



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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Office of State Ethics Enters into \$1,000 Settlement with a Central Connecticut State University Faculty Member Who Entered into Contracts with the University Without Open and Public Process

Hartford – A faculty member of the English Department at Central Connecticut State University (“University”), Jotham Burrello, violated sections 1-84 (c) and 1-84 (i) of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and State Employees (“Code of Ethics”), which prohibit a state employee from using his state position to obtain financial gain and entering into state contracts valued at \$100 or more without an open and public process.

Mr. Burrello organized annual literary festivals held by the University in 2020 and 2021. During that same period, he was the owner and operator of an associated business (the “Ashford business”). In 2020 and 2021, Mr. Burrello, on behalf of the Ashford business, entered into three contracts with the University, totaling more than \$8,500 for services related to the festivals, including the advertising, marketing, and editorial supervision of the festival anthologies. None of the contracts were awarded through an “open and public process.” Section 1-84 (i) prohibits state employees and their associated businesses from entering into a contract with the state in excess of \$100 unless that contract is awarded through an open and public process.

In addition, Mr. Burrello also violated Section 1-84 (c), which prohibits state employees from using their state position for personal financial gain, or the financial gain of a business with which they are associated. Following a preliminary investigation by this Office, the Enforcement Division was able to determine that Mr. Burrello submitted payment request forms and associated documentation to the University Accounts Payable Office to secure payments to his business; and used his state position to solicit outside funding through the CCSU Foundation that was ultimately paid to his business.

Mr. Burrello denied that his actions violated the Code of Ethics. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Mr. Burrello agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1,000. There were significant mitigating circumstances at issue in this matter including the fact that Mr. Burrello and his associated business realized minimal financial gain. Mr. Burrello cooperated in the Enforcement Division’s investigation and, as a part of the settlement, Mr. Burrello agreed to complete two hours of ethics training and to consult the Legal Division prior to future endeavors outside of his state position.

View: Settlement Agreement: [Docket No. 2021-41](#)

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.