

Noah Sobel-Pressman  
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on UConn's Budget Testimony

Hi everyone. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Noah Sobel-Pressman, and I am a senior from West Hartford. I am majoring in management, and minoring in Data Analytics and Mandarin. I grew up a huge UConn sports fan and knew I would end up here. When I learned more about the management program's entrepreneurship track, it solidified my interest in attending UConn.

While at UConn, I have been very involved in the entrepreneurship community. This community, fostered by the Werth Institute, has been the highlight of my college career. One of the reasons why it is so special is because of the diversity of backgrounds students come from. Students come from all different entrepreneurship experiences, hometowns, majors, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. This diverse student participation makes for heightened learning experiences.

The Werth Institute has been able to provide scholarships to students from a range of economic backgrounds. These scholarships allow many students to explore entrepreneurship without limitations that would exist without the financial support.

Additionally, the Werth Institute supports students in creating new programs for their fellow students. With support from the Werth Institute, I was able to launch our student venture fund. The student "staff members" of the fund meet as a class that allows students to invest real money in real startups. The class of 17 students each participate in a life-transforming opportunity. This would have never been possible without the Werth Institute.

To conclude, I think it is important that we continue to support entrepreneurship at UConn. Small businesses are creating about [two-thirds](#) of new US jobs and with everything going on with the COVID-19 pandemic, that number will surely increase. At UConn, we have the opportunity to train the next generation of entrepreneurs and support them in starting their businesses in CT. Continuing to fund entrepreneurship at UConn will ensure that becomes a reality.