

Hi everyone my name is David Castillo and I come from a Hispanic background where there are a lot of hardships growing up. This community college means a lot to me because my parents couldn't afford for me to attend a prestigious University straight out of high school, so this college provides me the opportunity to acquire an education. To become successful and bring out my natural talents to the world, My dream one day is to show my Hispanic and other community members that all their sacrifices and support wasn't a waste of their time. I want people to know my name before I leave this earth, and NCCC has created the opportunity to be able to thrive with my community and have a start in life. If this community college wasn't here I would probably be another one on the list. It is very common for the Hispanic community to feel okay with the average they sometimes don't like to strive higher than what they have achieved in their lives. My parents have been an amazing support to me and my community because they have sacrificed themselves so I can have a chance at life. Another reason why I have very high standards for this community college is that it is the number one community college in Connecticut which gives me hope to strive for something even greater than my capability. If anyone in this room doesn't know about a town called Winsted In will give you some background on it. Winsted is the place where I grew up and call home, almost every one of my family members went to every public school that I attended. But they never dreamed bigger than highschool they just aimed for the average that was given to them at the time. But, what my family has given to me is a seed to a new path to greatness that I have been experiencing these recent years. Here is a quote by **Otto von Bismarck** "Only a fool learns from his own mistakes. The wise man learns from the mistakes of others." If I weren't at the community college I would not be here in front of all of you wonderful people, today representing them. Or I wouldn't have

the opportunity to take on so many tasks, for example, their new Data science certification which is the only one available at the CSCU community college system, no disrespect to other colleges. But this community college is a blessing to our district and to all of the students who can't afford it or transportation. I am so glad to be here in front of such a wonderful audience that is giving us a chance to have a voice for our college and our student peers who strive every day to fulfill their dreams. Thank you, Everyone