

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 20, 2025

Dr. Alice Pritchard, Interim Executive Director
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

Governor's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Appropriations

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Somers, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dr. Alice Pritchard, and I am the Interim Executive Director of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System also known as (CTECS). I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you concerning Governor Lamont's proposed FY 2026-2027 appropriations for the agency. Our mission at CTECS is to prepare trade-bound students to meet the skilled workforce needs in Connecticut through exemplary trade and academic programming. We envision CTECS as the primary pipeline for Connecticut's skilled labor workforce.

For over 100 years, CTECS has been the leading force in Career Technical Education (CTE) in the State of Connecticut. CTECS operates 17 diploma-granting technical high schools, one technical education center and two airframe mechanics and aircraft maintenance programs. The school system provides a direct employment pipeline for high school students as well as foundation for post-secondary education.

CTECS offers a rich system of career and technical education (CTE) opportunities in 11 career clusters representing 32 in-demand career pathways. CTECS high school graduates earn a Connecticut high school diploma, CTE certificate in their field of study and multiple industry recognized credentials. This year, CTECS has approximately 11,300 high school students from 166 sending towns. In addition, CTECS serves 3,100 adult education students in aviation and apprenticeships programs.

The Governor has proposed \$174,059 million to support our Personal Services budget and \$37.257 million to support Other Expenses. This aligns to our expenses and deficiency spending for the current year including gaps left by the end of federal ARPA funding.

We are confident that the Governor's proposed appropriations will provide CTECS with the necessary funds to continue to carry out their mission. I appreciate the committee's support and thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.