

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I earned an Associate's Degree from Manchester Community College in General Studies prior to transferring to Charter Oak State College. A degree from Charter Oak will improve my employability and help me to advance to a higher position because of the relevance and educational preparation that I am receiving. The flexibility to take college courses online has afforded me the opportunity to grow and advance personally and professionally in the field in which I am employed. Online learning allows adult learners to fit college courses into busy lives which include the demands of a full time work schedule while also balancing the needs of raising a family with a spouse and multiple children. Charter Oak State College has been extremely helpful with regards to acknowledging my learning disability. I am dyslexic and I am very appreciative of the efforts and accommodations that COSC has offered me. Without the generous financial aid package that COSC provides for me I would never have had the opportunity to return to college and complete my degree. I am very happy and honored to be a student at COSC and look forward to earning my Bachelor's degree and completing a life long journey. I hope that you will provide the financial support to the Board of Regents public colleges and universities that will allow continuing providing access and quality education to Connecticut's students.

Testimony by: Patricia Torbicki, Newington, CT
Charter Oak State College
2-24-15