

Appropriations Committee,

I, first, would like to thank you for your time and care about our education. As a history major at CCSU, I can list countless times and places where people like me did not have the opportunity for such learning and growth. Central has been a place for me to truly “spread my wings”.

After sleeping my way through high school, I did not know what I wanted to do. I took a gap year and moved around the country. What I learned during that time was that there is satisfaction in education and that workdays are often very long and hard. When I came back to Connecticut, I knew I wanted to go to college. I decided to go to CCSU simply because it was close to my house and inexpensive. While these are the most basic of criteria, I am very happy that Central fit the description.

As I went to class that first day, I decided to try something different and put in a little effort. I started paying attention in class, speaking with professors, and eventually joined the student government. All of a sudden, I was one of the active students who enjoyed school. Central became a sanctuary for my best and most sincere efforts that I never had acted on before. Soon enough I was the Chair of a committee, then President of History Club, and now working directly with our Vice President of Student Affairs. The shell that I broke out of created a new future for me that no one would have predicted three years ago.

My life has been changed ever since. This ability to learn and succeed, has given me a sense of hope that I have never had before. I feel as if I have finally planted my feet after years of letting the wind take me where it please. The opportunities CCSU has offered me by way of classes, professors, and activities has been like nothing else in my life. My professors have always welcomed me into their offices and advised me as best they could.

The beauty of CCSU lies within its inexpensive nature. Because I knew I was not paying thirty-three thousand dollars a semester, I was willing to try and, more importantly, fail. I knew that even if I did fail and people shooed me off, it was okay. This was something I had never taken to heart before. This life lesson that was so foreign to myself in high school has become a cornerstone in my philosophy. And at the same time as I ran around with clubs and perhaps overworked myself, I attended amazing classes with Professors who really cared. Our history department, filled with Ivy League PhD's, has been a phenomenal source of information about both history and schooling.

The only way my transformation was possible was because of the affordability of CCSU. Central has been a blessing for me and the thousands of other students in attendance.

Thank you,

Caleb Wells