

Kanu Caplash

Hi everyone, I hope all of you are healthy and happy on this rainy Tuesday. My name is Kanu Caplash and today I humbly stand before you all as nothing more than a kid with a dream. A dream to help as many people as I can. During the summer before my first year at uconn, I was massively nervous. Nervous, I would be stifled by those who didn't believe in my dreams, nervous that I wouldn't fit in, and nervous that I wouldn't live up to my own expectations. But, from the moment I got to UConn I was taken in by a community that puts others before themselves—always. Riddled with untreated and undiagnosed PTSD, ADHD, Anxiety and depression, this community took me in and provided me with the highest quality of care I had ever received—allowing me to become the person I'd always hoped to be and in the process, effectively saving my life. Soon after I quickly found out the massive effect that this university has on the state as I joined the undergraduate student government, multiple research labs and various university committees, where I personally saw this university go above and beyond, for the state of Connecticut. With a myriad of programs centered around bringing resources to schools at the k-12 level, the homeless and simply all those in desperate need of help. Seemingly, always fighting for those who can't fight for themselves. While the university's top researchers are literally creating new fields of science as our professors re-evaluate the fundamentals of our educational system to make education the great equalizer that it was promised to be. The effect this university has had on the rest of the state is incomparable. I grew up in Connecticut and simply can't imagine this state without this university. My brother goes to UConn, I go to uconn and I expect we will be involved with uconn, long after we graduate. Uconn is my family, and Connecticut is my home and without either I wouldn't be alive today to reach heights of success that I never dreamed were possible. And I know for a fact, that many other students, staff, and faculty share similar stories to mine. We are all in this together, when we work to assure UConn's status as a top 25 public university. Thank you all for lending us your ears and we hope you have a wonderful rest of your evening.