



Bethany Branford Cheshire East Haven Guilford Hamden Milford New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

**Testimony of Anthony Rescigno, President
The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce to the
Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee
Public Hearing – February 14, 2013
Supporting SB 330- An Act Establishing a Business Success Center at SCSU**

Senator Bye, Rep. Willis, members of the Higher Education, I write to you today on behalf of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. (GNHCC) We represent businesses in the municipalities of Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge. We aid the local business community by offering seminars, networking events and advocating to help achieve sustainable economic growth for Connecticut. It is for this reason that I support SB 330.

The bill establishes \$4.5 MM in bond funding to renovate the SCSU School of Business Annex, which will provide needed classroom, office, meeting and technology space for students, faculty, alumni and our business community partners. The renovation will allow SCSU to expand their Business Success Center, which is funded by the Northeast Utilities Foundation as a pilot. The Success Center works with the business community to provide interns and graduates to meet employers' needs, and offers professional development programs to provide students with essential workplace skills.

The GNHCC and SCSU have been working together for some time to ensure Connecticut has a workforce ready to meet employer needs in various industries. For example, the GNHCC has and currently employs interns from SCSU who have proven to be wonderful assets to our workplace. I am currently a member of the SCSU Business Advisory Council and Dr. Durnin is a member of both the GNHCC Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Expansion of the Business school will allow for further collaboration between our businesses and SCSU including additional development of student professional skills including for example mock interview rooms whereby businesses can instruct and work with students on that specific set of skills.

It is my sincere hope that you recognize the profound benefits passage of SB 330 offers to the business and education community and the general population of Connecticut. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand SCSU's collaboration with our business partners.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, I may be reached at 203-782-4340.

Sincerely,