

**Welcome by Dr. Carl Lovitt
Provost, Central CT State University**

Connecticut Economic Inclusion Forum
July 23, 2013

It's my pleasure to welcome you here today on behalf of Central Connecticut State University to the Connecticut Economic Inclusion Forum. I'd like to thank the FDIC's "Alliance for Economic Inclusion" for sponsoring the conference and to express my gratitude to Tim Delessio and Paul Horwitz for organizing the event.

We are honored to be joined today by the Commissioner of Banking and other distinguished guests and a diverse mix of bankers and representatives from community organizations. It is particularly fitting that you have selected CCSU as the site for your forum. A few years ago, when asked by the former Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System for our institution's most distinguishing characteristics, we identified both Workforce and State Economic Development and Community Engagement as two of our four pillars of distinctiveness.

Our institutional mission is to prepare graduates who are "thoughtful, responsible, and successful citizens," and we take very seriously the choice of the word "citizen." Our intent is to educate students who will have the skills and values not only to be successful in their chosen professions but also to make a

meaningful difference in their communities. Two years ago, CCSU applied to be officially designated as a “Community Engagement Institution” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which we were awarded based on what the Foundation called our “exemplary practices of community engagement” and “excellent alignment among our mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.” For many of our students, applying their skills in the community is an important part of their formal education, such as our nursing students who provide free health screenings to the homeless, the management information students who develop websites for nonprofit organizations, or our accounting students who provide free income tax preparation. We have established a store-front location in downtown New Britain—Community Central—where we are currently running summer youth programs on media literacy and building job skills. Through Community Central, we support programs to end homelessness, to promote early childhood literacy, and to help urban youth succeed in high school and persist to enroll in college. This past spring we took part in two college readiness forums for parents of Hartford high school students, which we delivered to a bilingual audience. We are currently considering plans to assume a more substantial presence in both New Britain and Hartford, which will involve both offering courses and engaging

students in entrepreneurial ventures. In pursuing these activities, we work closely with local government, businesses, and community organizations to improve the quality of life in our community, and our administrators serve on the boards of local businesses and community service organizations. We provide significant support to the local economy as New Britain's second largest employer, and 86% of our graduates remain in the state as employees and taxpayers.

I think it's fair to say that we are an important partner in the collaborative effort to improve the quality of life in our community. We are deeply committed to the concept of social enterprise through which we are helping to transform our cities into safe and culturally vibrant communities where businesses will thrive and their employees will want to make their homes.

Thank you again for joining us here today and best wishes for a pleasant visit to our campus and a stimulating conference.