

Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Chinedu Nkwo, I'm a senior, a resident of Bridgeport, and I'm a Psychological Sciences Major in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I want to thank the members of the General Assembly for their support in hearing out the voices of students both past and the present. I applied to a number of schools post-high-school graduation with a number of different offers, but what drew me to UConn was the prestige and the variety of campuses that they owned, which coupled with their labs, medical facilities, and famous faculty, I felt as though I would be getting a quality education with the best resources, and I found I wasn't mistaken. Having enrolled in UConn, I found myself at the Stamford Campus, a much smaller campus than the one I had heard of, but quickly found that the smaller campus was much more to my liking with smaller class sizes that led to more meaning interaction and engagement between myself and the faculty and students around me.

These interactions with students have allowed me to become enrolled in a number of different activities, particularly a number of extracurriculars that have given me valuable leadership experience as well as the chance to rub shoulders with like-minded individuals who seek to do the most with their lives after graduation by affecting those around them and their respective communities. I've also had the chance to work with faculty on projects and events that I've found central to what I choose to do with my life, particularly my advisor Leslie Burton, someone who I've found who helped broaden my interest in the topic of neuropsychology through her classes and research courses that I've taken with her, as well as the whole of the department of psychology at UConn Stamford with their engaging classes and research topics as well as the meaningful connections that I've made with the whole of them as a student of psychology.

Seeing how their work contributes to educating the minds of others like myself, I seek to become a psychologist to hopefully, make a meaningful contribution to my community by conducting research that advances the current knowledge of what we know, but to also use it as a stepping stone towards affecting the world as a whole in the area of psychology. The experiences in volunteer work and collaboration I've found through the extracurriculars that I have participated in have only further bolstered my desire to give back to those who need it by encountering those in need of mental and physical health, raising awareness for those issues, and working with the different departments and clubs such as The Mental Health Resource Center, service groups, and in Student Government Association to provide further awareness and necessary programming to address all these needs for all that need them, as I hope to do for the state of Connecticut.

I hope that my testimony from my experiences at the Stamford Campus in my undergraduate career has proved to be supplemental in the efforts of the students at every campus to illustrate the need for more investment in the UConn budget. I thank you for your time and your attention!

Sincerely,

Chinedu Nkwo