



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Testimony for the Appropriations Committee

From

Maureen Boyd

Associate Director, Corporate, Foundation & Government Relations

Connecticut College

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Good evening. My name is Maureen Boyd and I am grateful for the opportunity to share with you a little bit about **Connecticut College students and why you should retain their CICS grants.**

Connecticut College students are extraordinarily smart, ambitious, and talented. They volunteer throughout New London County and carry that spirit of giving back to their own communities. This is especially relevant to our students who come from Connecticut towns and cities because they understand how important the College is to the state of Connecticut. Currently, 142 of these students, each of whom represents a city or town in the state of Connecticut, receive CICS grants. These are the students I want you to learn about tonight.

Our 142 Connecticut-based students specifically sought out Connecticut College because they wanted the kind of education we provide – a very personalized residential learning community where the student to faculty ratio is 9 to 1 and each student's education can be tailored to his or her own unique goals and aspirations. This is an important kind of education for Connecticut's students to be able to choose, especially in knowing that private colleges such as Connecticut College tend to have higher retention rates.

Connecticut College currently provides financial aid to 48 percent of our students, including our 142 students who also receive state funding in the form of CICS grants. In fact, our 142 CICS recipients receive more than \$4 million in financial aid from Connecticut College. The same 142 students receive less than \$400,000 in CICS grants. The CICS grants can mean the difference between a Connecticut student being able to attend Connecticut College or going out of state.

In this weakened economy, more students are eligible for need-based aid because of job loss, investment loss or lowered income. And Connecticut College meets full demonstrated need for our students. The CICS grants leverage other financial aid dollars so that more Connecticut students from middle- and low-income families can stay here in Connecticut for college.

At Connecticut College, we are committed to educating Connecticut residents, and we need support from all sectors, including the state and federal government, to make this happen. CICS grants are an important part of our Connecticut students' financial aid packages. In this economy, it is paramount that we educate students in Connecticut so they stay and work in Connecticut. Please don't cut CICS funding for these students.