

The Connecticut State Conference-AAUP

Walter F. Brady, Jr., Award Recipients

Denise W. Merrill
Connecticut State Representative
May 10, 2007

Dr. Dorsey Kendrick
President, Gateway Community College
May 12, 2011

Dr. James W. Schmotter
President, Western Connecticut State University
May 14, 2015

Dr. Jeff Seemann
Vice President for Research
University of Connecticut
May 12, 2016

David Raymond Bedding Award Recipient

Irene Mulvey, *Mathematics*, Fairfield University 2015
Morton Tenzer, *Political Science*, University of Connecticut 2018

George E. Lang, Jr., Award, Fairfield University Recipients

Jocelyn Boryczka, *Politics*, May 2008

Bob Epstein, *English*, May 2009

Matt Kubasik, *Chemistry*, May 2010

Debra M. Strauss, *Management*, May 2011

Dave Crawford, *Anthropology*, May 2012

Sonya Huber, *English*, May 2013

John Miecznikowski, *Chemistry*, May 2014

Anna Lawrence, *History*, May 2015

Paul Baginski, *Mathematics*, May 2016

Bryan Ripley Crandall, *CT Writing Project*, May 2017

Graduate School of Ed. & Allied Professions

Kris E. Sealey, *Philosophy*, May 2018

Co-director, Peace & Justice Studies Program

Director Curriculum, Center for Academic Excellence

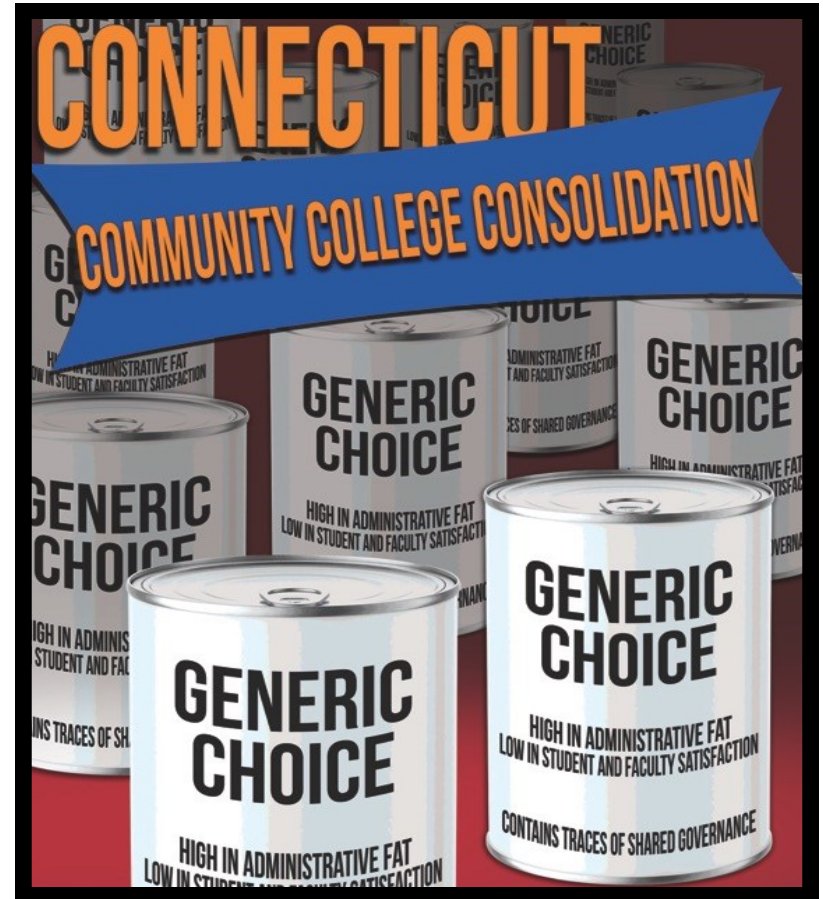
Maggie A. Labinski, *Philosophy*, May 2019

Web site: <https://ctsc-aaup.org/>

David Stoloff, Web Manager

Special illustration created by Lisa Hatcher

Print Production by Economy Printing, New Milford



A

Time Of Transition? Higher Education And Organizing In Connecticut

Distinguished Guests: Mae Flexer, Connecticut State Senator
Professor Lois Aime, Norwalk Community College
Professor Stephen Adair, Central Connecticut State University

The Graduate Club
New Haven, CT
May 10, 2019

Mae Flexer, Connecticut State Senator, represents the state's 29th district. A Democrat, Flexer previously served three terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives. Her hard work in the State House of Representatives and now the Senate is reflected in her impressive responsibilities: she is Deputy President *Pro Tempore* of and Federal Relations Liaison to the State Senate; Chair of the Government, Administration, and Elections committees; Vice-Chair of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee; and a Member of the Appropriations, Education, Internship, and Judiciary committees. Most recently she has been an outspoken opponent of the effort to consolidate Connecticut's twelve community colleges. On March 19, 2019, the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee passed Senate Bill 749, "An Act Requiring Legislative Approval for the Merger or Closing of Institutions within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities." Senator Flexer is Vice-Chair of that committee. At the public hearing on this bill, students and teachers testified that the "community college experience was being threatened by current proposed plans." After Flexer met with students who attend Connecticut community colleges and heard about the profound impact their school has had on their lives, she said "As a proud graduate of Quinebaug Valley Community College, I saw myself in these students and know the importance of keeping the 'community' in community colleges. I'm optimistic about where this legislation will go and look forward to preserving our great community college system here in Connecticut." Senator Flexer also holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut.

The Reluctant Warriors: Professor Lois Aime and Professor Stephen Adair organized a group largely composed of community college faculty to push back against the BOR's "Students First" consolidation attempts. On March 8, 2019, the group released a petition with more than 1,300 signatures calling for an end to consolidation efforts. Behind the petition was a newly formed group calling themselves the "Reluctant Warriors," a group that includes faculty, students, staff, and former presidents and Board of Trustees members of universities and colleges in Connecticut. Despite coming from disparate higher education institutions, they are united in opposition to the continued consolidation efforts by the Board of Regents. The petition noted that "The process of consolidation has been one of secrecy, rapid implementation, and virtually no oversight by the legislature or faculty." The one body that has had the opportunity to weigh in on Mr. Ojakian's rushed plan is the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC, now NECHE), the nation's oldest accrediting organization, which determined in April 2018 that "Students First" was unrealistic and failed to take into account the complexity of consolidation. It also questioned how savings might be achieved. The petition *Standing Together in Defense of Higher Education* pointed out, among other things, that consolidation will not save money, and that it is already creating what economists call "opportunity costs" and will dramatically increase "red tape." Most important, it will rob the community colleges of their regional identities and the future of their foundations. The group urges colleagues to support SB 749. *Professor Lois Aime is Director of Educational Technology and President of the Norwalk Community College Senate, and was a Presidential Candidate for the 4C's SEIU recent statewide officer election. Professor Stephen Adair, Sociology, Central Connecticut State University, is ex-officio member of the BOR as Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the BOR. In 2015 he was awarded the CCSU Distinguished Service Award. He is currently Secretary of the CSU-AAUP.*

The 2019 CSC-AAUP Annual Spring Meeting is Dedicated to the Memory of Professor Emeritus Vijay Nair Western Connecticut State University

	Program
4-30-5:20	Registration, Socializing Period, Cash Bar
5:30	Dinner (promptly)
6:30	Welcome: Uchenna Nwachuku President CSC-AAUP Introductions George E. Lang, Jr., Award Maggie A. Labinski, Assistant Professor, Philosophy Fairfield University Presenter: Irene Mulvey CSC-AAUP Treasurer
7:30	Distinguished Guests: Connecticut State Senator Mae Flexer Presenter: David Stoloff CSC-AAUP Vice President Professor Lois Aime, Director Educational Technology President, Norwalk Community College Senate Professor Stephen Adair, Sociology Central Connecticut State University Secretary CSU-AAUP Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the CSCU BOR Presenter: Ruth Anne Baumgartner CSC-AAUP Editor, <i>Vanguard</i>
8:50	Q & A: Ira Braus Past President CSC-AAUP
9:00	Adjournment