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MANDEL FAMILY GIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT TO NCC FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

NORWALK, CT, February 8, 2023— Norwalk Community College Foundation (the Foundation) received a \$1 million transformational gift from the Mandel Family to support scholarships for nursing and healthcare programs at Norwalk Community College (NCC). The gift recognizes the critical shortage of healthcare workers throughout Fairfield County. Ann Mandel, a former president of the NCC Foundation Board of Directors and a current Board Director Emerita, was instrumental in raising \$20 million to build the Center for Science, Health and Wellness (CSHW). She has remained active with the NCC Foundation for decades. Her children matched her gift in recognition of her many years of support, leadership and service to Norwalk Community College Foundation.

“More than a decade after they provided leadership support for the CSHW at NCC, the Mandel Family continues to inspire us with their generosity, philanthropic leadership, and unwavering belief in the power of a Norwalk Community College education,” said Carrie Bernier, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NCC Foundation. “We hope this gift will lead to more leadership gifts, and that it will allow a greater number of students to pursue a career in healthcare. We are pleased that this gift helps to ensure that NCC can continue to provide a top-rated education at an affordable cost. Our entire community benefits when our healthcare workforce is well-educated and highly skilled,” said Ann Mandel. “This gift is transformative for students in need of financial assistance to help them reach their goal of earning a college education,” said Cheryl DeVonish, Chief Executive Officer of Norwalk Community College. “We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Mandel Family and their astute understanding of our students’ needs.”

NCC is proud to be a leading educator for healthcare workers throughout the State of Connecticut, with its programs in Nursing, Medical Assistant, Certified Nurse Aid, Respiratory Therapy and more. This gift will strengthen the Foundation’s ability to support vulnerable populations and ensure that NCC’s healthcare programs are accessible and affordable to historically under-resourced populations like student parents, women, and students of color. Over the last 11 years, more than 4,000 graduates from the CSHW have entered the workforce in the field of healthcare. Students graduating with associate degrees in Nursing and Allied Health fields have tremendous employment opportunities upon graduation, with an average employment rate of 80%. Approximately 59% of students in these programs are first generation college students seeking a degree and a career that will move their families into financial security.

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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 invests approximately \$3 million annually in scholarships, faculty and program support, and student success initiatives. For more information, please visit www.ncc-foundation.org.

NCC CEO Cheryl DeVonish and NCCF President and CEO Carrie Bernier are available for media inquiries regarding this announcement.