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May 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Norwalk Community College Foundation Board of Directors, I want to share news regarding changes in Foundation leadership. First, our President and CEO, Carrie Bernier, who has led the Foundation with vision and compassion over the past 5 years, has stepped down for an exciting new professional opportunity. While we will certainly miss her leadership, we are thrilled for her as Carrie embarks on a new challenge in the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) sector advocating for educational access for girls in developing countries around the world.

Carrie was a resolute leader during her tenure in promoting the Foundation's mission and vision. Emblematic of her love of education and opportunity, she has been a true and indefatigable champion for the students, faculty, and staff at Norwalk Community College (NCC). Carrie refined and expanded the Foundation's strategic plan and partnered with the college to ensure students at NCC have scholarship and enrichment opportunities beyond what are typically offered at two-year colleges. She has been a passionate advocate and voice for the under-resourced populations at NCC, advancing programs and policies that provide wraparound services and emergency assistance for students most in need of support. Especially during the COVID pandemic, Carrie pivoted the organization deftly to ensure students had access to computers, Wi-Fi, and other support necessary for remote learning. Her dedication to increasing equitable access to higher education for everyone in Fairfield County has been inspiring.

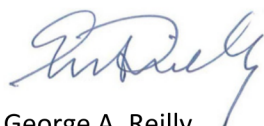
Recently, Carrie reflected, "I am most proud of the individual lives of students that have been transformed because of the generous support from the Foundation. I hold the stories of these students close, and I will never forget them. I will also remember building new pathways of support with many of you, who brought your innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and empathetic hearts to your philanthropic giving."

It was a privilege to work with Carrie. Her integrity, enthusiasm, and commitment to progress has been a gift to us all. As we wish her the best of luck on her new journey, and in honor of Carrie's heartfelt belief in supporting exceptional NCC graduates as they pursue their bachelor's degrees at 4-year colleges, the Board of Directors has established the Carrie Bernier Transfer Scholarship Fund. We welcome contributions to this fund and expect that it will benefit students for years to come.

The Board of Directors of the Norwalk Community College Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Vincent Murphy as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer effective June 8, 2023. Vince currently serves in his eighth year as a member of the Board of the Foundation, two of which he spent as President of the Board. He will resign from the Board and become an ex officio member upon commencing his new role. Vince has been involved in each Board committee, was an integral part of the Entrepreneurship Task Force for several years and has been a mentor to NCC students. Vince led a review of the Foundation's strategic plan and was the Foundation's representative to CSCU (Connecticut State Colleges & Universities) meetings concerning the consolidation of the community colleges.

We are confident that Vincent Murphy will ensure continuity and a smooth transition as we continue the important work of the Foundation and its stakeholders.

Sincerely,



George A. Reilly
Chair, Board of Directors