

For Immediate Release  
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**Connecticut Community College Students Elected by Peers  
to Board and Advisory Committee**

The Connecticut Community Colleges' Student Electoral Assembly was held on October 18, 2008 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford to elect a Student Trustee to the 18-member Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges, as well as Representatives and Alternates to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors for Higher Education.

**Darcy Clifford**, a student at Norwalk Community College majoring in liberal arts and sciences with a concentration in math and science, was elected to a two-year term as the Non-Technical Student Trustee to the Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges. Clifford went on to earn her GED after dropping out of high school, and she expects to graduate with her associate in science degree in Spring 2009. Clifford plans to transfer to a four-year institution into an environmental science/physics degree program with a minor in political science, and then plans to attend graduate school. Her interests lie in the support of responsible and ethical energy and environmental policies. Clifford is Vice President of her Student Government Association; a member and officer of Phi Theta Kappa; one of two representatives who hold seats in the college senate; and student representative on the college's Green Committee which has established a number of student awareness programs related to environmental issues. Clifford volunteers on blood drives, river clean-ups, and other community service initiatives. A resident of Fairfield, Clifford credits Norwalk Community College with helping her shape her education and career path. Clifford will join the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on November 17, 2008.

**Sean Buckley** of Canterbury was elected the Technical Student Representative to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. A student at Three Rivers Community College, Buckley is majoring in engineering science. He will graduate in 2009 and would like to continue his education at a four-year university to complete his baccalaureate degree and subsequently attend graduate school. Buckley is Vice President of Phi Theta Kappa, an in-class English tutor, and was a recipient of the Freshman Academic Award 2008 Scholarship. His community activities include numerous volunteer roles with regional conservation advocacy organizations.

**Cordell Leighton James**, who attends Capital Community College with a major in communications, was elected Technical Student Alternate to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. James plans to attend law school after graduating with an associate in science degree in Spring 2010, then transferring to a four-year college to obtain his baccalaureate. He is a member of the Student Senate and participated in the Ambassador Program. A resident of Hartford, James has been a volunteer for various veterans' activities, including the Veterans Stand-Down Day at the Veterans Home & Hospital.

**Alfonso Ordonez** of Naugatuck was elected the Non-Technical Student Representative to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. He attends Naugatuck Valley Community College majoring in business management, and is a Student Government member there. Ordonez is originally from Colombia, and as a member of the Rotary Club there, he collected various materials for recycling each weekend, provided nearby villages with needed supplies on a monthly basis, helped to build and start a school in a local village, and coached a basketball team for kids. Ordonez came to the United States at the urging of his father who encouraged him to better his life by furthering his education. He expects to graduate in Spring 2010, and plans to then transfer to a four-year college to obtain his baccalaureate degree, and subsequently go on to obtain his master's and doctoral degrees. Cordonez tutors high-schoolers in academic skills; is a member of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), for which he collects Christmas presents for kids in shelters; and is active with Habitat for Humanity through his church. He has traveled to New Orleans and worked with the Beacon of Hope Resource Center building houses and helping to clean up the city. Ordonez was also a member of Model United Nations, a simulation of the U.N. General Assembly and other multilateral bodies, and was named its most outstanding delegate.

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**Blaine Preston Poirier** was elected the Non-Technical Student Alternate to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. He attends Gateway Community College majoring in human and social services. Among Poirier's aspirations are to help those in need by working for Human Works in Meriden, where he resides. He plans to further his education, and to someday become a Connecticut State Representative. Poirier sits on the Campus Activities Board at Gateway CC, and participates in the Student Government Association. He is active in the Castle Craig Players Theatre in Meriden, and he sings in the choir together with his parents at the First United Church in Meriden.

The Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges is responsible for establishing policies that guide and govern Connecticut's 12 Community Colleges. The Governor appoints 16 of the members, including the Chairman of the Board, while two members are students elected for two-year terms by the Student Electoral Assembly, a statewide student body established to represent the interests of students enrolled in both technical and liberal arts and sciences programs. The Board of Trustees meets monthly and develops and oversees policies that affect academic and student affairs, financial affairs, facilities planning, personnel and labor relations for the Connecticut Community College System. The Standing Advisory Committee to the Board of Governors for Higher Education is an elected panel of students, faculty, and administrators from the constituent units of higher education who serve in an advisory role to the Board of Governors in coordinating higher education policy for Connecticut.

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