

Executive Nominations Committee

Testimony of Dr. Alice Pritchard, Nomination for CTECS Executive Director
January 30, 2025

Thank you, Chairmen Concepcion and Duff, Vice Chairs Godfrey and Looney, and Ranking Members Yaccarino and Berthel, and distinguished members of the Executive Nominations Committee for this opportunity to appear before you.

My name is Dr. Alice Pritchard and I am honored to have been nominated as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). This role represents an exciting opportunity to bring my experience in government, education, workforce development, and the nonprofit sector to bear in advancing the mission of CTECS – to prepare trade-bound students to meet the skilled workforce needs in Connecticut.

Throughout my career, I have worked to strengthen systems to prepare people for success in their personal and professional lives. In my most recent role as Director of Workforce Development and Strategic Initiatives at the Department of Administrative Services, I was responsible for growing and supporting Connecticut’s public workforce. I worked with state agencies to identify workforce needs and collaborated with partners, including the technical high schools, to align programs with public sector demands.

I led efforts to promote recruitment and retention of state employees, including a classification and compensation study for non-represented employees, a skills-based talent initiative with state agencies, professional development efforts, and federal grants to support workforce education and training.

Prior to this, I served as Chief of Staff and Chief Strategy Officer for Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. In these roles, I worked to advance strategic initiatives that supported student success across the CSCU system. I served as the primary point of contact for internal and external stakeholders, collaborating closely with campus leadership, managing strategic alliances, and overseeing government relations, communications, and Board affairs. I led workforce development planning and implementation for the system, acting as a liaison to state agencies to build strategic relationships and secure funding opportunities. Additionally, I directed the system’s COVID response, coordinating with state officials and campus leaders to safeguard thousands of students, faculty, and staff over two years.

Earlier in my career, I spent over two decades with the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), including 15 years as its Executive Director. During this time, I

managed all aspects of the organization, including financial planning, staff supervision, strategic planning, and program oversight. I also led fundraising efforts, event planning, and grant writing while cultivating relationships with funders.

I served as the organization's public representative, providing testimony to the General Assembly, advocating on policy issues at state and national levels, and participating in statewide coalitions including founding and leading the Campaign for a Working CT.

In collaboration with CWEALF staff and outside consultants, I oversaw research and evaluation efforts on education and workforce development. I also provided consulting services to the Office for Workforce Competitiveness and CT Employment and Training Commission, the Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford, CT Workforce Development Council, Board of Regents for Higher Education, Partnership for Strong Communities, and CT Innovations.

These experiences have prepared me well for the role of Executive Director at CTECS, where I am tasked with overseeing operations, administration, and finances to ensure the effective functioning of the system's schools and programs. With over 11,000 high school and 3,000 adult students, I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that our system is providing the strongest technical education possible and as a state agency we have a responsibility to do so efficiently and effectively.

What makes me uniquely qualified for the role of Executive Director is not only the breadth of my nonprofit, education, and state agency experience but also my understanding of workforce development as a system that thrives on partnerships. I bring a collaborative approach and decades of partnerships to this role as well as significant experience with state and system administration, including fiscal, governance, human resources and labor relations as well as a strong commitment to student learning and success.

I look forward to working closely with the Lamont administration, legislators, the CTECS Advisory Board, the CTECS Superintendent, school and central office employees, business and labor leaders, and, most importantly, the students, to ensure that our graduates are ready to contribute to Connecticut's economy and communities in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am eager to serve in this capacity to help advance the important mission of CTECS and enthusiastically seek your confirmation today. I will take any questions from the committee.