

Nicholas Soucy

Professor. Baker

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My name is Nicholas Soucy and I am a student at Southern Connecticut State University majoring in Communications. I've been through a long journey of deciding what I want to do for a career. I first started at Naugatuck Valley Community College as an 18-year-old kid deciding on what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. It's a very tough decision that I still struggle with to this day. At first, I wanted to get involved in Human Services, then being a Guidance Counselor, then into Psychology, film, etc. My mind is constantly changing on what I want to do because I am still only 22 years old.

I am here writing to the higher ed committees about appropriations regarding who should be getting funded. I had a very tough time deciding on what I wanted to do in life. I thought Communications with the FTDP concentration would've been great because I was getting a big interest of film. I was filming YouTube videos and wanted to get more in depth with cameras since I was never able to afford a higher priced camera. I couldn't even afford a MacBook. I'm currently working on my Chromebook and windows computer at work. I feel like I gained about 50% of information of what I could've learned within my major at Southern

which makes me beyond disappointed. The school, our major, especially FTDP students, should've been funded better for our education.

It's not like I have been struggling in any classes. I am expected to graduate after this Spring with well over a 3.0 GPA, but that's not what matters to me. What matters to me is that I feel that I wasted my time on a great portion of my degree and it's sad. If I were to get a job in my field after college relating to my concentration, I almost feel like I wouldn't be qualified in terms of a production job. It's not any of my professors' fault, nor my work ethic. The higher ed committees should've thought a better method of helping the students with their education. Covid can't be blamed for everything because business that suffered, what did they get? They were able to apply for a PPP loan that helped their business keep afloat. The PPP loan helped with employee's payroll, when what did students get for moving everything to online classes with limitations, nothing.

The higher ed committees should've thought into consideration to either fund students' windows laptops to say the minimum, or even provide people like me with a camera to say the least. For a documentary project for one of my classes, I had to record my final on my iPhone. Last semester, I couldn't even record a zoom call on my Chromebook. I had to do it on my lunch break at work on the work computer. That is sad and unfortunate. The funding should've been used to

help students but instead, all that happened was that classes transitioned online. I feel like I should get half of my tuition for my bachelors back.