

Dear Governor Malloy,  
Respectful Members of the Board of Trustees,

My name is Bepin Mgushi, a Norwalk Community College student, the president of the student government and a graduate of the upcoming 2011 class. During my last three years at NCC, the economic problems of our country and our state have not changed much. However, we the students have hope on policy makers like you and in your efforts of keeping education as it is or working to make it better.

Given the financial challenges that our state is facing today, it is my duty as a student to have my voice heard in front of the Appropriation Committee today in regards of budget cuts in the community college system. As a student, I would say that the importance of education in our region, and especially of NCC, gives our youngsters a chance to see the world in terms of success, hope and of a place with opportunities. Norwalk Community College gives the surroundings and to the region the most trained and educated workforce. It gives students that apply for their first jobs with a degree in anything they like to do or that the labor market demands. NCC gives to the businesses and to the community people that strive for success to make our county a better place; it also opens the doors for these students to pursue four year degrees in any university, making NCC a life time investment.

Therefore Mr. Governor, it is important for our college to offer the same opportunities, as it offered to me for the last three years. If our states' budget cannot afford to make any changes in innovation for our community colleges, **please don't let that any of the following happens to NCC:**

- Cuts in any technological/science courses
- Budget cuts in financial aid services
- Layoff instructors (par time or fulltime)
- Canceling curricula with low enrollment numbers
- Cutting student services programs supported by state grants
- Disproportional allocation of grants/funds for different departments (majors)
- Reducing office hours for service staff (counseling, or tutoring)
- Raising tuition beyond expectancies

These points are the primary reason why I wrote this letter, these are the "must things" that a student should be able to get when registering in a community college in order to make our region, county or state a better place. Please consider these points from a student's point of view and don't pass any law or policy that will damage or lessen the 65 years of hard work that NCC has put in the region. If education is the key to success, budget cuts in community colleges are not the solution.

Many thanks,  
Bepin Mgushi  
President of Student Government at NCC

I only wish to close with a quote by Robert Shaffer, "We must view **young people** not as empty bottles to be filled but as candles to be lit." If the proposed budget changes go live you will do nothing but hurt these students' progress and this state in the process.

Sincerely

Konrad Mazurek.

HCC Student Senate, President