



#### **Officers**

Gene S. Mazur  
*President*  
Craig S. Lappen  
*Vice President*  
Michael B. Lynch Jr.  
*Treasurer*  
Elizabeth W. Benavides  
*Secretary*

#### **Directors**

Douglas K. Anderson  
Joseph H. Bednarz  
Leslie Ann Brown  
Stephen Cassano '68  
Nanette Char  
Frank C. Collins, Jr.  
Martin J. Hart  
Kristen A. Johnson  
Gary D. Lavigne  
Glenn Lemaire '74  
William J. McGurk  
Richard Meduski  
Gina Collopy O'Connell  
Rosemarie N. Papa  
James Parry  
Pankaj N. Patel  
Terri Provost-Daar  
Daniel R. Sabia  
John Sommers  
John Swanson  
JoAnn Thulin  
Richard J. Trachimowicz  
Elizabeth Kelly Treiber  
Hans Weiss

#### **College Representatives**

Gena Glickman  
*President*  
Endia DeCordova  
*Acting Associate Dean of  
Advancement & Community  
Engagement*  
Linda J. Burk  
*Faculty Representative*  
Cynthia Washburne  
*College Staff Representative*  
Adam Ray Landerman  
*Student Representative*

#### **Counsel**

Leonard Jacobs  
*Esquire*

#### ***Written Testimony***

#### ***Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee Public Hearing***

***March 8, 2012***

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support of **S.B. No. 239 An Act Concerning a Study of the Distributions of the Block Grant to the Regional Community-Technical Colleges and the Connecticut State University System** referred to the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

As board members of the Manchester Community College Foundation, we have observed first-hand the impact that the current funding formula has on the work of the Foundation, which is finding sources of funding that will be used to assist the college in achieving its mission of supporting student programs, scholarships and equipment – all towards the goal of ensuring student success and, ultimately, changing students' lives for the better.

Connecticut's system of 12 community colleges each year receives a state appropriation block grant. The central office (now the newly-formed Board of Regents) allocates a portion of this block grant to each of the 12 colleges. Additionally, there is in place a formula-driven methodology that shares tuition revenue across the 12 colleges and provides support to the Board of Regents office. A number of the colleges pay into the system office; the remaining colleges and the BOR office receive funds.

Based on the existing formula, 21 cents of every dollar received from student tuition at MCC is returned to the central office. This same 21 percent is withheld from private scholarship donations to the college used to pay tuition. This means that nearly one-quarter of each donor's scholarship gift leaves MCC. During FY 2011, close to \$200,000 was awarded in scholarships to MCC students; under this formula, approximately \$40,000 was returned to the central office to support its operations, and those of the other community colleges. If this \$40,000 was retained at MCC, an additional 60 students could have received financial support from the MCC Foundation (based on the average scholarship gift.)

**PO Box 1046, Manchester, CT 06045-1046 • 860-512-2902**

A fundamental requirement in successful fundraising is being able to assure donors that every penny possible of their gift is being used for the purpose they intended. This challenges our ability to effectively steward the intentions of our donors and insure that their gifts are having the greatest impact possible upon MCC's most deserving students.

Raising money for scholarships and other program needs at the community colleges is always challenging. Many people are still under the impression that the state funds the majority of public higher education and the current economy has resulted in alumni cutting back on charitable giving. The current funding formula in place for the Connecticut Community Colleges places an even greater burden on our fundraising efforts.

Donors need to know that 100% of the funds they give are used for the purpose intended, at the college intended. Please help us keep private scholarship gifts where they belong – in the hands of the community college students for which they were meant.

Thank you.

Manchester Community College Foundation Board

Joe Moynihan - President  
Laurie DeFauy  
Din Cally O'Connell  
Frank E. Kelly  
Jim W. [unclear]  
Stella S. [unclear]  
John B. Swan  
Joe Pancy

Steve Cassano  
Michael B. Zink, Treasurer  
Cynthia J. Washburne  
Rosemarie M. Papa  
M. J. Hart  
Elizabeth V. [unclear]  
Nonette T. Char