



February 15th, 2013

Appropriations Committee Testimony
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Academic Dean of Housatonic Community College I would like to take this opportunity to support the STRIVE program (Support and Training Result In Valuable Employees.) STRIVE complements the efforts of a community college such as Housatonic Community College that serves a large urban population. We have had students enrolled on our campus who have also participated in STRIVE.

The STRIVE program addresses those individuals in the community, many ex-offenders, who need special attention and individual training to become successful in the workplace. I understand that STRIVE has an excellent placement record, securing full-time employment for more than 300 individuals who have demonstrated high job retention after two years.

A program such as STRIVE that successfully transforms unemployed citizens into employees, particularly in these challenging economic times, is an important service to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Roop, Academic Dean
Division of Academic Affairs
Housatonic Community College