

# News Release

Contact: Connie Fraser 860/947-1801 (W)  
860/347-6679 (H)  
cfraser@ctdhe.org

Board of Governors for Higher Education  
Department of Higher Education  
State of Connecticut



FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, October 24, 2007

## **Statewide College Enrollment Reaches New High** *Officials Concerned about Sustaining Growth*

HARTFORD, Oct. 24 — Breaking records for a sixth consecutive year, the number of students attending Connecticut colleges and universities continues to grow, with fall 2007 headcounts reaching a historic high of 178,855, up 1.3 percent or 2,295 students from a year ago, according to tallies announced today by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.

The Department attributes the growth to the state's baby "boomlet" which, for the past ten years, has swelled high school graduation numbers and the ranks of Connecticut's full-time undergraduates, especially at the two-year colleges. The state's pool of high school graduates, however, is expected to peak in 2008 and then drop nine percent between then and 2016, raising concerns about a similar fall-off in college enrollment unless campuses recruit more non-traditional students to make up the difference.

Within the public sector, state-supported schools enrolled 112,495 students this fall, up 1.6 percent or 1,730 students. As expected, however, the average rate of growth at these schools is slowing and at an uneven pace across systems. At the independents, which registered 65,397 students this fall for a slight increase of 0.9 percent or 597 students, growth rates over the decade have been more contained as these schools are generally less reliant on Connecticut's high school graduates for applicants.

"The good news is that across Connecticut, college enrollments are growing albeit at different rates," stated Valerie Lewis, commissioner of higher education. "This testifies to the success of our campuses in creatively and diligently attracting and serving more students."

"There's no question, however, that the coming decline in our pool of readily available high school graduates will intensify pressures to tap new populations and assure more young people than ever are prepared for college," she said. "Closing the achievement gap and improving college readiness are crucially important to our society and economy and are equally critical to sustaining higher education's capacities."

Underscoring her comments, Frank W. Ridley, chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, said, "We're going to face a significant pipeline issue unless we take effective steps now to encourage more youngsters to consider and prepare for college. The Department of Higher Education's GEAR UP early awareness and tutoring activities in Bridgeport and New Haven should be expanded elsewhere as should opportunities for college-credit high school courses. I'm heartened that the

(MORE)

61 Woodland Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2326

FAX: 860/947-1310  
www.ctdhe.org

Governor's PreK-16 Council is looking at these issues from the perspective of the entire education community and, in so doing, building partnerships to align curriculum and expectations to encourage more students to stay in school and continue onto college."

Within the public sector, counts rose slightly (up 0.7 percent) at the University of Connecticut to 28,677 students with increases posted at the Storrs main campus (up 135) and at Avery Point (up 77). Overall, UConn is Connecticut's fastest growing system where counts have risen 31.0 percent since 1998.

At Connecticut State University, counts edged down 1.1 percent since a year ago with 411 fewer students for a total of 35,384. Of the four CSU campuses, enrollment rose only at WestConn which saw a gain of 125 students for a 2.1 percent increase. CSU's growth rate of 7.1 percent over the past nine years is less than half of the statewide increase of 16.0 percent.

The community colleges, Connecticut's largest higher education system, gained 1,945 students for an increase of 4.2 percent to 48,434. Enrollment was up at all 12 community colleges, with the highest numeric increases at Manchester (up 390), Naugatuck Valley (up 307) and Norwalk (up 191). Since 1998, the community colleges have experienced a 23.1 percent cumulative enrollment increase.

Within the independent sector, enrollment nudged up to 19,071 at the four-year nationals with just 51 more students. Across the 19 four-year regional independents, enrollment saw tepid growth of 0.8 percent to 43,358, an increase of 329 students. Nine of these institutions reported gains, with the University of Bridgeport and the University of New Haven up the highest (up 734 and 125 respectively). Among the five two-year independents, enrollment grew 217 students or 7.9 percent with the only drop occurring at St. Vincent's College.

\* \* \*

*Fall 2007 Connecticut college and university enrollment, as reported to the Department of Higher Education, and growth trends within the public system, follow below.*

**TABLE 1**  
**Fall 2007 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities**

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2007 Totals			Fall 2006 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total	Full-Time	Part-Time	TOTAL			
<b>PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	<b>18,730</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>20,846</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>6,425</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>23,525</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>28,677</b>	<b>28,481</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Storrs	15,615	733	16,348	3,618	2,807	6,425	693	226	919	19,926	3,766	<b>23,692</b>	23,557	135	0.6%
Avery Point	545	203	748							545	203	<b>748</b>	671	77	11.5%
Tri-Campus*	1,799	681	2,480							1,799	681	<b>2,480</b>	2,485	-5	-0.2%
Stamford	771	499	1,270							771	499	<b>1,270</b>	1,281	-11	-0.9%
Health Center							484	3	487	484	3	<b>487</b>	487	0	0.0%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	<b>23,122</b>	<b>5,442</b>	<b>28,564</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>6,820</b>				<b>24,718</b>	<b>10,666</b>	<b>35,384</b>	<b>35,795</b>	<b>-411</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
Central	7,658	2,046	9,704	520	1,882	2,402				8,178	3,928	<b>12,106</b>	12,144	-38	-0.3%
Eastern	3,975	851	4,826	68	243	311				4,043	1,094	<b>5,137</b>	5,239	-102	-1.9%
Southern	7,114	1,401	8,515	910	2,505	3,415				8,024	3,906	<b>11,930</b>	12,326	-396	-3.2%
Western	4,375	1,144	5,519	98	594	692				4,473	1,738	<b>6,211</b>	6,086	125	2.1%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	<b>18,179</b>	<b>30,255</b>	<b>48,434</b>							<b>18,179</b>	<b>30,255</b>	<b>48,434</b>	<b>46,489</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Asnuntuck	617	1,175	1,792							617	1,175	<b>1,792</b>	1,638	154	9.4%
Capital	1,027	2,699	3,726							1,027	2,699	<b>3,726</b>	3,550	176	5.0%
Gateway	2,187	3,778	5,965							2,187	3,778	<b>5,965</b>	5,824	141	2.4%
Housatonic	1,616	2,859	4,475							1,616	2,859	<b>4,475</b>	4,431	44	1.0%
Manchester	2,940	3,544	6,484							2,940	3,544	<b>6,484</b>	6,094	390	6.4%
Middlesex	1,037	1,586	2,623							1,037	1,586	<b>2,623</b>	2,474	149	6.0%
Naugatuck Valley	2,490	3,476	5,966							2,490	3,476	<b>5,966</b>	5,659	307	5.4%
Northwestern CT	548	1,084	1,632							548	1,084	<b>1,632</b>	1,544	88	5.7%
Norwalk	2,197	4,034	6,231							2,197	4,034	<b>6,231</b>	6,040	191	3.2%
Quinebaug Valley	661	1,185	1,846							661	1,185	<b>1,846</b>	1,779	67	3.8%
Three Rivers	1,316	2,542	3,858							1,316	2,542	<b>3,858</b>	3,793	65	1.7%
Tunxis	1,543	2,293	3,836							1,543	2,293	<b>3,836</b>	3,663	173	4.7%
<b>TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>60,031</b>	<b>37,813</b>	<b>97,844</b>	<b>5,214</b>	<b>8,031</b>	<b>13,245</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>66,422</b>	<b>46,073</b>	<b>112,495</b>	<b>110,765</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	963		963							963		<b>963</b>	995	-32	-3.2%
<b>TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>60,994</b>	<b>37,813</b>	<b>98,807</b>	<b>5,214</b>	<b>8,031</b>	<b>13,245</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>67,385</b>	<b>46,073</b>	<b>113,458</b>	<b>111,760</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

\*The Tri-Campus total of 2,480 consists of 1,284 students in Hartford (no change vs. fall 2006), 910 in Waterbury (up 20 students over last year), and 286 in Torrington (down 25 students.)

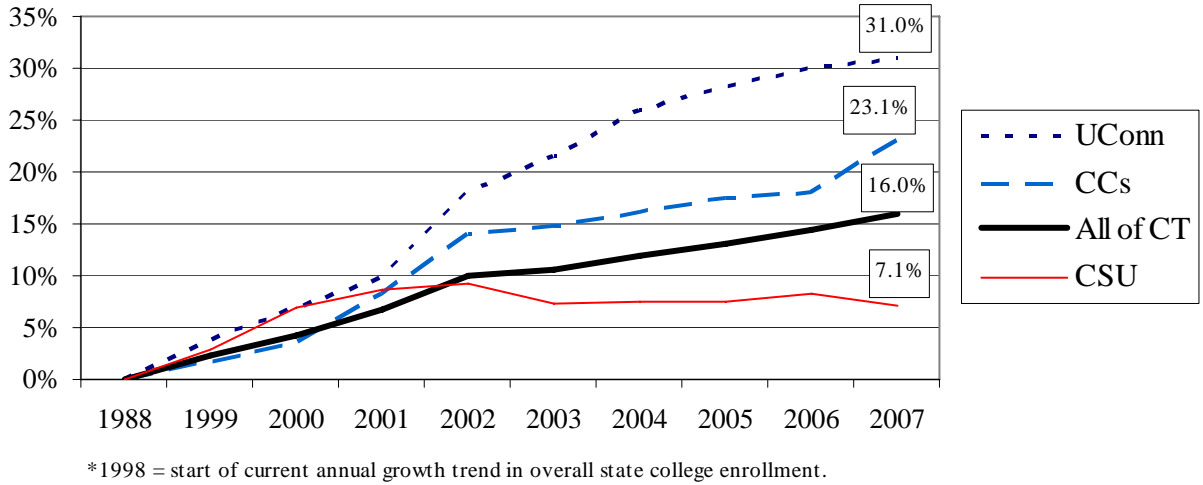
NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,557 undergraduate students -- 81 full-time (in a first for Charter Oak) and 1,476 part-time. Some of its students are enrolled in other Connecticut colleges and thus counted in this table. The 1,557 total represents a 154 student (or 9.0%) decline from fall 2006 in headcount enrollment.

**TABLE 1, Continued**  
**Fall 2007 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities**

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2007 Totals			Fall 2006 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
<b>INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS</b>															
<b><i>National Independents</i></b>	<b>12,058</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>12,322</b>	<b>4,964</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>18,251</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>19,071</b>	<b>19,020</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Connecticut College	1,802	55	1,857	8	4	12				1,810	59	<b>1,869</b>	1,886	-17	-0.9%
Trinity College	2,171	166	2,337	6	183	189				2,177	349	<b>2,526</b>	2,499	27	1.1%
Wesleyan University	2,796	21	2,817	195	210	405				2,991	231	<b>3,222</b>	3,220	2	0.1%
Yale University	5,289	22	5,311	4,755	140	4,895	1,229	19	1,248	11,273	181	<b>11,454</b>	11,415	39	0.3%
<b><i>Regional Independents</i></b>	<b>25,516</b>	<b>4,844</b>	<b>30,360</b>	<b>5,261</b>	<b>7,071</b>	<b>12,332</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>31,297</b>	<b>12,061</b>	<b>43,358</b>	<b>43,029</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
Albertus Magnus College	1,593	93	1,686	250	98	348				1,843	191	<b>2,034</b>	2,186	-152	-7.0%
Briarwood College	422	241	663							422	241	<b>663</b>	649	14	2.2%
Fairfield University	3,484	546	4,030	235	759	994				3,719	1,305	<b>5,024</b>	5,091	-67	-1.3%
Graduate Institute, The				254		254				254		<b>254</b>	221	33	14.9%
Hartford Seminary				39	120	159				39	120	<b>159</b>	173	-14	-8.1%
Holy Apostles College	17	29	46	9	159	168	70		70	96	188	<b>284</b>	270	14	5.2%
Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts	91	47	138	1		1				92	47	<b>139</b>	151	-12	-7.9%
Mitchell College	751	143	894							751	143	<b>894</b>	790	104	13.2%
Paier College of Art	168	81	249							168	81	<b>249</b>	248	1	0.4%
Post University	713	501	1,214	5	52	57				718	553	<b>1,271</b>	1,596	-325	-20.4%
Quinnipiac University	5,455	310	5,765	558	509	1,067	246	138	384	6,259	957	<b>7,216</b>	7,341	-125	-1.7%
Rensselaer at Hartford				35	695	730				35	695	<b>730</b>	743	-13	-1.7%
Sacred Heart University	3,465	761	4,226	564	1,011	1,575				4,029	1,772	<b>5,801</b>	5,756	45	0.8%
St. Basil's College	12	3	15							12	3	<b>15</b>	18	-3	-16.7%
St. Joseph College	739	256	995	132	646	778				871	902	<b>1,773</b>	1,803	-30	-1.7%
St. Thomas Seminary					36	36					36	<b>36</b>	18	18	100.0%
University of Bridgeport	1,225	566	1,791	1,664	1,085	2,749	204	8	212	3,093	1,659	<b>4,752</b>	4,018	734	18.3%
University of Hartford	4,796	841	5,637	539	1,114	1,653				5,335	1,955	<b>7,290</b>	7,308	-18	-0.2%
University of New Haven	2,585	426	3,011	976	787	1,763				3,561	1,213	<b>4,774</b>	4,649	125	2.7%
<b><i>Two-Year Independents</i></b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>2,968</b>							<b>911</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
Gibbs College	530	389	919							530	389	<b>919</b>	765	154	20.1%
Goodwin College	197	1,243	1,440							197	1,243	<b>1,440</b>	1,365	75	5.5%
Int'l College of Hospitality Management**	64		64							64		<b>64</b>	40	24	60.0%
Legion of Christ College of Humanities	66	55	121							66	55	<b>121</b>	106	15	14.2%
St. Vincent's College	54	370	424							54	370	<b>424</b>	475	-51	-10.7%
<b>TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS</b>	<b>38,485</b>	<b>7,165</b>	<b>45,650</b>	<b>10,225</b>	<b>7,608</b>	<b>17,833</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>50,459</b>	<b>14,938</b>	<b>65,397</b>	<b>64,800</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>99,479</b>	<b>44,978</b>	<b>144,457</b>	<b>15,439</b>	<b>15,639</b>	<b>31,078</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>117,844</b>	<b>61,011</b>	<b>178,855</b>	<b>176,560</b>	<b>2,295</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

\*\*Name changed in October 2007 to Clemens College.

### Connecticut Public Higher Education Cumulative Growth since 1998\*



### Connecticut Public Higher Education Cumulative Growth in Full-Time Undergraduates since 1998\*

