FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**50 Years of Transforming Lives through Innovation, Dedication & Excellence  
Connecticut’s online College is Celebrating 50 Years**

**NEW BRITAIN, CT (January 1, 2023)** - Charter Oak State College, [www.CharterOak.edu](http://www.CharterOak.edu), Connecticut’s online College, is excited to announce that it will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2023 year!

Ahead of its time in the higher education arena, Charter Oak began fifty years ago from a directive passed by the Connecticut State Legislatures. A credit aggregator and degree completion engine, Charter Oak offered women (and men) the opportunity to return to college to complete their degrees,efficiently and with professional guidance.

Flash forward to today, and Charter Oak State College is Connecticut’s only fully online public College offering Associate, Bachelor’s, and Masters’ Degrees in a variety of workforce-relevant programs.

"Charter Oak State College has a long history of serving non-traditional students who need  
flexible, affordable, and high-quality higher education options," said President Ed Klonoski. "As  
we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we remain committed to providing a high value, low cost and powerful online education designed to advance our student’s careers and help build a better workforce.”

"Charter Oak State College has a unique and prominent place in Connecticut's educational landscape," said Terrence Cheng, President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System. "It was formed as an alternative route to degree completion and over the fifty years has adapted to the changing needs of adult students and the workforce. I am proud to celebrate the many successes and many graduates of Charter Oak."

To mark this milestone anniversary, Charter Oak is planning a celebratory year of activities, committee work, and events that will culminate in June 2023 with a 50th Anniversary Weekend, and a special Anniversary Gala on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

The College will illuminate alumni, students, staff, and faculty and bring our storied history to life. The Alumni Association and its Foundation volunteers will connect with our community, sponsor programs and activities in the spirit of celebration too. Carol Hall, Director of Alumni & Donor Relations, explains, “As with any anniversary celebration, we need to reconnect with alumni and benefactors to celebrate, but more importantly, to document our history, illuminate our now - our notable alumni, faculty, and academic programs – as we work to ensure a solid foundation of support for the future. It will be an exciting and informative year!” Volunteers are needed in a variety of roles, and we are asking everyone to join the 50-for-50-Challenge.

Additionally, the College, and the Charter Oak State College Foundation, [www.CharterOak.edu/foundation](http://www.CharterOak.edu/foundation), are launching a $250,000 fundraising campaign, *Creating Brighter Futures*, to support its mission of removing economic disparity in Higher Education by providing scholarships, grants, and emergency funding for our students. The Foundation President, Joyce Petrella shared, “the Board's aspirational goal is to fund more scholarships, reach more students, and reduce the financial barriers to our student's success. Student need is increasing due to a variety of factors, student loan debt is daunting, and employers need workforce ready candidates.”

In honor of 50 Years of Transforming lives, the Charter Oak State College Foundation has increased it’s giving in 2023 and is asking for all community members to consider giving [back] $50 in honor of our 50 years. Just imagine the impact if all 17,000 alumni, all staff, all faculty, all community members gave a $50 donation to support scholarships, or even if some gave [a $50 monthly gift.](https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/CharterOakStateCollege/50for50.html)

To learn more, share your Charter Oak State College journey, be part of the history, and join the celebration, visit: <https://www.charteroak.edu/50years/>.

**Charter Oak State College (**[www.CharterOak.edu](http://www.charteroak.edu/)) is Connecticut’s online public college, offering associate and bachelor’s degrees in high-demand fields including Health Information Management, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education and Business Administration. The College offers master’s degrees in Health Informatics, Health Care Administration and Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership.  Charter Oak is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education and governed by Connecticut’s Board of Regents for Higher Education.

**The Charter Oak State College Foundation** (www.CharterOak.edu/Foundation), established in 1977, is a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting flexible and comprehensive degree completion opportunities for adults and technology innovations through the work of Charter Oak State College. The Foundation is a vehicle for accepting private gifts, donations, and bequests. Governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, the leadership provides direction for development activities and stewardship of the Foundation's assets. The Board is committed to helping students meet their educational and career aspirations - Creating Brighter Futures, One Degree at a Time.

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#COSC50 #COSC50th #CharterOakStateCollege50Years