

HOLES

A woman sends her husband a note in prison that she hid the money in the backyard. The next day the police show up to her home with shovels in hand and dug up her entire yard. She sends her husband another note: "Your idea worked, now how many potatoes do you want planted?"

As this story illustrates, the right idea can move not only the earth beneath us, but in some cases it can move the entire mountain. That is what Connecticut's state universities are all about—cultivating ideas that empower a stronger, more diverse workforce.

Here's another question. Which state university system is the leader in contributing to this powerhouse workforce? Contrary to popular belief it is not the University of Connecticut. It is the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) —Central in New Britain, Eastern in Willimantic, Southern in New Haven, and Western in Danbury. Our state university system educates more than 35,000 students annually. These "four" universities pursue varied missions, but collectively are linked in "one" system to offer coordinated statewide opportunities in higher learning. CSUS is Connecticut's largest public system of higher education – yes larger than the

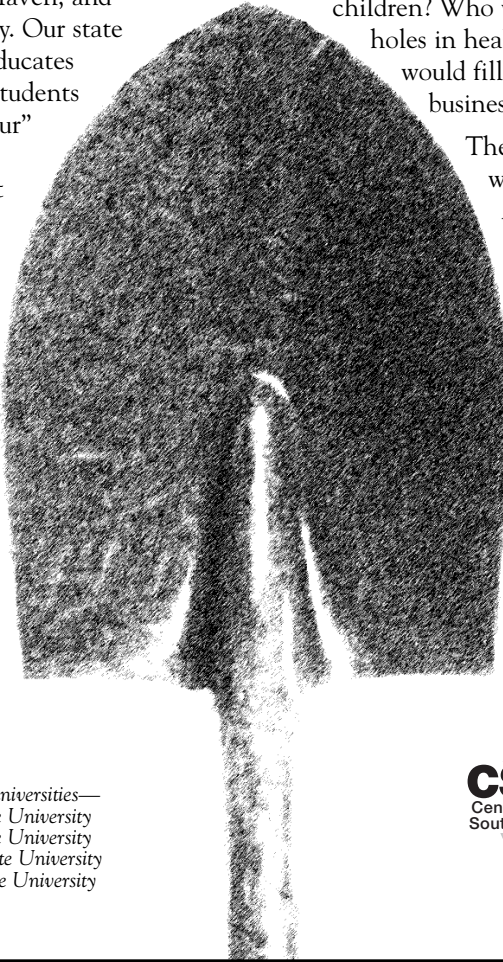
University of Connecticut. Our state university system is the state's leading cultivator of this qualified workforce:

- Over 85 percent of recent state university graduates live and work in the state
- Two-thirds of all current K-12 teachers are CSU educated
- CSU produces more nurses (BSN degrees) than any other institution in Connecticut

Remarkably, while the Connecticut State University System delivers over 85 percent of our graduates into the Connecticut workforce, state funding for public higher education has not kept pace with student enrollment or student needs. How can we compete?

The state university system is at a crossroad. Imagine if there were no public university system filling those holes in teaching. Who would teach our children? Who would fill those holes in health care? Who would fill those holes in business?

The choice is ours. If we don't support ALL our Connecticut public universities to the full extent every student deserves, then the only thing filling those holes will be potatoes.



One system, four public universities—
Central Connecticut State University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Southern Connecticut State University
Western Connecticut State University

