My name is Shirley Tyson, I am 51 years old and I’m from the Waterbury community. In 2016 I became a dislocated worker from a supervisory position of 15 years. I was offered a grant to be retrained. When I enrolled at NVCC, I felt lost when arrived. However, The Center of Academic Planning and Student made feel at ease directing me to all the resources which are available for all students at the College. Being diagnosed with epilepsy before turning 50, I was not confident in going back to school. The center guided me so that I could overcome what the obstacles that I was facing.

Text Books in the book store exceeded my budget, whereas the library made the books and laptops available for me to borrow making it easier for me to reach my goals. The tutors, always helpful and encouraging me not to give up. Everyone is, always eager to help. The Academic Center for Excellence made my confidence come back. The tutors are professional, patient and they encourage every student to overcome fear. There are two tutors to cover 300 students between both of the colleges for whom English is their second language. These students come from over 50 countries. From K-12 in Waterbury, 60% of the students in the area Hispanic consider coming to the college but more will be needed.

The funds for the school are tremendously important in every department, the faculty the students and more so the community. There have been so many people in NVCC that had my best interest at heart. I realize now that is what no about my destination it is about the journey.

Thank You for your time.