

HEY, THIS IS STEPHEN CARMICHAEL I'M AN ACTIVE GATEWAY STUDENT AND A VERY WORRIED ONE AT THAT. I COME FROM A VERY POOR FAMILY WHERE MY STEP MOTHER DID WHAT SHE COULD TO KEEP A ROOF OVER MY HEAD. MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER HAD ME AT YALE NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL BUT GAVE ME AWAY AT BIRTH SO SHE WILL KNOW THAT I WILL BE SOMEWHERE SAFE AND LOVED WHERE SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO. AS FOR MY FATHER I NEVER SAW HIM NOR DO I EVEN KNOW ANY STORIES ABOUT HIM. I JUST HEARD ABOUT (BUT NEVER SAW) MY MOTHER. BUT ANYWAY I'M WRITING THIS TODAY BECAUSE NOT ONLY ARE THESE FINANCIAL EDUCATIONAL CUTS AFFECTING US PHYSICALLY IT IS ALSO MENTALLY MESSING WITH OUR MINDS AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE HOW IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT THE FUTURE, OR HOW IS THIS GOING TO AFFECT OUR GENERATION (KID'S ALSO GRAND KIDS). WHEN I LOOK AT GATEWAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS OPPORTUNITIES OF A LIFE TIME. WHEN I CAME TO GATEWAY, IT WAS BACK IN THE FALL; LOST IN THE LEAVES THAT IS WHAT MAKES THE SEASON SO GREAT EVEN THOUGH I DID NOT FEEL SO GREAT. FIRST THING I THOUGHT WAS WHERE DO I START AND THEN I MEET STEVE FRIES, COORDINATOR OF THE HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM HERE AT GATEWAY AND HERE COMES DR. JAMES BOGER. THAT'S JUST TWO TO NAME A FEW! THESE PEOPLE HELPED ME GET BACK ON MY FEET AND MORE. BUT I DON'T WANT THIS TO END BECAUSE THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING! IF YOU TAKE THE PELL GRANTS AND FINANCIAL AID FROM US HOW ARE WE GOING TO MOVE FORWARD AND BE SOMETHING THAT WE THOUGHT WASN'T EVEN POSSIBLE. MY QUESTION IS WHY TAKE OUR EDUCATION FROM US. BECAUSE THAT'S IN MY CASE THE ONLY THING I CAN COUNT ON. TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT IF YOU PASS THIS BILL IT WON'T ONLY AFFECT ME OR EVEN JUST GATEWAY IT WILL AFFECT MANY, MANY AND SO MANY OTHERS

Thank you for hearing my story, Stephen Carmichael