

My name is Ann Rogers and I am proud to be the Executive Director of the NCC Foundation. Since I am dedicated to private fundraising, I am keenly aware of the financial risks that will prevent our NCC students from being “first” under the current consolidation plan.

This proposal is banking on a theoretical \$28 million cost savings by 2022; on the other hand, the NCC Foundation has a proven track record of raising \$10-15 million in the same timeframe. We will not sustain this level of community funding if the consolidation undermines what distinguishes NCC.

We have developed broad ties to the Fairfield County business community, working with donors’ ideas as well as their money to create local initiatives to meet local needs. Two recent examples:

- In response to a shortage of well-qualified Vet Techs in our area, the Foundation granted the college \$650K to support a new Associate Degree Program, including paying for 2 faculty salaries, equipment, and a new laboratory, which represents 70% of program costs to date. In our first graduating class of 14 students, 100% had local jobs upon graduation.
- In the past year, we have partnered with NCC’s Extended Studies Division and local corporations, foundations, and non-profits to create three innovative workforce development programs. This representing \$675K in new first time funding.

We have also developed personal relationships with non-alumni individuals who are choosing to support our NCC students vs. their own alma matters so they can contribute directly to their neighbors in need:

- A former Fairfield County CEO and his wife recently made their second \$1 million pledge to our Path Scholarship Program, which provides tuition, coaching, and transfer scholarships to participating students. Jointly devised together with the college, the last Path cohort has achieved graduation rates double that of a control group.
- For our 50th Anniversary, a local family foundation donated \$250K to create the President Levinson LEAP transfer scholarship to honor David and his personal impact on our community. This was matched with an additional \$250K in less than one year.

The Foundation’s success in raising funds and creating support is inextricably tied to the success of the NCC ‘brand’. We have brought home the message to Fairfield County that NCC is a driver of local economic development. Our community has responded with incredible generosity.

We are deeply concerned that the creation of a single community college will severely weaken local identity, donor loyalty, and reduce giving. To better understand why we are NCC Proud, please hear our students’ perspective at www.nccproud.org. Thank you.

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