Dear Central Family,

We are about to make public the findings of a very troubling investigation into issues and concerns involving the CCSU Police Department. I am deeply disturbed and saddened by the findings (the full report can be viewed here).

There is significant evidence that a sexual assault complaint by one of the department’s own officers was inappropriately handled when the incident was first reported in 2016. I am particularly troubled as to how the department’s chain of command did not, in a timely manner, conduct an investigation when the sexual assault was first reported.

Among other findings the investigators reported:

- Several police officers were hired by the CCSU Police Department even though background checks found evidence of significant discipline or other disqualifying performance issues in their past;
- An informal environment exists within the department, including relaxed professional standards and a fraternity-like environment, including inappropriate behavior, banter, or horseplay;
- Required sexual harassment prevention and other trainings are not taken seriously and serve as additional evidence that diversity and equity principles are not respected;
- A pervasive use of inappropriate gender labels for women and perception that the work of females is subjected to harsher criticism;
- Belief that expressing concern and/or opinion about the treatment of women in the department results in discrimination and retaliation; and
- Concern that all shifts are not staffed with a ranking, supervisor officer.

While we look deeper into the concerns brought to light by the investigation, today I made personnel changes to mitigate future issues. I want to assure our CCSU family and the public that the past environment, behaviors, and attitudes within the CCSU Police Department are not acceptable.

Among the immediate first steps, Bernard R. Sullivan, retired Commissioner of Public Safety and former Hartford Police Chief, has been hired to serve as CCSU’s Assistant to the President for Safety. In addition to overseeing the police department, Sullivan will be charged to identify and correct defective procedures, policies, and training, evaluate staffing levels and budgetary issues.

He also will determine what means are necessary to restore professionalism to the department while rebuilding trust among its employees, the CCSU community, and the public and take
disciplinary action where appropriate. This mission is not new to Sullivan. He was selected by former Governor William O’Neill in 1989 to take the helm of the Connecticut State Police when it was embroiled in controversy and worked to rebuild the force and restore its credibility.

Today, I placed Chief Administrative Officer Richard Bachoo on paid administrative leave pending an investigation. His responsibilities have been reassigned to ensure the campus operates smoothly and efficiently. Until further notice:

- Facilities Management and Environmental Health & Safety will be headed by Sal Cintorino, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, and he will report directly to me;
- Information Technology will be headed by George F. Claffey, Jr., who will continue in his position as the Chief Information Officer for Charter Oak State College on a part-time basis; and
- Event Management will report to Chief Financial Officer Charlene Casamento.

Further, the Office of Diversity and Equity will undergo further review to ensure its investigations are conducted in a prompt, fair, and unbiased manner.

Indeed, these are very challenging times for us all. I repeat my pledge to you that I remain absolutely committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure the CCSU campus is a welcoming, safe environment for all.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to email me at toro@ccsu.edu or go to www.ccsu.edu/ccc to anonymously share information.

Sincerely,

Zulma R. Toro
President