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## **NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE LOANS VENTILATORS TO NORWALK HOSPITAL**

*NCC Foundation Executive Director Carrie Bernier and NCC CEO Cheryl DeVonish respond quickly to the COVID-19 crisis by coordinating the transfer of urgently needed equipment to Norwalk Hospital.*

**NORWALK, CT, March 26 2020**— Norwalk Community College has loaned its three ventilators in response to the dire need for such equipment at Norwalk Hospital. The particular models of ventilators donated were originally selected so that NCC students could train on the same equipment used by area hospitals. This means Norwalk Hospital staff will be familiar with the donated equipment and it can be put to immediate use in treating COVID-19 patients.

NCC was fortunate to have up-to-date technology on hand due to the generosity of the National Emphysema Foundation. The late Dr. Sreedhar Nair was a founder of the National Emphysema Foundation, former Chief of Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care at Norwalk Hospital, Former Clinical professor of Medicine at Yale University, and a decades-long supporter of the Norwalk Community College Respiratory Care Program. Because of his leadership and the generous support of the National Emphysema Foundation, the Respiratory Care Program has over the years been able to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, including ventilators and a new high-tech mannequin. The Nair family have expressed their continuing and longtime support for the mission of the National Emphysema Foundation and Norwalk Community College students through both capital gifts for equipment and student scholarships.

“Our program has benefited greatly from the support of the NCC Foundation and the National Emphysema Foundation, as ventilators and related equipment for training students are extremely expensive. But as we see now, registered respiratory therapists are a vital part of the health care team and we are glad our department is able to help in any way we can,” said Maria Grayson, Program Director of Respiratory Care in NCC’s Nursing and Allied Health Division.

### **About the Norwalk Community College Foundation**

The Norwalk Community College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports expanding access to affordable, quality higher education, the development of a productive workforce, and contributing to the knowledge and well-being of our community by raising funds for Norwalk Community College.

The Foundation works with individuals, major corporations and local organizations to develop new initiatives and educational partnerships to inspire and engage our community to share talents and resources. With assistance from generous donors, the NCC Foundation provides \$3 million annually in scholarships, faculty and program support, and student success initiatives.

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