

**Meschac Alexis Testimony  
Eastern Connecticut State University**

**Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations  
Committee Budget Hearing  
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities  
Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Meschac Alexis and I am Haitian American. Being Haitian American I have seen two different worlds and lifestyles. It opened my eyes as to what is going on in the world. Having visited a place where poverty is very severe and not that many opportunities are found, as well as a place that has a number of resources and opportunities possible has defined what I believe to be my purpose in life. I want to help people in the community and work with leaders in poverty stricken nations to place resources in those areas and empower them spiritually. I know and understand that the current events in the world today are not in the best condition, but my conviction for this gives me more motivation to pursue my purpose.

I attend Eastern Connecticut State University and I am majoring in Political Science with a minor in Peace and Human Rights. I was the President of Theme Housing for the first semester, and I have held the position of Vice President of Resident Hall Association both semester of this academic year. I am a member Caribbean Student Association, Black Student Association, and Student Government Association. I also work as a Duty Assistant in one of the resident's hall. The activities I involve myself in reflect what I want to do in my life. I get involved in the political and social environment so I can grow, prepare myself, and have a plan. If I surround myself with people that I have similarities with I

can view different perspectives and have a better understanding of things. I prepare myself because it gives me an insight as to how the future may function in the political world. With having this insight I can make a plan. Many of the famous and well known activists that wanted to make a change in their community started with a plan. I jumpstart that process and make outlines and proposals towards my purpose. I know this can be effective because I have already used my skills that I have learned from being a part of Theme Housing and Resident Hall Association. I am currently in the process of forming a Gospel Choir organization at Eastern and I am determined to see this through.

Lastly, understanding that the State of Connecticut is going through budget cuts and the State had no choice, but please consider the education system to be of high priority. I have created a solid foundation for myself and I am excited for the future, as a result of being a student within the Connecticut State University system. I will still be looking forward to the near future; however, there may be a student like me that wouldn't have that foundation, because they didn't have the resources or funds to enroll in the school that he/she wants to go to. The long term effects may be more harmful for our students in the near future. The education of this generation and the ones to come is very essential to the interest and success of the State. The education that the students receive will reflect how they will perform in the workforce as well as members of their communities. All the opportunities provided for the students can cause them to move ahead rather than stay in school longer than their expected graduation date.

Enriching student's mind with knowledge can cause change in the community. Connecticut has a very strong Educational System, but it will be difficult if they can't afford it or don't have the resources available. Please consider the education system to be a top priority.