



MEDIA STATEMENT

12.8.22

Asnuntuck Community College and CT State Community College are committed to health, safety and educational success of students and working environment for our faculty and staff.

We respect their right to rally together to demand greater investment in our facilities and an end to disruptions to teaching and learning. This underscores the need for additional state investment in our facilities at Asnuntuck and across the CSCU system, and we will be fighting hard for that this legislative session.

We will continue to share updates with our community as we strive to improve the physical environment on campus, particularly the HVAC system, which is the heating and cooling system for the building.

Over the past two years, the college, in partnership with outside vendors and local fire officials, has conducted multiple air quality tests across the campus. There is no current health or safety risk. Out of an abundance of caution, we have invested approximately \$2 million over the past correcting mold and mildew issues within the HVAC system. There is currently \$700,000 of additional equipment on order, with another \$300,000 investment planned to resolve issues in the boiler room and gas odors in the welding lab.

There have been multiple open forums and communications to the student body and to individuals particularly impacted by recent disruptions due to gas leaks.

Most recently, on Monday, make-up air units on the roof of our welding labs were tested. The units had been repaired last week, and a technician from the manufacturer of the units was performing an inspection. While the units were being tested, the fire alarm was activated at 1:15PM due to a gas odor in the building. The exhaust fans in the welding labs were not turned on by the vendor at the time. The building was quickly evacuated, and the fire department responded to the campus. We were given an "All Clear" at 1:45PM by the Enfield Fire Chief. On 11/18/2022, the Welding Labs were evacuated due to a gas odor. A leak was identified and repaired immediately. The fire department responded to the 911, and they inspected the Welding Labs and gas piping on the roof. No leaks were found at that time. The gas line to the roof top unit, which was responsible for the gas odor, has been turned off and will remain off while the building is occupied until the deficiency is found and corrected.

An All-College meeting is scheduled for this coming Monday at 3:30 PM in the Conference Center at Asnuntuck where Asnuntuck, CT State and CSCU leadership will be on hand to demonstrate support and open dialog.

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