

From the Desk of the CEO

Update from Capital CEO, Dr. G. Duncan Harris



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Dear Friend,

These are difficult days in our country's history with last week's murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in the custody of police. The resulting spontaneous, peaceful protests against racism and violence here and in so many communities affirm the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."

Capital's students who are 36% African American cannot help but be impacted by this tragedy through personal experience. Within our own "network of mutuality" we will make sure that our students, faculty, and staff who have been traumatized by these disturbing events are connected to supports should they need them. We will continue to affirm our institutional values that are antithetical to systemic racism that still surfaces. The issues raised by the killing of George Floyd and the ongoing COVID pandemic disproportionately affects large segments of the community we serve. They reinforce the importance of the work we have embarked on to address equity gaps in the lives of our students. Now and over the next year we know that the community we serve will need us more than ever to provide opportunity in an atmosphere of caring and encouragement so that they can persist and attain their academic and career goals.

On a high note, on May 21, we (virtually) celebrated graduation of the class of 2020 and this week marks the beginning of our first summer session. Additionally, I am pleased to share that the Board of Regents has appointed me as permanent Chief Executive Officer of the College. After spending two years as the interim CEO, and getting to know our faculty, staff, and students, I can say without question that I am truly honored to be serving in this role and look forward to giving my all in support of our institutional mission. I look forward to "locking arms" with our faculty, staff, and community partners to ensure Hartford has a vanguard community college to meet the needs of the citizens of the region. We stand ready to be counted upon for this purpose.

Sincerely,



SPECIAL EVENTS

COMMENCEMENT - #CAPITAL2020

On May 21 our Virtual Commencement Ceremony went live on our website. I want to send a very heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates. Click [here](#) to watch the full ceremony.



SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE NURSING PROGRAM

Capital is one of Connecticut's largest nursing programs with over 300 students enrolled. Centinel Hill Hall auditorium and Degnan Lecture Hall are on the 11th floor where my office is and all nursing. Every Monday and Friday I ride the elevators with these students and walk past many waiting to go to class. I check-in to see how they are doing and observe how nervous they are when they have one of their high-stake exams. Each year I've been invited in to speak with them at the beginning of the semester, cautioning entering students about the rigor and demands of the program and encouraging 2nd year RN candidates to make it to the finish line.

I've had the opportunity to hire nursing faculty and attend nursing department meetings to hear directly about the resources needed to maintain the program's high standards as the state's oldest community college-based associate degree program. It's a privilege to work closely with Dr. Dawn Bunting, the Program Director.

Our program went through Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accreditation this past fall and received the highest marks. I was beaming with pride when the visiting review team presented its final report and commended my faculty on the quality of our program. We sent nursing faculty and students on a remote medical mission trip to Appalachia last spring (they were set to go again this year, however, it was cancelled due to COVID 19) and recently launched a new chapter of the Alpha Delta Nu nursing student honor society.

You can't go to a hospital in the Greater Hartford area and not come across an alum from Capital Community College. They are on the front lines during this pandemic applying what they learned at Capital to save lives. I'd like to give a special salute to all of my Capital Community College nursing faculty, alumni, and students. You make us all proud.



INDUCTING NURSING STUDENTS INTO ALPHA DELTA NU

Capital Community College inducted 18 nursing students into Alpha Delta Nu (Zeta Beta

Chapter) the national honor society for associate degree nursing students today. Club advisors extraordinaire, nursing faculty members, Rachel Kramer Cohen and Tara Ferrauolo, took the Capital Van and presented each member with their graduation honor chord, a rose, and an official Alpha Delta Nu cupcake. We're so proud of these nursing scholars.



STUDENT NEWS AND PROJECTS

TALCOTT STREET CHURCH PROJECT

The Talcott Street Church Project was conceived by four students: Aliyah Freeman-Johnson (Capital Community College), Mercy Unoh (Trinity College), Julian Hogan (Capital Community College), and Armani Parnter (Capital Community College). Their project description is below. *Thank you all for bringing to light this important piece of Hartford's African American History.*

"We, the Action Lab Team: students of Capital Community and Trinity Colleges, have come together to commemorate the legacy of the Talcott Street Church and bring to light events in early Connecticut history which were influenced by the church. We would also like to generate an interest in such a remembrance as part of that history.

When we first started this project, we were looking to discover a little more about the city in which we live. In this time, we learned of the history of this tiny church and were shocked to learn it was once located on the corner of Talcott and Market Street, a place where a condemned parking garage now stands. The Capital Community College parking garage rests directly across the street, meaning most of us routinely pass by this

important landmark without the knowledge it existed. It wasn't very far off to say we were unprepared for what we would truly learn, the parts of our home for which all of us were oblivious. Our goal is to share what we have learned with everyone else."

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GRANTS

HARTFORD FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC GIVING COVID-19 GRANT

The [Hartford Foundation for Public Giving](#) launched the COVID-19 Response Fund to rapidly deploy resources to support the residents who are most significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Fund is designed to complement the work of federal, state

and municipal government efforts and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the outbreak as efficiently as possible.

Our \$20,000 grant will support Capital Cares Emergency Support Fund, a pool of micro-grants for the educational and basic human needs of low-income students facing job loss, eviction and other emergency situations, allowing them to continue their education.

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NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR THE 2020 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Fifty-three years ago Capital Community College then known as Greater Hartford Community College opened its doors at a two-story Sequassen Street building in Hartford's Colt Park. From an opening enrollment of 339 students more than 300,000 have enrolled and many have moved on to academic and career success.

In 2019 the College and the CCC Foundation created the Alumni Wall of Fame to recognize alumni from all decades who have achieved success and made an impact on their community and profession. A group of five inductees were recognized at the 14th Changing Lives Gala and the Foundation intends to make honoring distinguished alumni an annual event. [MORE..](#)



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