

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Myah Vigeant from Plymouth, CT. I am currently enrolled in the Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology Certificate Program at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

I have always been a hands-on learner and find satisfaction in creating useful items. When my parents suggested I look into manufacturing, I was skeptical, but willingly attended an open house and summer intro at NVCC. After doing so, I thought this may actually be for me.

I enrolled in September 2019 and am in my second semester. Being eighteen years old and a female has put me in the unique position of proving to myself, my teachers and classmates that I could not only learn this trade, but excel at it. Achieving this goal would not have been possible without the support and guidance of my amazing teachers who work day in and day out to ensure our success.

Manufacturing has traditionally been a male-dominated field and I am proud to be a part of changing that. Connecticut is in desperate need of skilled employees in order to keep up with supply and demand. I am also proud to help our state to be productive and profitable.

Having access to this program has opened up a world of career opportunities for me. I will be starting my internship next month and look forward to getting out into the field. I have felt welcomed into this program from the start, and have made many meaningful connections with the people I have met. We have become like our own small family and that is a big part of my enjoyment and excitement in getting up and going to college every morning.

Choosing to attend this program at NVCC has been one of the best and most life-changing decisions I have ever made and needs to proceed on so others can have the same experience. I am asking that you please continue the funding of manufacturing programs at Connecticut Community Colleges. It is an investment in Connecticut's future.