reside in New Haven, Connecticut. I am truly honored to be here today to speak about the importance of the CT Wage Program for adults pursuing their degree.

I am a divorced mother of three children whose ages range from 6 to 20. On August 24, 2004 I had to make and face the hardest decision of my life. Do I stay with a man who has abused and controlled my life for 10 years? Or do I leave and go on welfare? My husband paid all of the bills but unfortunately I had to pay the price with my self respect, self esteem, self worth, and my identity. The verbal abuse was constant day to day event. I was not allowed to attend any educational programs unless he approved of them. So I knew it was time to move on and create my own destiny in life. I currently work part time for the New Haven Board of Education (Head Start Program) within the Social Services Department at the Zigler Location.

I am enrolled in my last class to earn my Associates Degree in General Studies at Charter Oak State College to be finished this May. I wish to continue my education by also earning my Bachelor's Degree focusing in Psychology to be finished by 2011-20012. I wish to continue my education at Charter Oak State College because it gives me the flexibility with online classes to be able to take classes even if one of my children or I get sick. No matter if the weather is good or bad I can still attend class without missing any vital information that will help with my learning process.

The CT Wage Program has helped me to get further along in my education without the dreadful worries of where the money to pay for college will come from. I would never be able to pay for an education on my own. Yes! There is money coming from the federal levels and for that I am truly humbled, but I would still have to come out of my pocket to pay for the extra cost and that I just cannot afford. This program has not only helped me financially but it has also helped my self esteem to grow. My counselor, Ms. Delores Bell has been a tremendous help to me. There have been many occasions where I needed guidance and an educated response to some situations and Ms. Bell has always taken the time to be there for me. I never felt as though I was taking up too much of her time. She is a great diamond in the rough. That is what a good education is supposed to do for an individual elevate their mind, body, and soul. Becoming a well educated woman would not only help me, but it also affects the lives of my children. We sit and do homework together. So please, as you make your decision on keeping this running remember that there are a lot of Kym Mckoy's out there who desperately need the assistance of the CT Wage Program.

Thank you for you time and the opportunity to speak before you today.

Kym McKoy