

theindependentvoice

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges... Educators, Employers, Community Partners

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT—URGENT ACTION NEEDED



Judith B. Greiman, President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

After delaying action for a few years, Congress is expected to vote this summer on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). While work over the years has been in the "hurry up and wait" category with draft bills being floated and reactions to the bills registered over the course of many months, Congress now appears to be on a fast track with this legislation, and staff are crafting bills and seeking immediate review on issues of prime importance to colleges.

HEA is the single most important act affecting colleges and universities for the next decade. Accordingly, it is important that all who care about higher education in America seize this moment to let their views about the various reauthorization proposals be heard by our Washington leaders. It is critical that the HEA strongly support financial aid programs and not develop mechanisms for involving the federal government in college governance.

How You Can Help
CCIC believes that the following issues are high-priority items. **Please schedule conversations with**

the Connecticut Congressional delegation over the August recess. This is an ideal time to let members and staff know your concerns about the proposed legislation and how it could negatively affect American higher education. *Key points to raise include:*

Support the basic student aid programs. The Pell Grant maximum must be doubled over the next six years while the Perkins Loan, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work Study and LEAP should all be increased rather than the level funding or elimination that some members of Congress have proposed.

Do not impose price controls. Remaining proposals include a version of price controls for colleges by creating a College Affordability Index that mandates extensive reporting for schools that raise tuition above a level established by the legislation and could subject a school to an audit by the Department of Education Inspector General if it raises tuition more than the bill outlines as acceptable. While we support efforts to provide meaningful information to students and families about college pricing and financial aid, a price control mechanism is not the most effective strategy for dealing with the cost of college that, particularly in the Northeast, is impacted by soaring utility and health care costs. In fact, Connecticut's independent sector has done much to reduce costs to students by significantly increasing

institutional funds allocated for student aid, developing consortial buying and service arrangements and restructuring to reduce overhead costs. In fact, as noted by the federal Department of Education, net tuition for lower income families at independent colleges has actually declined slightly over the past decade, when adjusted for inflation.

Respect institutional autonomy in dealing with transfer of credit. Transfer of credit decisions are a fundamental part of an institution's right to evaluate the academic work it deems appropriate in awarding a diploma. Current proposals would limit a college's ability to deny transfers of credit based on the type of institution originally granting such credit.

Do not develop a student unit record data system. The student unit record data system being proposed presents a serious threat to student privacy and should not be implemented. The recent disclosure of the collection and storage of data by the Transportation Security Agency on persons flying on certain days along with persons whose names are similar to the flyers is an ominous warning sign that data collected can be misused even when intentions are good.

Support loan flexibility. We support replacing the current system of hard annual loan limits with a new, flexible system that

allows all students to borrow the same amount based on the degrees they are pursuing. Loan limits have not been increased in ten years. Because of annual limits, the maximum loan amount can only be used by students who take more than five years to graduate. Students who graduate in four years should not be penalized by having to go to the private loan market rather than being able to borrow the same aggregate amount as someone who takes five or six years. Upperclassmen should have the flexibility to go beyond the annual limit while staying within the overall maximum limit.

Maintain integrity provisions that help protect against fraud and abuse. We must not eliminate the distinction in the HEA between proprietary schools and public and private not-for-profit institutions by going to a single definition of an institution of higher education or remove the 90/10 restriction that requires proprietary institutions to receive at least 10 percent of their operating revenues from non-Title IV sources. Going to a single definition of an institution of higher education would admit for-profit education to an array of federal programs, both within and outside the HEA, that were not intended to support businesses. Elimination of the 90/10 rule undermines a for-profit's motivation to attract paying students and makes it possible to build a business that is solely dependent on federal student aid. Fraud in this area has, in the past, tainted the whole student financial aid system.

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UB Design students team up with architects, designers to capture first, third prizes in state competition

(SVC cont.)



First prize winner Kristine Gorman, center, a Senior Interior Design student, with Connor Glass, left, and Jennine Gorman in their Triadic Transformation costumes, inspired by the Bauhaus painter and choreographer Oskar Schlemmer's unconventional ballet.

University of Bridgeport Design students won first and third places for their creative costumes in the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) competition this spring.

Students worked in teams with architects and designers to create costumes based on a design theme. Participating in this competition were student teams from University of Bridgeport, University of New Haven, and Paier College.

Kristine Gorman and Connor Glass won first place for their Triadic Transformation, inspired by the Bauhaus painter and choreographer Oskar Schlemmer. The Triadic Transformation incorporates the design elements of line, color, shape, texture, and light into an unconventional ballet, which was first performed in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1922 and is recreated in 2005 as the Triadic Transformation.

The Triadic Transformation was a collaborative effort between Tecton Architects, Wolf Gordon, and UB Interior Design students.

Third place went to the UB team of Robyn Middlebrooks and Jaeryong Oh for their entry based on the theme Global Beat/Paris Chic, a representation of couture traveling worldwide, from Paris to Africa, influenced by modern bold and exotic colors and fashion features.

Global Beat/Paris Chic was a collaborative effort between Perkins Eastman Architects, Lees Carpets, and UB Interior Design students.

Once again the UB Interior Design students applied their



Third place winner is Robyn Middlebrooks in her Global Beat/Paris Chic dress fit for the world traveler.



Seated in front, Deirdre King. Rear, from left, Sayuri Omote, Diane Jagelavicius, Valerie DiClerico, Connor Glass, Jennine Gorman, Kristine Gorman, and Associate Professor John Kandalraft.

design knowledge and outstanding skills to obtain unanimous praise not only

from the judges but also from the professional audience attending that evening.

ST. VINCENT'S COLLEGE CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

Doors opened to nursing education at the beginnings of St. Vincent's College on July 1, 1905. The institution which was then known as the St. Vincent's Hospital Training School for Nurses in Bridgeport opened with 9 women and 2 men in its first class. One hundred years later, St. Vincent's College recalls this early beginning as a nursing school and celebrates the foundation established by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. A steady path has allowed St. Vincent's College to become a premiere institution of nursing education and set in motion a course for its future growth and direction. Today, it stands tall with five allied health majors and ten certificate programs to its credit.

The 100th anniversary celebration observance includes a year-long series of educational and social events for alumni, students and the general public. As a Catholic college that has educated generations of health care workers in the region, the centennial provides an opportunity for St. Vincent's to affirm and celebrate its faith-based mission and vision for the future.

Centennial celebrations for the institution began in January with the dedication of a new Main Street campus and the inauguration of the College's second president, John K. Fisher, Ed.D in April. Through the remainder of the year an alumni homecoming, welcome picnic for students and their families, and St. Vincent's

Medical Center appreciation day activities are planned.

To celebrate the birth of the institution, Bridgeport Major John Fabrizi issued a proclamation naming July 1, 2005, St. Vincent's College Day. He cited the contributions of the College and its graduates for having served the city with great distinction and acknowledging their role in elevating the standards of excellence for quality health care and health care education for the City of Bridgeport.

The College's centennial comes at a time of significant change and positive trends. An 11.5% enrollment increase, a 16% increase in financial aid funding for the student body, approval of a new degree program in general studies, and the implementation of on-line learning highlight the continued growth of St. Vincent's and its commitment to providing flexible educational opportunities to a broader audience of adult learners. The hallmark of St. Vincent's College has been its quality academic programs and educating health care professionals, the majority of which remain in the state after graduation, serving the citizens of Bridgeport and the surrounding region. As the College celebrates its centennial, it plays a more important role than ever in the education of health care professionals. Today technologists, radiographers, medical assistants and others join the ranks of over 3,000 nursing alumni.

To commemorate the history and traditions of the past and to celebrate St. Vincent's College's contributions to future generations of health care professionals a video and companion album were produced. A vision that has been nurtured for over 100 years is still at work - **"St. Vincent's College, A World of Opportunity Close to Home"**.



Rensselaer Offers Free Leadership Seminar Series

The Hartford Department of the Lally School of Management and Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is sponsoring an ongoing free Leadership Seminar Series. All members of the community are invited to attend these interesting and informative business presentations and discussions. Two seminars have already been presented, one in December 2004 in Mystic serving students and companies in Southeastern Connecticut near Rensselaer's Groton Site, and one in June 2005 held at the Rensselaer Hartford Campus, serving the Greater Hartford region. The free seminars have been enthusiastically received and well attended, so much so that the first installment of the Leadership Seminar Series entitled "Building Sustainable Corporate Leadership to Create Future Value" will have an encore presentation on July 19, 2005, by popular demand.

The Leadership Seminar Series focuses on real-world, outcome-driven strategies and innovative methods for leading change. Topics for discussion include: theories, concepts, strategies, and practices for developing the leadership talent necessary to turn opportunities and challenges into extraordinary outcomes. Seminars include a continental breakfast and coffee break, and advance registration is required.

The faculty of Rensselaer's Hartford Department of the Lally School have also developed and published a new journal: the *Rensselaer Journal of Management and Technology*. The journal is distributed at the Leadership Seminars. The inaugural issue of the Journal was titled, "Strategic Thinking and Leading Change." The second seminar and journal issue were entitled "Applying Lean Where You Least Expect

It: Marketing, R&D, and Administrative Services."



The second installment of Rensselaer's Leadership Seminar Series focused on applying Lean where it is least expected.

David L. Rainey, Professor of Management and the Chair of the Hartford Department of the Lally School of Management and Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, serves as editor of the Journal. The managing editor is Richard R. "Dick" Paton, Director of Marketing and Business Development, Education for Working Professionals, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. "Strategic thinking, leading change, and business integration are among the hottest topics in the corporate world," said Dr. Rainey. "This Journal is dedicated to enriching the intellectual contributions about the theoretical and practical solutions for managing complex businesses in the global business environment in the 21st century. The global business environment is changing at a tremendous speed and it is becoming more dynamic and exciting as new systems, technologies, and products replace obsolete approaches of the last century."

Rensselaer's Lally School of Management and Technology is an accredited member of AACSB International, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. For more information about Rensselaer's Leadership Seminar Series and to register online, please visit: www.rh.edu.

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Goodwin College: Personal Touch and Innovation

East Hartford's Goodwin College, the newest member of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, has had more "firsts" and new initiatives in a decade than some schools garner in centuries.

There's the thriving nursing program, created in just a few years and satisfying a huge demand among hospitals and health care providers. A new riverfront campus breaks ground in 2006, adding new programs and residential students. The project has earned the respect of town and community officials, who support Scheinberg's vision for the new river campus and how it can revitalize and contribute to East Hartford and regional economies.

In 2004, former owner Mark Scheinberg essentially gave the school away, converting it to a non-profit college to improve fundraising and financial aid for students. "We try to be entrepreneurial, to see opportunities and be ready to move quickly to take advantage of them," says Scheinberg, who bought the school, as two rooms above a pizza store, in 1981. "And we pride ourselves on very individualized attention to each student. People who aren't supposed to succeed, succeed here."

Goodwin College remains true to its roots as a pathway to education and success for working people. Most of its over 1,000 students go to school part-time, work and support families. Many have come up through the school's robust English as a Second Language program. Goodwin's tuition is higher than state schools, but the school prides itself on providing personal attention to each student, as well as access to all available financial aid, small classes, and tutoring and mentoring programs to enable students to succeed academically. The

Graduate Services Department works with all potential graduates to help them obtain positions in their chosen career fields.

Goodwin works closely with business leaders and community groups to develop new programs and maximize resources. A certification program for youth workers in the human services field, developed with the Hartford College for Women and other partners, is the first of its kind. Programs in early childhood education, respiratory care and homeland security are also in development.

"Goodwin College makes you believe in your dreams," says East Hartford Chamber of Commerce President Mary Beth Reid. "People of diverse backgrounds come together, and with this very caring staff, they exceed everyone's expectations."

In March 2005, Goodwin was granted accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In June it became the newest member of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education.

Once the river campus is operational, Goodwin plans to continue using the scenic Burnside Avenue campus in East Hartford. The school's final configuration - which is to include a day care center, environmental research facilities, a river research vessel, and dormitories - is yet to be determined.

"This campus is looking ahead to what the college and the community will need 100 years from now," Scheinberg explains. "It's bigger than any of us. We want to create something that will be here for generations to come."

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Connecticut College students team up with community on Boundless Playground project

Connecticut College students recently put their combined muscle and brain power to work to build a fully integrated, universally accessible play environment so that all children – including those with disabilities – can share a playground in New London.

The students – side by side with staff and faculty members and volunteers from the Rotary Club of New London, U.S. Coast Guard enlisted personnel, Mohegan Sun, community members and high school students – participated in all phases of the “Boundless Playground” project. The college students assisted with a community-wide “Design and Dreaming” party, unloaded 20,000 pounds of equipment, helped raise money for the project, poured concrete footings, installed slides and swings, designed landscaping and bolted beams together to build the playground.

The playground is accessible for all children and their families and has unique “boundless” features that make it possible for children with physical and mental challenges to fully participate. The Rotary Club of New London initiated the project as part of Rotary International’s Centennial Year celebrations. The grand opening ceremony was June 24 and included citations and

proclamations from Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, state legislators and the mayor of New London.

Tracee Reiser, Connecticut College’s associate dean of the college for community learning and director of Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS), said the project is an



excellent collaboration designed to improve the urban landscape and increase health and wellness for residents.

“This was an extraordinary project. Diverse segments of the community – Rotarians, students, organizations, schools, businesses, individuals – came together to design, raise the

resources and build the project,” Reiser said.

Reiser recently received a call from a resident who explained that his 11-year-old daughter, who has always been in a wheelchair, was able for the first time ever to play on a playground with other children.

Connecticut College’s Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy and OVCS joined the Rotary Club of New London, the City of New London, a range of private foundations, Boundless Playgrounds Inc., the state of Connecticut, and several businesses to bring the project to fruition. More than \$300,000 was raised for the project.

The Holleran Center is a multidisciplinary academic center dedicated to teaching, research, and community collaborations that foster active citizenship and community leadership. It works closely with OVCS to implement a wide range of community partnerships and community learning initiatives.

More than 600 Connecticut College students volunteer annually with 70 local agencies and projects that provide opportunities for advancing student learning while contributing to the common good.



The Independent Voice is a publication of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, a public policy association representing Connecticut’s nonprofit independent higher education institutions.

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