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Opening Statement

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Chairmen Looney and Janowski, Ranking Members Senator McKinney and Representative Piscopo and other distinguished members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, it is a pleasure to see you and it is my hope that we may work together again.

It is my honor to come before you today as Governor Rell's nominee for the Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees.

I am well aware that I can never fill the long shadow of success and accomplishment of Larry McHugh, but I will do my best to work with you and your colleagues to continue to make our Connecticut State Universities the backbone of our state's higher education system.

While the bar is high it is also an opportunity to proceed ever onward toward new horizons and a new future for the 95% of Connecticut High School graduates that attend our schools and 90% who remain in our state to live, work and raise their families.

As you know from my background information before you I am a two-time graduate of Central Connecticut State University with degrees in History and Finance.

Some of my other non-profit endeavors include service on the Boards of various economic development, health care services and business organizations.

One of my responsibilities as Director of Public Affairs at Pfizer PharmaThreapeutics Research and Development and as a member of our Groton New London Leadership Team is that I serve on our Pfizer Education Board. We try to identify ongoing educational opportunities for our colleagues, and in 2009 I was happy and proud to get the chance to invite CSU as a participant.

It is my opinion that education beyond secondary school is not only preferable, but increasingly necessary. In today's competitive global environment the pressure to work better and smarter couldn't be more acute. The rest of the world wants what Americans have. The academic performance of our global counterparts shows us that they are serious and able.