

When I was a senior at East Hartford High School, I took into account many factors when choosing a college. I visited schools, and really thought about what they had to offer me. In the end, my top two choices were Eastern and UCONN. A lot of people called me crazy when I turned down UCONN for Eastern but Eastern really had everything I was looking for.

I involved myself right away in many clubs and organizations and was accepted by my peers instantly. Three years have passed and I am still extremely active on Eastern's programming board (CAB) as well as the Senior Class Committee and the community service club People Helping People. I am a History and Secondary Education major but what I have learned at Eastern goes way beyond the classroom. My mind has truly opened as I have come across people from all walks of life. One of my favorite things about Eastern is that it is so judgment free. It is an environment where I feel safe and comfortable which is essential to a positive learning community.

As I have grown throughout my college experience, I have watched Eastern do the same. From the Student Center to the Science Building and even to our new parking garage, Eastern continues to better itself along with its students. President Nunez has done wonders for our University and I would truly hate to see her work, along with everyone else's, be in vein as it would with budget cuts and remodeling of the CSU system structure.

Eastern has given me so much and it would be immoral to deny future students the pleasures that I have been so blessed to have as a student at this prestigious university. I strongly urge you to vote against the proposed Higher Education Reorganization Plan. Thank you for your time.

Benjamin Foran