



## HARTFORD CONSORTIUM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

### 2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education represents 11 member colleges, universities and seminaries, and serving more than 36,000 students and employing over 5,000 faculty, staff and administrators. Consortium members comprise both public and private institutions, and demonstrate an unprecedented level of collaboration between the two sectors in learning and service to the state. Consortium members recognize, as educators and employers, that growing jobs and preparing a well-qualified workforce are Priority #1 facing the state of Connecticut in 2011 and beyond. Member institutions are prepared to plan and work in cooperation with our state and federal governments to achieve job growth and sustainability. The Consortium urges consideration of these important priorities during the 2011 legislative and Congressional sessions:

#### *Continue support for CICS and CAPCS by maintaining the current level of funding*

Job creation is only one-half of the equation: qualified workers must fill the new jobs which we need to grow our economy. Connecticut Independent College Student grants and Connecticut Aid for Public College Students grants provide vital support for state residents to pursue their education. As an organization that embraces the importance of both public and private higher education options for our citizens, we believe these two aid programs that allow Connecticut students to enroll in our state's public and private institutions must be maintained in order to generate the qualified workforce we need for economic growth and sustained recovery.

#### *Continue the PILOTS program to sustain municipal budgets*

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) helps nonprofits and municipalities at the same time. Consortium institutions represent annual payrolls totaling more than \$300 million that directly impact local economies and bring revenue to the State. If PILOTS are reduced or eliminated there will be serious tax and revenue implications for municipalities and the state in general as Consortium institutions will be faced with budget retractions that will directly impact their communities and Connecticut.

#### *Make Section 127 of the U.S. Tax Code Permanent*

Section 127 of the U.S. Tax Code, extended through December 2012, provides employers with tax credits up to \$5,250 to support their employees' ongoing education. This provision contributes to a stronger, well-trained work force by supporting continuing education and work force development. Its abandonment will result in retraction of an important work force initiative by employers. The Consortium will work with its Congressional delegation in 2011 to ensure the permanency of Section 127 and the above-the-line tuition deduction also recently extended.