



Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges  
**Candidate Biography – Officer Elections 2021**

To have your photo and information included with the ballot and other voting materials, please return this form to the 4Cs office by **Friday, June 24. Email Photo/Video and Responses to [ellen@the4cs.org](mailto:ellen@the4cs.org)**

**PHOTOS:** Please submit a headshot photo (jpg or png). **VIDEOS:** You may create a short (2 minute or less) video for the 4Cs website.

Name: Merja Helen Lehtinen

College: CCC and ACC

Office sought: 4Cs Secretary

Email: [MLEhtinen@acc.commnet.edu](mailto:MLEhtinen@acc.commnet.edu)

Statement: (no more than 100 words. Longer statements will be cut at 100<sup>th</sup> word.)

I offer you my experience as a former 4Cs VP, Chapter Chair, delegate and career-long educator and investigative research journalist. I chair several statewide and regional Committees bringing familiarity with Robert's Rules, creating new unions, and offering a voice for equity, parity, and fairness for PTs on the Executive Committee and the entire 4Cs.

These are times of change. I will serve with specific, determined, persistent intent to serve the vulnerable and underserved with honesty, commitment, and integrity to assure everyone has equal protection, wages, and opportunity to reach your potential.

Education:

Mount Holyoke/Dartmouth Colleges, BA American Studies/English. Advanced Studies in 5 disciplines; Graduate Studies in English and Linguistics Trinity College part time; and U of Helsinki Graduate Faculty Certificate in Immersion Finnish Language Philology (doctoral program abroad). TOTAL 184 Academic credits. CEUs: ECSU NCLB Refresher in Graduate Level Math, Science, Literature and English, and numerous CCSU modules, badges, iTeach in progress.

Professional Experience and Activities:

Educator (1976- present). Chairwoman SVAC, NACTAC, the statewide and regional councils on Cable and Telecommunications (2004 to present), Hearing Officer, Town of Colchester (1993-), Engineering and Risk Management Writer and Instructor Travelers Engineering Div. (1976-1978) Founding and Early Member MLA Comma Committee (1976-1978) Former manager of

US Math and Science Initiative and JETS for AAES (1983-1984) and Editor in Chief Industrial Computing Magazine, Editor/Publisher Discover CT and the CT Chtonicles, News Editor Electronics Week and McGraw Hill Computer Magazines, ASHRAE Journal, Civil Engineering Magazine, and SWE US Woman Engineer (1979-1999). Executive Director Lyme Art Assiciation (1997-99) and Rocky Hill Chamber (2017-2018). Author and journal editor.

4Cs Activities: Delegate 2012-2021, VP 2017-2019, acting Temp Secretary intermittently 2012-2019. Annual Conference Leader for PTLs.