

Hello members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Andrew Gonzales. I am currently a student at Naugatuck Valley Community College enrolled in the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program. I am a Navy veteran, former Hospital Corpsman and Waterbury resident. More recently I was a technician at Altice, a local cable provider. I had been a technician with that company for over five years. I had made very little progress in that field. It seemed like I needed to change gears.

I then inquired about what programs were available at NVCC and the AMTC program seemed like a great fit. I also was fortunate enough to have a friend who was a recent graduate of the program and was already employed at a local manufacturer.

This program, the instructors, and the caring faculty have allowed me to gain the knowledge and skills needed to set a new course for a career in manufacturing. I'm optimistic and anticipating an apprenticeship soon where I will gain the experience I need for my new vocation.

I feel these programs are crucial for someone like me, who is looking to start a new career. These programs allow you to do it as I did, without taking on any debt.

I feel the partnerships these companies have with these programs are essential for the success of internships and job placement.

An investment in these programs is an investment in the community and the industry this state needs. We have a growing manufacturing industry in this state. We have the people and the resources in place to prepare and educate them.

Let's maximize the potential for manufacturing success in Connecticut by providing the industry with the best-educated workforce possible.