



**Higher Education Innovation and Entrepreneurship Working Group**

***DRAFT Meeting Minutes (subject to approval)***

**Yale University | Greenberg Conference Center**

**391 Prospect St, New Haven, CT**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016**

**9:45 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:** (see attached list)

**Call to Order:** President Peter Salovey called the meeting to order at 9:50 am.

**Brief Overview of the charge of the Higher Education Working Group:** Glendowyn Thames, Executive Director, CTNext, provided a brief overview of the legislation that prompted the meeting, Public Act 16-3, and the charge of the Working Group.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:** President Salovey and President Susan Herbst welcomed the meeting attendees.

**Discussion:** Eugenie Birch facilitated a discussion about role of higher education institutions in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in Connecticut. Ms. Birch posed a series of questions to the meeting attendees, in bold below, and the meeting attendees responded.

**What ASSETS exist in CT beyond higher education institutions that are supportive of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship at the state's institutions of higher education?**

- Strong medical/bio-science institutions in CT
- Long standing leader in advanced manufacturing
- Lower cost of real estate relative to Cambridge and Silicon Valley
- Leadership in aerospace
- Prime location between NYC and Boston
- A lot of empty buildings—legacy cities ripe for redevelopment
- Potential collective political force/leadership of higher ed (vs. individual institutions)...trust building first steps
- International linkages/partnerships (e.g., CT state relationship with the state in Germany that includes Heidelberg, Freiburg and Mannheim)
- CT as a financial capital
- CT is a small, compact state
- 160,000 students

- Partnerships with small business
- Vertical and horizontal integration
- Lots of private R & D

**What partnerships or collaborations currently exist among the state's higher ed institutions?**

- [CSCU Workforce development](#)
- [CT Advanced Manufacturing Centers](#)
- [CT Coalition of Entrepreneurship Educators](#)
- [Innovation Places](#) initiative from CTNext will generate additional collaboration
- [Hartford Consortium for Higher Education](#) (11 public and private institutions)
- Council of Engineering Deans (10 engineering schools in CT – public and private)
- Council of Business Deans
- [Bridgeport Higher Education Alliance](#)
- [New Haven Promise Scholarship Program](#)
- Material science collaboration between Yale and Southern

**Challenges:**

- **What are the barriers to advancing such collaborations?**
- **What risks exist in the overall (federal, state, local) funding/supportive environment?**
- Need more of a statewide versus local mindset on how higher education should interact to overcome silos...changing the mindset starts with the presidents...need to expand our horizons
- More established programs need to help newer programs...how about pairing of large and small as a requirement for the \$10 million?
- Getting the CT higher education story told: a communications challenge (e.g., Yale is #4 nationally in the percentage of its alumni who have attracting venture capital, but no one knows this, even within the Yale community)
- The K-12 Achievement Gap will be a drag on our success if we don't address it effectively
- Our graduates tend to leave the state...Hartford is the city in the U.S where students are most likely to leave ([Progress Points Report](#))
- Getting the roles right...getting the story right...leveraging a collective mindset

**With the upcoming allocation of \$10 m over the next five years, what strategy would you use to leverage this sum?**

- Focus on partnerships
- Think from the beginning about how to connect people (broadly) to the jobs that will be created
- Commitment to creating a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts
- CT is relatively more highly regulated than other states in public education, which makes it more difficult for UConn to play the role that, for example, Georgia Tech plays in the Georgia economy
- Post University is a small player in CT, but it can bring to the party its extensive experience in online education...there may be other examples of small players with powerful niche capabilities

**Nomination & Selection of Co-Chairs:** The legislation requires that the working group have two co-chairs – one from a private institution of higher education and one from a public institution of higher education. President Peter Salovey nominated President Joanne Berger-Sweeney, of Trinity College, and she was unanimously approved. President Susan Herbst nominated President Mark Ojakian, of the CT State University System, and he was unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

**Higher Education Working Group Kick-off**  
**Meeting Attendees**

**Institutional Representatives**

**Albertus Magnus College**

Interim President Anne Kilbride  
Director of Business Programs William Aniskovich

**Asnuntuck Community College**

Chief Academic Officer Mike Stefanowicz

**Central CT State University**

President Susan Pease  
Dean of the School of Business Kenneth Colwell

**CT State Colleges & Universities System**

President Mark Ojakian  
Director of Government Relations Sean Bradbury

**Connecticut College**

Chief Financial Officer Richard Madonna

**Fairfield University**

Provost Lynn Babington

**Gateway Community College**

President Dorsey Kendrick

**Goodwin College**

President Mark Scheinberg

**Housatonic Community College**

President Paul Broadie

**Manchester Community College**

Dean Marci Jehnings

**Middlesex Community College**

President Anna Wasescha

**Northwestern CT Community College**

President Michael Rooke

**Norwalk Community College**

President David Levinson

**Post University**

President Don Mroz

**Quinnipiac University**

Chair of Innovation & Entrepreneurship Norman Gray

**RPI Hartford**

Associate Dean, Graduate Education Dennis Gornic

**Sacred Heart University**

President John Petillo

**Southern CT State University**

President Joseph Bertolino

**Three Rivers Community College**

President Mary Ellen Jukoski

**Trinity College**

President Joanne Berger-Sweeney

**University of Bridgeport**

President Neil A. Salonen

**University of Connecticut**

President Susan Herbst  
Vice President for Research Jeffrey Seemann  
Director of Governmental Relations Gail Garber  
Director of Innovation Programs Rita Zangari

**University of Hartford**

President Walter Harrison

**University of New Haven**

President Steven Kaplan

**Western CT State University**

President John Clark  
Associate Professor in Management/Small Business  
Entrepreneurship Pauline Assenza

**Wesleyan University**

Director, Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship  
Makaela Kingsley

**Yale University**

President Peter Salovey  
Associate Vice President for Federal and State  
Relations Richard Jacob  
Director, Office of Cooperative Research, Jon  
Soderstrom

**Other Invited Guests**

**CT General Assembly**

State Senator John Fonfara  
Policy Analyst Dave Stueber

**CT Innovations**

CEO Matt McCooe

**CTNext**

Executive Director Glendowlyn Thames  
Consultant Kip Bergstrom

**Penn Institute for Urban Research**

Co-Director Genie Birch  
Project Manager Amanda Lloyd

**CCIC**

President Jennifer Widness  
Project Assistant Ben Lovejoy

**Department of Economic & Community Development**

Office of the Commissioner Alison Lubin