



*Testimony by Chancellor David G. Carter
Connecticut State University System
Committee on Executive and Legislative Nominations
Tuesday, February 9, 2010*

Good afternoon, Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, and members of the committee. I want to thank you for the opportunity to publicly support the nomination of **Michael Caron** to the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS).

Those of you who have served in the legislature for some time are certainly familiar with former Representative Caron, and the seriousness of purpose, professionalism and dedication that he brings to public service.

In all candor, I must say that I was thrilled to learn that Governor Rell had selected him to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees, and I was extraordinarily pleased that he agreed to serve.

During my years as President of Eastern Connecticut State University, I had the opportunity to work with then-Representative Caron on a number of issues impacting Eastern, and I came away impressed every time. He always demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the mission of accessible, affordable, high quality education – and kept the best interests of his constituents first and foremost.

He is an individual of great integrity, with a firm belief in civic engagement and giving back to the community, which has certainly been evident throughout his career. I am proud to say that in addition to serving with distinction as a member of the General Assembly, Michael Caron is a product of the Connecticut State University System, having graduated from Central Connecticut State University.

As you are aware, 93 percent of the students attending the Connecticut State University System are from Connecticut, and 86 percent stay in Connecticut after graduation to begin their careers and contribute to the economic, intellectual and cultural well-being and quality of life in our state. CSUS is truly a catalyst for Connecticut, and Michael Caron will be a wonderful addition to the Board in guiding us to even greater accomplishments.

We work closely with Connecticut's business community, and we are very cognizant of the workforce needs of our state. We are responding with academic programs in the STEM areas of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as nursing. Our full-time enrollment is higher than it has ever been, which underscores the importance and impact of the education we provide on Connecticut's future.

Our view is this: we need to work together, all across the pre-K through college education continuum, to ensure that Connecticut students are college-ready and workforce-ready. We are doing just that, and we are finding enthusiastic partners throughout our state.

But we also recognize the fiscal constraints our state is facing and under the leadership of our Board of Trustees, we have worked diligently to curtail costs and reduce expenditures, without compromising the education we provide to our students.

Michael Caron will be a tremendous asset to the Board, and I am convinced that his background, know-how and commitment will benefit the students, faculty, and staff at Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities, as well as the System Office.

I look forward to working with him, and I urge you to support his appointment.

Thank you very much.