



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator at Charter Oak State College Pays \$3,500 Penalty to the Office of State Ethics

Hartford – Jo-Ann Williams of Ansonia, Connecticut, paid a \$3,500 penalty to the Office of State Ethics for violating sections 1-84 (c) and 1-86 (a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Ms. Williams used her state position as the Coordinator for the Alternate Route to Certification in Early Childhood Education program (“ARC program”) at Charter Oak State College (“COSC”), to hire her sister to teach classes and mentor students.

Section 1-84 (c) states in pertinent part: “No public official or state employee . . . shall use his public office or position . . . to obtain financial gain for himself, his spouse, child, child’s spouse, parent, brother or sister or a business with which he is associated.”

Between 2017 and 2019, Ms. Williams was tasked with hiring instructors and mentors for the ARC program as a part of her official state duties. In doing so, Ms. Williams personally selected her sister on several occasions to fill the contract positions. Ms. Williams maintained a supervisory role over her sister for the duration of her sister’s contracts. In a review of pay records of Ms. Williams’ sister showed that, in total, she was paid just over \$16,000 between 2017 and 2019.

Discussions with COSC personnel indicated that Ms. Williams’ sister performed the tasks of her employment without issue. Regardless, under Section 1-84 (c), Ms. Williams was prohibited from using her state position to hire her sister and to approve work hours for the sister’s financial benefit.

Section 1-86 (a) further obligated Ms. Williams to prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false statement describing the matter and the nature of the conflict and to deliver a copy of the statement to her immediate superior.

“One of the fundamental principles of the Code of Ethics is that public officials and state employees may not use their public office or position for personal financial gain or the financial gain of a family member,” said Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director of the Office of State Ethics. “Whenever public officials or state employees are faced with a decision that will affect the financial interests of a family member, they are required to disclose the conflict to their immediate superior.”

View: [Stipulation and Consent Order: 2020-06](#)

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The Connecticut Office of State Ethics mission is to ensure honesty, integrity and accountability in state government through education, interpretation and enforcement of the State of Connecticut Code of Ethics. To contact us please visit our website at www.ct.gov/ethics or call us at (860) 263-2400.