

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2018

Jennifer Widness, [widnessj@theccic.org](mailto:widnessj@theccic.org), (860) 678-0005

**CT CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES TO HOST LAST GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE FORUMS  
BEFORE THE PRIMARY; EVENT SERIES TO BE CO-HOSTED BY THE CT MIRROR AND CONNECTICUT  
PUBLIC RADIO (WNPR)**

**HARTFORD, Conn. (May 23, 2018)** -- The [Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges](#) (CCIC) announced today that it will host a series of forums with candidates for Governor on the future of Connecticut's economy. CCIC reached an agreement with the [Connecticut Mirror](#) and [Connecticut Public Radio](#) (WNPR) to co-host the events which will be held at CCIC member institutions in August, just before the primary.

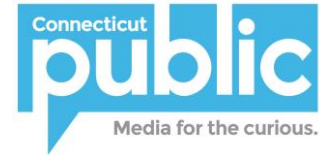
"We are excited to bring together all the candidates for Governor – separated by party -- right before the primaries to hold in-depth discussions about Connecticut's economic future," said CCIC President Jennifer Widness. "Connecticut's economy is an issue that is top of mind for just about everyone in the state. We'll discuss how Connecticut can do a better job of creating a skilled and talented workforce to foster economic development – and how institutions of higher education fit in as a driver of innovation and entrepreneurship. It's an excellent opportunity for the candidates to talk about their vision for the state's economic future and the ways in which Connecticut's independent colleges have been and can continue to contribute to making that vision a reality."

"The Connecticut Mirror exists to inform Connecticut residents about the development of public policy and engage them in the democratic process," according to Connecticut Mirror publisher Bruce Putterman. "We do that every day through our reporting and are proud to be able to contribute to a productive exchange of ideas in these forums."

"Connecticut Public Radio is committed to helping to inform the people of our state," said John Dankosky, Executive Editor of the New England News Collaborative. "Forums like these give our residents the chance to hear how candidates for Governor would approach the difficult tasks ahead. We're proud to partner with The Connecticut Mirror and CCIC to provide this service."

Widness also said that they plan to host a gubernatorial debate in the general election cycle, and that CCIC will be making an announcement about that "in the near future."

Invitations to the primary forums are being extended to all the gubernatorial candidates from each party that will appear on the August 14 primary ballot. John Dankosky of Connecticut Public Radio (WNPR) will serve as the moderator. Details on the format and panelists will follow. The dates and locations for the events are as follows:



### **Republican Candidate Forum**

**Date:** August 6, 2018

**Time:** 6 to 7 PM Reception  
7 to 8:30 PM Forum

**Location:** Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield University, 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield CT

### **Democratic Candidate Forum**

**Date:** August 7, 2018

**Time:** 6 to 7 PM Reception  
7 to 8:30 PM Forum

**Location:** Bucknall Theater, University of New Haven, 300 Boston Post Road, West Haven CT

Staff and guests from CCIC member institutions, members of local Chambers of Commerce and other local organizations will be invited to join the audience.

**About CCIC:** Founded in 1932, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC) is an association that represents 16 accredited nonprofit independent colleges and universities in Connecticut. CCIC provides public policy leadership and support of higher education, fosters cooperative efforts among colleges and universities and serves as a liaison between the state and the independent institutions. Visit CCIC at [www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org).

**About Connecticut Mirror:** The [Connecticut Mirror](http://www.ctmirror.org) is a nonprofit, non-partisan, independent online publisher of news, opinion, and data covering public policy, government, and politics in Connecticut. Its mission is to inform and engage state residents so they can more effectively participate in the development of public policy, hold public officials accountable for understanding and addressing the state's needs, promote policy-making transparency, and strengthen our democracy. The Connecticut Mirror publishes daily news and in-depth stories at [www.ctmirror.org](http://www.ctmirror.org) covering the state budget / finance, legislation, high impact policy, politics, education, health care, urban / regional issues, and the environment.

**About Connecticut Public:** [Connecticut Public](http://www.ctpublic.org) is the state's only locally-owned media organization producing television, radio, print, and web content for Connecticut's wide-ranging and diverse communities. It is home to Connecticut Public Television, Connecticut Public Radio, and Connecticut Public Learning. Connecticut Public Television is an affiliate of PBS and is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming. Connecticut Public Radio on WNPR is an affiliate of National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and American Public Media. Connecticut Public Learning serves high school seniors through a partnership with Hartford Public Schools and the Journalism and Media Academy Magnet School. It is also home to the Institute for Advanced Media, a program that provides veterans and adult learners an opportunity to learn valuable digital media skills. For more information, visit [ctpublic.org](http://ctpublic.org); [wnpr.org](http://wnpr.org); [cptv.org](http://cptv.org) and [ctlearninglab.org](http://ctlearninglab.org).

###