

**Clint Gosselin Testimony
Eastern Connecticut State University**

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Clint Gosselin, a senior, Sociology and History Major at Eastern Connecticut State University. While I have attended Eastern I have served as a Resident Assistant for three years, a Student Orientation Counselor for three summers, three years as a member of the Student Government Association and have interned in the Office of Housing and Residential Life, the Office of Wellness Education and Promotion and in the Pride Room with in our Unity Wing. My time at Eastern has been well spent, giving back to the community that helped me grow into the man I want to be.

As an involved student leader on Eastern's campus I found my passion and my future career in Student Affairs. Campus life is important to me because I aim to aid future Connecticut students who enter the world of Higher Education. At this time, Eastern, a University I aspire to work at in the future, often has to leave open positions as they are vacated, and rarely are able to create new positions due to the endless rescissions. This impacts my chances to give back to the Connecticut State University system.

As I graduate in May, I hope to look back at the University that helped shape me and see programs, resources and faculty and staff that will better serve future students than the ones that

aided me. With a seven percent budget cut to Eastern I fear that University will diminish and loose the value that I saw when I applied. Already diminished, vital resources such as Counseling and Psychological services will continue to receive less funding than it needs to properly support the Eastern Students. The number of full time faculty will decrease, devaluing the Universities degree. Finally, with less funding from the State, there will be an inevitable raise in tuition. This will put a strain on the students of Eastern and their families and will make Higher Education less accessible. Please consider increasing funding to Higher Education at Eastern Connecticut State University, for the value of the education one can receive at Connecticut's public liberal arts institution is in need of it.

Sincerely,

Clint Gosselin