

Albert Lewis, Jr., Ed.D.



February 10, 2026

Dr. Angela Provart
President, Pauly Group Inc.
3901 Wood Duck Dr. Suite E
Springfield, IL 62711

Re: President, Springfield Technical Community College

Dear Search Committee:

I am writing to express my profound interest in becoming the President of Springfield Technical Community College. I am drawn to **STCC's mission: "Springfield Technical Community College supports students as they transform their lives."** As a first-generation college student whose father completed only the third grade yet believed deeply in education's transformative power, I understand viscerally how community colleges change lives. This personal foundation resonates deeply with STCC's commitment to student transformation and the **vision of becoming "the premier technical community college in the Northeast."**

I am energized by Springfield Technical Community College's **core values—Student-Centered** (listening to students and providing access and affordability), **Equity** (working tirelessly toward racially equitable outcomes and embracing the HSI identity), **Dedication** (delivering excellent learning experiences), **Integrity** (fostering trust), **Respect** (embracing differences), and **Community** (partnering with employers and industries). These values mirror the leadership principles I have embodied throughout my career, and I am prepared to lead an institution where equity, belonging, and technical excellence form the foundation for student transformation.

Commitment to Student Success

My tenure at Northwest State Community College as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff was a strategic assignment designed to drive transformational growth. I was hired at the inception of the new president's administration to serve as a pivotal leader, forge a unified Executive Cabinet, and drive key performance metrics across academic, student affairs, and workforce development divisions. This comprehensive role included oversight of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Workforce Development, Institutional Research, Information Technology, and Grants—providing me with the breadth of presidential-level responsibility while supporting the president's vision with following results:

- **Student Access and Enrollment Growth:** Increased FTE and headcount by 45% from FY22-FY25 through data-informed interventions, streamlined enrollment processes, and cross-division collaboration prioritizing students first. *The position profile emphasizes that the next president must "prioritize the student experience" and demonstrate "genuine understanding of the unique needs of the STCC student body"—my record of dramatic enrollment growth through student-centered process improvement demonstrates this commitment.*
- **Technology Integration and Systems Leadership:** Led implementation of customer relationship management technology that transformed our ability to track student progress, identify at-risk students, and deliver personalized interventions—achieving 98% IT customer

satisfaction. *The position profile states the next president "must ensure sustained investments in technology" and "embrace emerging technologies for future educational models"—my systems thinking approach and IT leadership directly address this priority.*

- **Healthcare Education Excellence:** Led collaborative efforts eliminating barriers to enrollment, retention, and completion in healthcare programs, resulting in a 31% enrollment increase, a 10% improvement in A&P pass rates, and the first full nursing cohort since 2015. *STCC's School of Health and Patient Simulation is "vital to the educational and workforce development needs of Western Massachusetts". The healthcare program turnaround experience positions me to advance the Scibelli Hall renovation and continue enrollment growth in clinical programs.*
- **Workforce Development Excellence:** Enabled a 296% revenue growth in workforce development (from \$1.1M to \$4.3M) and 126% enrollment increase through strategic employer partnerships and responsive programming. *Strategic Goal 2 calls for increasing "individuals completing short-term training/non-credit credentials" in healthcare, cybersecurity, energy, and manufacturing—my workforce development results demonstrate capacity to "Elevate Our Technical Mission."*
- **Strategic Planning Leadership:** Led the creation of NSCC's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan with student success metrics at its core, implementing inclusive planning processes that generated stakeholder buy-in across divisions. *STCC's "Momentum: 2023-2028" plan was developed through extensive stakeholder engagement—I am prepared to carry forward this collaboratively-developed vision while building on its five strategic goals.*

Upon successful completion of my agreed-upon term at NSCC—which realized a 45% enrollment increase and 296% training revenue growth—I transitioned as planned. This strategic sabbatical has provided an opportunity to focus entirely on the ideal presidential opportunity. I am excited, strategically focused, and fully prepared to commit my experience and leadership to Springfield Technical Community College.

During my earlier tenure as Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development at Bellevue College, I further demonstrated commitment to student-centered technical innovation:

- **Innovative STEM Program Development:** Led development of Washington State's first Associate of Applied Science degree in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence; established AWS cybersecurity partnerships; won Seattle Business Magazine's Community Impact Award for Job Creation and Workforce Development. *The position profile emphasizes STCC's "unique status" as the only technical community college in Massachusetts and its role in supporting the Quantum Technology TechHub—my technical program development experience directly aligns with this distinctive mission.*
- **Baccalaureate Degree Leadership:** Achieved a 175% increase in baccalaureate degree attainment from 2016-2020 by creating seamless pathways and implementing intrusive advising. *Strategic Goal 1 includes utilizing "STCC as a hub" through expanded baccalaureate options beyond the Westfield State RN to BSN partnership—my experience building transfer pathways supports this objective.*
- **Grant Funding Success:** Generated over \$26 million in grant funding across my career, targeted to student support services, workforce development, and technical program development. *The position profile states the next president must "pursue strategic partnerships, grants, and support from private donors"—my grant acquisition record demonstrates this capacity.*

Academic Innovation

STCC's distinctive position as the Commonwealth's only technical community college resonates deeply with my career trajectory. I have spent two decades building exactly the kind of technical programs that define STCC's mission—from cybersecurity curriculum with AWS partnerships to healthcare simulation,

from advanced manufacturing to emerging technology programs. *The position profile states the next president "will be expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing these educational offerings, ensuring that STCC continues to serve as a leader in academic innovation"—my technical education pedigree positions me to champion STCC's unique identity.*

Creating clear pathways from non-credit to credit courses is central to my experience. At every institution, I have built bridges between workforce training and academic credentials, ensuring students can stack credentials toward degrees while meeting immediate employment needs. *The position profile identifies "creating clear and accessible pathways from non-credit to credit courses" as "a central priority for the College."*

Excellent Communication and Relationship Building Skills

I understand that STCC seeks a leader who will foster transparency, strengthen shared governance, and build trust across the institution. My leadership philosophy centers on empowering others rather than commanding them, consistent with STCC's values of **Respect** and **Integrity**. My Marshall Goldsmith Stakeholder Centered Coaching certification reflects this commitment to authentic, transparent leadership. *The position profile emphasizes that "the next President's communication and people skills will be critical in building relationships, strengthening trust, and uniting teams throughout the College, stakeholder-centered leadership is my professional foundation.*

I have successfully worked in unionized environments throughout my career at public institutions in Washington, Illinois, and Ohio. Having served as the lead in negotiating faculty contracts at Bellevue College, I understand the importance of respectful labor relations and collaborative problem-solving with AFSCME and faculty union leadership. Additionally, my experience with open meetings requirements and public accountability in multiple state systems prepares me for Massachusetts's regulatory environment. Further, I commit to maintaining a steady, dependable, and visible presence on campus—engaging with students, faculty, and staff, and making myself available to listen to concerns. *The position profile states the next president "will maintain a steady and reliable presence on campus, ensuring that they are both visible and approachable to all members of the College community"—I embrace this expectation as essential to student-centered leadership.*

Excellence in Financial Acumen and Operational Leadership

I have managed budgets ranging from \$45 million at Northwest State to oversight of divisions within \$140 million institutions. I understand disciplined fiscal planning focused on student-serving mission. *The position profile notes that "STCC is currently well-positioned financially" through "disciplined and thoughtful budgeting focused on its student-serving mission" and that "it will be important for the next President to carry forward this intentional approach"—my fiscal history demonstrates this capacity.*

The Massachusetts free community college program represents a transformative opportunity for STCC, and I am prepared to maximize this historic investment by strategically aligning institutional resources, strengthening partnerships with state agencies, and ensuring STCC captures enrollment growth while maintaining quality. *The position profile identifies this initiative as "a transformative opportunity" and states the next president "must be prepared to maximize the impact of this initiative"—my 45% enrollment growth at NSCC demonstrates my ability to capitalize on such opportunities.*

Advocacy at the Local, State, and Federal Levels

STCC's identity as a Hispanic Serving Institution is central to its mission, with 39% Hispanic enrollment and a strategic commitment to **"working tirelessly toward racially equitable outcomes."** As a graduate of the HBCU Executive Leadership Institute, Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership, and a mentor through programs supporting African American male students, I bring personal and professional commitment to equity. *The position profile states the next president must "serve as an equity-driven and*

culturally competent advocate for the College" with preferred experience in "equity-driven leadership, particularly within an HSI or similarly diverse institution"—my credentials and lived experience directly align.

I am currently a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Commission on Research and Community College Trends and Issues (2024-2026) and am a graduate of the League for Innovation's Executive Leadership Institute. Throughout my career, I have cultivated relationships with local, state, and federal officials and secured over \$26 million in grant funding. *The position profile emphasizes that STCC "has a reputation built on strong and effective relationships with local, state, and federal officials" and the next president must "actively seek funding opportunities through state and federal channels"—my advocacy experience and grant record demonstrate this capacity.*

Business and Community Engagement

Throughout my career, I have served as a leader within the business community—chairing economic development councils, serving on workforce investment boards, and building employer partnerships with organizations including Microsoft, AWS, and regional healthcare systems. I received Seattle Business Magazine's Community Impact Award for Job Creation and Workforce Development. *The position profile states "the College's next President will be expected to maintain, manage, and grow those relationships, as a leader within the business community"—my record of employer engagement and industry recognition demonstrates this leadership.*

Commitment to Springfield and Western Massachusetts

I am genuinely excited about Springfield and Western Massachusetts. STCC's role as the largest and most affordable higher education institution in the City of Springfield, 9,458 students with 85% living within eight miles of campus—demonstrates the College's transformative impact. The Richard E. Neal Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at Union Station, the Springfield Technology Park, and the Quantum Supply Chain Accelerator represent extraordinary opportunities to position STCC as an economic engine for the region. *Strategic Goal 1 calls for STCC to "Lead the Educational Ecosystem" by accelerating partnerships that increase access, educational attainment, and economic mobility—I am committed to fulfilling this vision throughout Greater Springfield.*

I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my leadership experience, commitment to student transformation, technical education expertise, and record of building partnerships align with the qualities Springfield Technical Community College seeks in its next president. I am ready to honor the culture, traditions, and 55-year history of this remarkable institution while providing bold vision for its future as the premier technical community college in the Northeast. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Albert Lewis, Jr

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