

Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee
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February 21, 2012

On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), I am submitting testimony opposing Governor Malloy's proposed cut to the Connecticut Independent College Student (CICS) Grant program. The proposal is to cut CICS by \$6.7 million and to eliminate from the program all institutions with endowments over \$200 million (Yale University, Wesleyan University, Connecticut College, Trinity College, Quinnipiac University, and Fairfield University).

These 6 schools received approximately \$4.8 million in CICS funding this year. This proposed \$4.8 million cut is in addition to the \$2 million cut that was already planned for this year that will be felt by all CICS recipients. In other words, at a time of greatest student need due to the economy, Connecticut's need-based financial aid program for private college students will see its appropriation go from \$23 million in FY11 to \$18 million this year to \$11.3 million if the proposed budget is adopted; a 50% reduction in two years.

As noted in the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs' recent report, " This evaluation of the CICS 1) appropriations formula, 2) the allocation formula, and 3) how the amount of financial aid is determined demonstrates that these components of the CICS Program work as intended. The formulas continue to be relevant, and the way aid is awarded is consistent with federal and institutional standards....This report's brief review of one year of data shows a program that is performing in a manner that encourages Connecticut's neediest students to stay in school, apply themselves and complete their educations."

The New York Times recently noted a troubling new analysis of long-term data, "researchers are finding that while the achievement gap between white and black students has narrowed significantly over the past few decades, the gap between rich and poor students has grown substantially during the same period. In another study, by researchers from the University of Michigan, the imbalance between rich and poor children in college completion — the single most important predictor of success in the work force — has grown by about 50 percent since the late 1980s."

The achievement gap at the K-12 level carries through to higher education in Connecticut. Our state's minority attainment gap is the 5th largest in the nation. Financial aid is the primary tool available to help close this gap. Connecticut private colleges graduate minority students at better rates than their public counterparts, with equal levels of enrollment. CICS must be a part of the education reform agenda if Connecticut is to close its achievement gap at all levels.

About the Grant

- The Connecticut Independent College Student grant program (CICS) is a need-based financial aid grant program for Connecticut students that attend Connecticut non-profit, private colleges.
- CICS awards went to 5,413 students at CCIC institutions in FY 2011 at an average grant of \$3,932. Of these awardees, in FY 11, 35% were minorities.
- The FY 12 appropriation of \$18,072,474 is a 23% reduction from FY 11 appropriation of \$23 million. Based on the average award, this equates to nearly 1,400 fewer students receiving the grant. The FY 13 appropriation is \$16,158,319 and the Governor has proposed an additional cut of \$4.8 million. Therefore, from FY 11 to FY 13 the grant would be cut by 50%.

About Private Colleges in CT

- Enroll 31% of all college students statewide including 52% of four-year minority students.
- **Award 44% of all degrees granted in Connecticut in 2010-11**, including 44% of all Bachelor's, 64% of all Master's, and 58.5% of all Doctoral and 57% of all Professional degrees.
- Award 57% of all degrees received by minority students (four-year and above).
- Award 57-82% of four-year and above degrees given in key economic development cluster areas.
- Provided over \$55 million annually in need-based institutional financial aid to Connecticut undergraduates in 2010-11.

Concerns about the Cut

- Due to the weakened economy, more Connecticut students are eligible for need-based aid than ever before due to job loss, investment loss or lowered income. While the amount of federal and institutional aid awarded to these students to help meet their need is skyrocketing, state aid is going down. In one academic year, the number of Connecticut residents eligible for Pell grants at Connecticut's private colleges increased 30%. At the same time, these institutions awarded over \$55 million in institutional need-based financial aid to Connecticut undergraduate students, a 20% increase from the year before. In contrast, the CICS program sustained a 23% cut in the current fiscal year. Under the Governor's proposal the grant program will be cut 50% between FY 11 and FY 13. Any further cut to this financial aid program will only hurt Connecticut's students and families.
- Statistics show that the K-12 achievement gap continues through higher education. Connecticut's minority attainment gap is the 5th largest in the nation. CICS helps to close this gap. 35% of CICS recipients were minority students. Only about 20% of college credentials earned in CT in the 2010-11 academic year were awarded to minority students but nearly 57% of those degrees were earned at private colleges. Overall, our graduation rates are higher for minority students: [http://www.theccic.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/Graph of the Week PDFs/Grad Enrollment by Race Sector.pdf](http://www.theccic.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/Graph%20of%20the%20Week%20PDFs/Grad%20Enrollment%20by%20Race%20Sector.pdf)
- Studies have shown that CT lags among its peers in degree productivity. CT needs its high school graduates to pursue higher education if the state is to have a highly-qualified workforce to meet the needs of the state's employers. Private colleges are far more productive than their public counterparts, especially the six institutions the Governor proposes to eliminate from the CICS program. These six schools have four year graduation rates of 68%-89% and six year graduation rates of 75%-98%; these numbers far exceed the average graduation rates for Connecticut's public higher education institutions: [http://www.theccic.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/2010 Grad Rates- CT Schools all.pdf](http://www.theccic.org/Customer-Content/WWW/CMS/files/2010%20Grad%20Rates-CT%20Schools%20all.pdf). Further, eliminating six of the nation's best universities from the CICS program will only cause more of Connecticut's best and brightest students to leave the state upon graduating from high school and never return.
- Lastly, as the state struggles to maintain a balanced budget, the return on investment from the CICS program simply cannot be beat. The FY10 state cost per degree was only \$1,349 at Connecticut's private colleges compared to \$45,130 per degree in the public sector. Further, the \$23 million state investment in CICS leveraged an additional \$55 million in need-based institutional aid that was awarded to CT undergraduate students.



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Connecticut Independent Colleges: At A Glance

Serving Connecticut

- Connecticut residents make up 42% of all enrolled students attending CCIC institutions.
- Enroll 31% of all college students statewide including 52% of four-year minority students.
- **Award 44% of all degrees granted in Connecticut in 2010-11**, including 44% of all Bachelor's, 64% of all Master's, and 58.5% of all Doctoral and 57% of all Professional degrees.
- Award 57% of all degrees received by minority students (four-year and above).
- Award 57-82% of four-year and above degrees given in key economic development cluster areas.
- Generate a total impact on Connecticut's economy of \$6.2 billion, including \$3.3 billion in direct spending by the institutions, their students and campus visitors.
- In the aggregate, serve as Connecticut's second largest private employer with 22,179 full-time equivalent employees.
- Over 195,000 alumni living in Connecticut who pay \$1.2 billion dollars in state and local taxes.

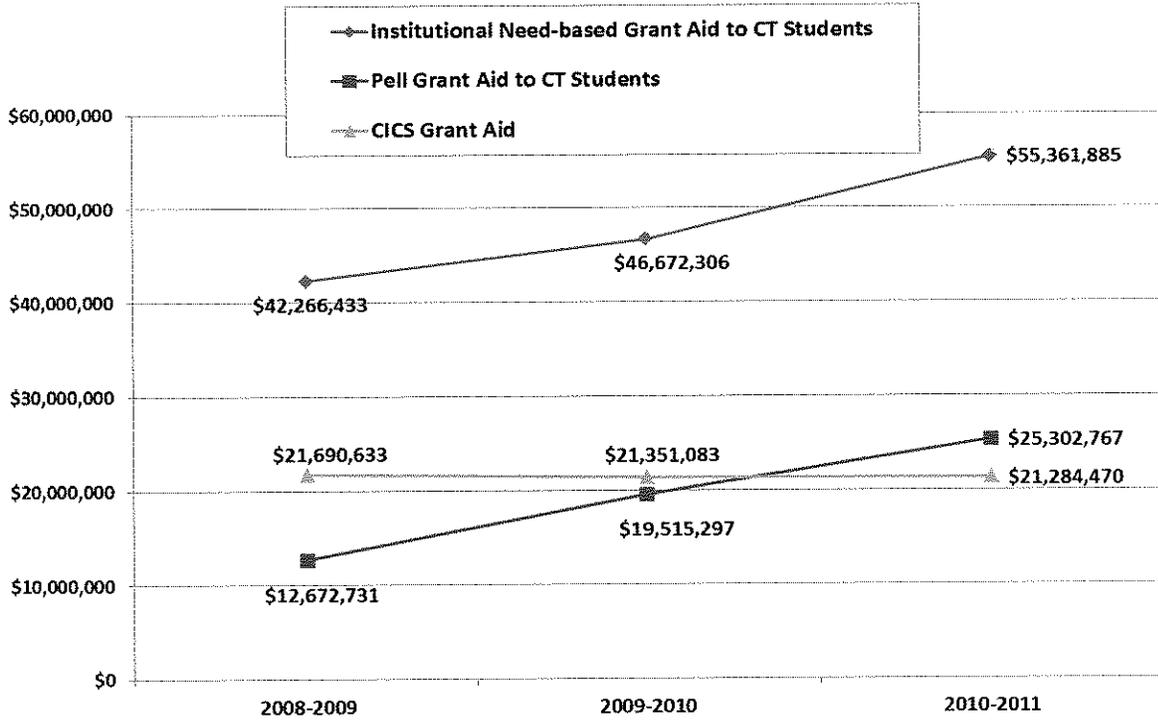
Financial Aid: Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program (CICS)

- The CICS grant program provides need-based aid to Connecticut undergraduates attending Connecticut independent colleges.
- CICS awards went to 5,413 students at CCIC institutions in FY 2011 at an average grant of \$3,932. 35% of CICS awardees were minority students.
- The FY 12 appropriation of \$18,072,474 is a 23% reduction from FY 11. Based on the average award, this equates to nearly 1,400 fewer students receiving the grant. The FY 13 appropriation is \$16,158,319 but the Governor has proposed an **additional cut of \$4.8 million**.
- In FY 10, the average CICS grant was \$9,069 less than state support per UCONN student. ***Additionally, the State cost per degree (FY 2010) in the independent sector was \$1,349 compared to \$45,130 in the public sector.***
- Connecticut independent colleges provided over \$55 million annually in need-based institutional financial aid to Connecticut undergraduates in 2010-11.
- From FY 10 to FY 11, need-based institutional aid to Connecticut students went up nearly \$9 million or 20%. At the same time, Pell Grant aid to Connecticut students at CCIC schools went up nearly \$6 million or almost 30% in one year. During the same time, funding for CICS remained flat.
- On average, 75% of students attending independent colleges in Connecticut receive financial aid with an average award per student of \$22,120.

Albertus Magnus College, Connecticut College, Fairfield University, Goodwin College,
Mitchell College, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer at Hartford, Sacred Heart University,
Saint Joseph College, St. Vincent's College, Trinity College, University of Bridgeport, University of Hartford,
University of New Haven, Wesleyan University, Yale University

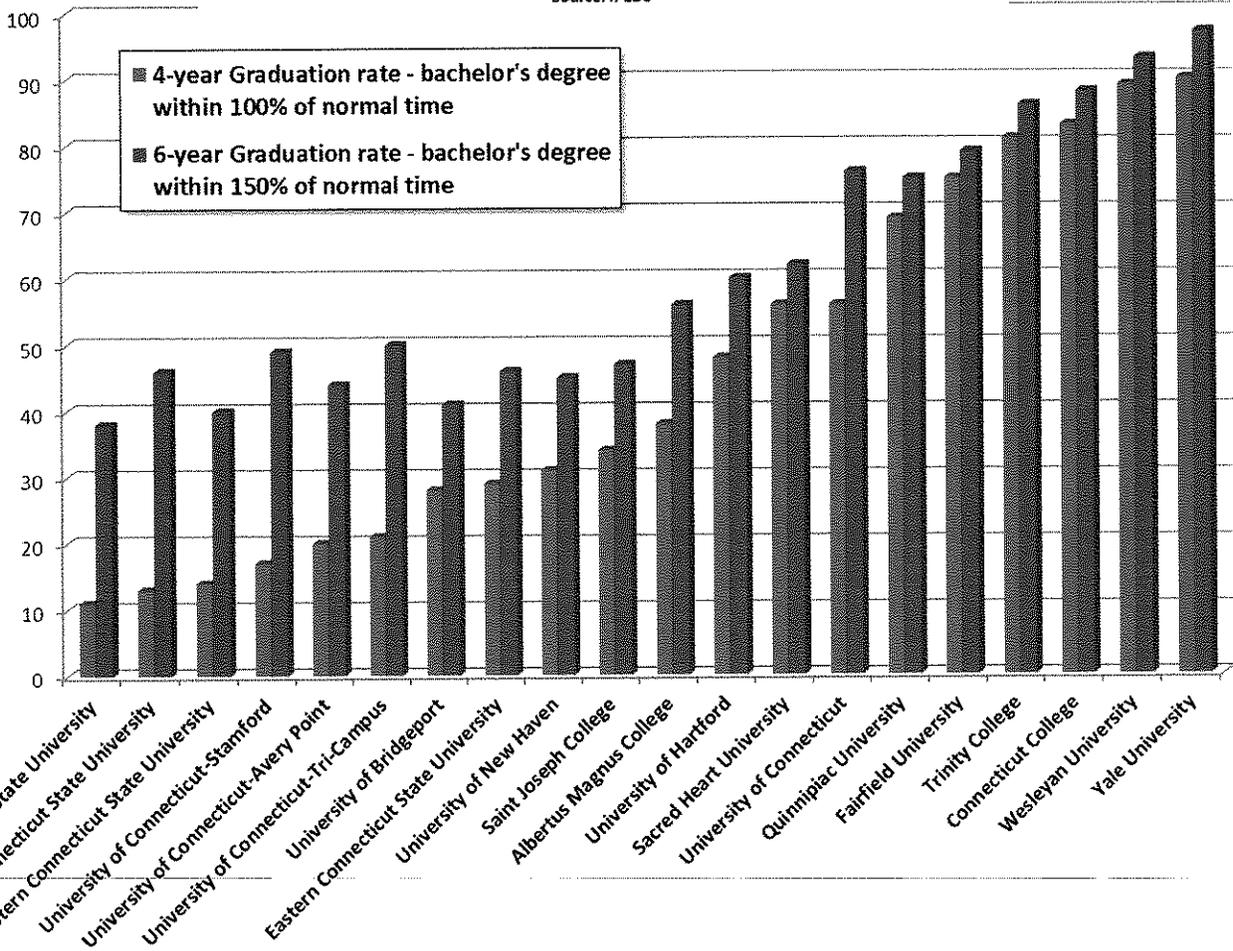
State, Federal and Institutional Need-based Grant Aid Awarded to Connecticut students at CCIC Institutions: 2009-2011

Sources: DHE CICS Expenditure Report and OFA Budget Book



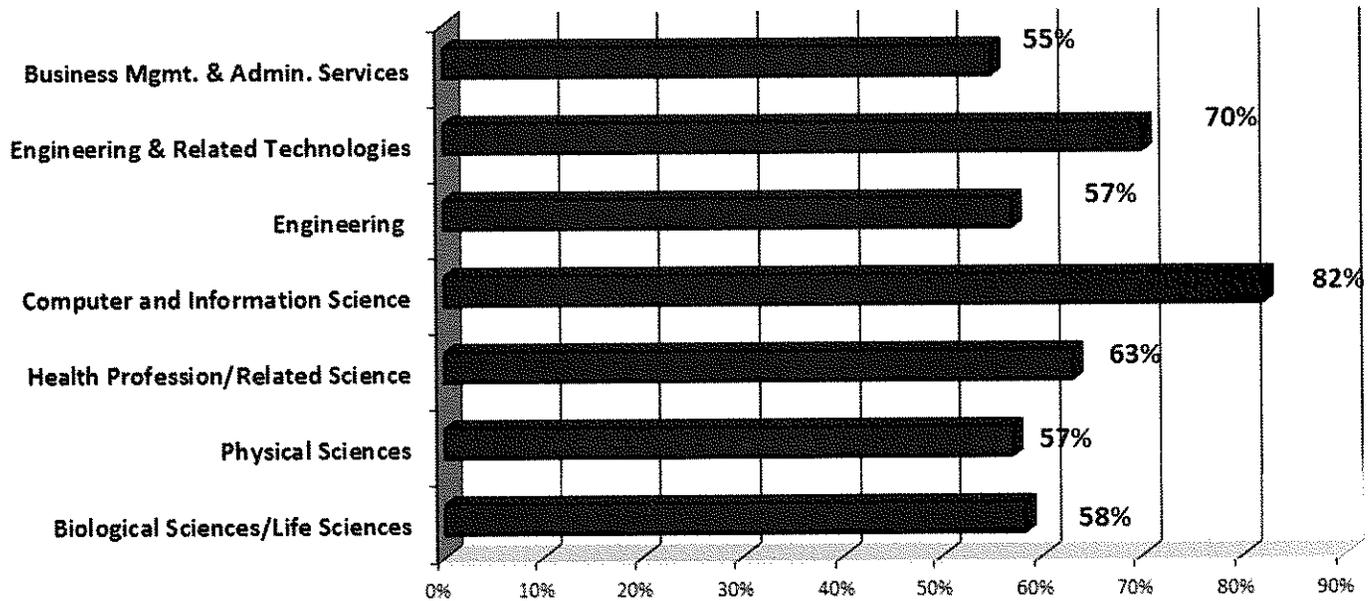
4-year & 6-year Graduation Rates for Connecticut Higher Education Institutions: 2010

Source: IPEDS



Statewide Industry Cluster Degrees Awarded by Connecticut Independent Colleges in 2010: Bachelor's and Above

Source: CT Department of Higher Education



Educational Attainment of Whites & Minorities in Connecticut (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans Aged 25 to 44 (2009))

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

