



# CharterOak STATE COLLEGE

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## Degrees Without Boundaries

Charter Oak State College, is committed to equal opportunity and to the effective implementation of affirmative action. The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) oversees the state universities, community colleges, and Charter Oak State College. We share in their efforts to promote representative racial and ethnic diversity among our students, faculty, administrators and staff as well as compliance with Title IX requirements and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The College recognizes that equal opportunity means employment without consideration of race; color; sex - including pregnancy, sexual harassment and sexual assault; religious creed; marital status; national origin; ancestry; intellectual disability; past or present history of mental disability; learning disability; physical disability; age; gender identity and expression or sexual orientation. The College does not request or require family medical history nor does it discriminate against any person based on genetic information, veteran status, or a person with a prior conviction of a crime. It further recognizes that the goal of affirmative action is equal opportunity. The College's Affirmative Action Program creates positive action, undertaken with conviction and effort, to overcome the present effects of past practices, policies or barriers to equal employment and to achieve the full and fair participation of women, Blacks and Hispanics and any other underrepresented group found to be underutilized in the workforce or affected by policies or practices having an adverse impact.

As the President of Charter Oak State College and responsible for carrying out College policies, I remain committed to affirmative action, the institution's affirmative action plan, and to equal employment opportunity as an immediate and necessary agency objective of our organization. I expect my staff to successfully implement the program's objectives and evaluation. Annual evaluations of managerial staff also include assessments of responsibilities regarding these provisions. A link has been made available of these laws which mandate and regulate our plan and program.

This Policy Statement is based on the spirit and letter of state and federal anti-discrimination laws, regulations and executive orders. Enclosed is an attachment of these laws which mandate and regulate our plan and program.

In accordance with the attached legal requirements, every agency staff member will share in the responsibility to implement this policy. In all aspects of the employment process, including recruitment, selection, compensation, assignment, promotion and upgrading, training, transfer, discipline, termination, layoff and recall, and all other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment every agency staff member will share the responsibility of applying internal and external policies of equal opportunity.

The Affirmative Action Officer will monitor all activities undertaken in these areas and shall take reasonable action in relation to problems disclosed, such as to make recommendations for policies and procedures that will eliminate actual or potential problems, establish goals and timetables which recognize the race, sex or national origin of employees and applicants for employment.

All members of Charter Oak State College shall ensure that no person be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against under any program because of his/her race, color, religious creed, age, marital or parental status, national origin, ancestry, past or present history of mental, physical, learning and intellectual disabilities, genetic information, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity or expression and sexual orientation), veteran status or prior conviction of a crime. Additionally, we will not knowingly use the services of, patronize, nor otherwise deal with any business, contractor or agency that engages in acts of unlawful discrimination. We are committed to recognizing the hiring difficulties experienced by the physically disabled and by older persons. Program goals and timetables will be established to overcome the present effects of past discrimination, if any, to achieve the full and fair utilization of physically disabled and older persons in the workforce.

Sexual harassment, another form of sex discrimination, will not be tolerated in any workplace overseen by the Board of Regents. Sexual harassment is a violation of Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Section 46a-60(a)(8) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of any individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment. Sexual harassment shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

Rowena McGoldrick, Manager, Personnel & Finance served as the College's Affirmative Action Officer through the Plan year 2020 and had the responsibility for development and implementation of past Charter Oak State College's Affirmative Action Plan. Future responsibility will be held by the CSCU Diversity & Inclusion Center of Excellence lead by Leah Glende, CSCU Director of Diversity & Inclusion. She is located at 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105, and may be reached at (860) 723-0727 or by email at [glendel@ct.edu](mailto:glendel@ct.edu).

Internal complaints involving the plan and affirmative action policy are to be forwarded to Leah Glende.



**Ed Klonoski**  
President, Charter Oak State College

**Date:** January 4, 2021

#### **4.5 Affirmative Action Policy Statement**

This Affirmative Action Policy Statement has been prepared as required by section 46a-68 of the Connecticut General Statute which requires that all state agencies with 25 or more employees create an affirmation plan in accordance with Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities regulations. CHRO regulations require that affirmation action plans contain a policy statement.

The Board must formally adopt its own statement of policy in compliance with Connecticut State Agency Regulation 46a-68-33. The Policy Statement is necessary to formalize its commitment to maintaining a work environment free from influence or prejudicial behavior and sexual harassment and a workplace in which all terms, conditions, privileges and benefits are administered in an equitable manner.

As the statewide policy making authority for public higher education in Connecticut, the Board of Regents for Higher Education is committed to leading, by example, in the areas of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. Additionally, the Board of Regents has been charged by state statutes (specifically Connecticut General Statutes 10a-10 and 10a-11) to promote representative racial and ethnic diversity among the students, faculty, administrators and staff at public institutions of higher education. The Board of Regents for Higher Education's policies also advances compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act at all Connecticut state colleges and universities. Equal employment opportunity and affirmative action are essential to achieving higher education's twin goals of academic excellence and equity.

The Board of Regents for Higher Education recognizes that affirmative action is positive action undertaken with diligence and conviction to:

- Overcome any remaining effects of past practices, policies or barriers to equal employment opportunity, and;
- Achieve the full and fair participation of all protected class members found to be underutilized in the workplace, or adversely impacted by policies or practices.

The Board of Regents for Higher Education deems equal employment opportunity to be the employment of individuals without consideration of race, color, sex, religious creed, marital status, national origin, ancestry, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disability, learning disability, physical disability, age, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation. The Board will not request or require genetic information from job applicants or employees, or otherwise discriminate against any person in employment conditions on the basis of genetic information. Additionally, the Department will not unlawfully discriminate against persons with a prior criminal conviction. Equal opportunity is the purpose and goal of affirmative action.

It is the policy of the Board of Regents for Higher Education to administer all personnel policies in manners that insure that there is no discrimination based upon race, color, sex, religious creed, marital status, national origin, ancestry, intellectual disability, past or present history of

mental disability, learning disability, physical disability, age, genetic information, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation. The Board's personnel policies involve employment applications, job qualifications, job specifications, recruitment practices, job structuring, orientation, training, counseling, grievance procedures, evaluation procedures, layoffs and terminations. To ensure the full and fair participation of protected group members in the employment process the Employee Relations Office shall be consulted and shall monitor the complete employment process. In addition, the Affirmative Action Officer/Designee has sign off responsibilities in all aspects of the staff recruitment and selection process.

The Board of Regents for Higher Education recognizes the hiring difficulties experienced by the physically disabled and by many older persons. If necessary, the Board shall establish program goals within the Affirmative Action Plan for action eliminating hiring barriers and actively recruiting members from these groups, to overcome any remaining effects of past discrimination against these groups and to achieve full and fair participation of such persons in the workforce.

The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall explore alternative approaches wherever personnel practices have a negative impact on protected classes and establish procedures for the extra effort deemed necessary to assure that the recruitment and hiring of protected group members reflect their availability in the job market. To this end, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall continuously review its personnel policies and procedures to ensure that barriers that unnecessarily exclude protected classes and practices that have a discriminatory impact are identified and eliminated. Recognizing that there are residual effects of past discrimination, the Board of Regents for Higher Education pledges not only to provide services in a fair and impartial manner, but also establish, through this policy, affirmative action and equal opportunity as immediate and necessary Board objectives.

The Board of Regents for Higher Education is committed to maintaining a work environment free from influence or prejudicial behavior and sexual harassment and a workplace in which all terms, conditions, privileges and benefits are administered in an equitable manner.

[The system president] is the Chief Executive Officer for the Board of Regents for Higher Education, is committed to successfully implementing the Affirmative Action Plan within timetables set forth. The President assures that all employees, especially managers and professionals, understand the policies and their responsibilities for implementing such and take positive steps to ensure compliance with the plan, policy and procedures.

Leah Glende, is the appointed Affirmative Action Officer for the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The Affirmative Action Plan is available to all members of the workforce through the Employee Relations Office which is located at 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105. Ms. Glende can be reached by telephone at (860) 723-0794 and email at [glendel@ct.edu](mailto:glendel@ct.edu).

Federal and State constitutional provisions, laws, regulations, guidelines and executive orders that prohibit or outlaw discrimination, that identify each class of protected persons and that require and regulate the development of the Affirmative Action Program are attached.