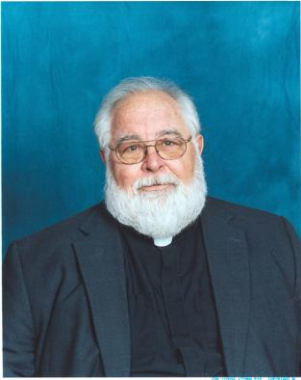


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860.244.7605; 244.7750

**Reverend David L. Cannon of the Connecticut Community Colleges'
Board of Trustees is Honored by ACCT**



The Reverend David L. Cannon, Trustee and former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Community Colleges (CCCs), has been conferred the 2009 M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award for the Northeast Region of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

"Father Cannon is an advocate for the mission of community colleges as institutions that advance student success, economic viability, social justice, and community growth," wrote Louise S. Berry, current Chair of the CCCs' Board of Trustees, in her statement to ACCT nominating Father Cannon. "He has been influential in increasing understanding of the unique quality of that mission among legislators, community leaders, and the public. This understanding and his continued advocacy have been invaluable in gaining acknowledgement of the key role played by community colleges in Connecticut's economic development and workforce development."

Serving on the Board for over 30 years, including the years 1982 to 1995 as Chair, a position designated by the Governor of Connecticut, Father Cannon is the longest serving Chair and one of the longest serving members of the Board. First appointed to the Board by Governor Ella Grasso in 1978, he has been reappointed by each successive Governor, most recently by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2005. Father Cannon led the Board during the consolidation of the CCCs with the State Technical Colleges under a single Board in 1989 and through the merger of the colleges themselves to form comprehensive institutions in 1992. During his tenure, the Connecticut Community Colleges have grown to enroll the largest number of undergraduates in public higher education in Connecticut. Minority enrollment at the CCCs has increased from 11.5 percent when Father Cannon was first appointed to over 33 percent in fall 2009. Over two-thirds of Connecticut's African American and Hispanic undergraduates enrolled in public higher education are CCC students.

"Father Cannon's leadership has encouraged academic excellence and expanded educational opportunities throughout Connecticut," wrote Berry. "Through his leadership, new degree and certificate programs in such fields as Interpreting for the Deaf and Deaf Studies, Management of Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities, Early Childhood Education, Technology Studies and Biotechnology have been initiated to meet the needs of Connecticut's students and the needs of the State for a highly skilled workforce."

Father Cannon's leadership and advocacy have been responsible for a wide variety of initiatives that enable the colleges to serve a growing and increasingly diverse student population. Among the efforts he helped launch and sustain are the CCCs' Minority Fellowship Program created to attract more minority faculty and staff to the System's colleges, the Business and Industry Services Network which provides contract training to over 600 Connecticut businesses each year, and the expansion of student support services as well as non-credit workforce development offerings.

Father Cannon helped lead the development of the CCCs' College of Technology, a curriculum pathway that combines the general studies courses of all 12 Connecticut Community Colleges with specialized courses in engineering and technology. Students earn credits in the pathway toward engineering and technology degrees and transfer programs at both public and private colleges throughout Connecticut.

Recognizing child care services as a key to access and success for many students who would otherwise be unable to take advantage of the opportunities offered by higher education, Father Cannon was instrumental in efforts to establish child care centers at the Colleges. Today, child care centers at each of the 12 CCCs provide high-quality education and services to the children of students, faculty, staff and area residents. Many of the centers also serve as clinical observation sites for Early Childhood Education degree programs.

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A resident of Preston, Connecticut, and retired Pastor of St. James Episcopal Church, Father Cannon continues to serve on the CCCs' Board of Trustees as a member of its Academic Policies and Student Affairs Committee, and its Finance, Budget and Facilities Committee. "Father Cannon's public service, leadership, and unflagging commitment over many years have shaped the development of the Connecticut Community College System and have earned him the admiration, appreciation, and affection of all who have known him and worked with him," concluded Berry.

For more information on the Connecticut Community Colleges, visit www.commnet.edu.

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