

Nicholas Hall

Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to start off by saying thank you to Chairman McNamara and the committee for allowing me to speak. My name is Nicholas Hall, and I am a senior at Cranston High School West and a full-time college student at New England Institute of Technology under their Early College Program studying Digital Media Production.

Throughout my few years of high school, I struggled to pass my courses and struggled to make connections outside of my vocational program. Because of this, I had a feeling that college may not be the right option coming out of high school. My career and tech class, Interactive Digital Media went into different forms of interactive media such as coding, cybersecurity and computer science. While I did find some of the aspects of the program interesting, it didn't give me the ability to learn about producing video and audio for television and film, which is what I see doing as a profession in my future.

Staying at Cranston West would have limited me to the electives that I had no real connection with. I thought it was time to take a new turn. In my junior year, I had heard some friends talking about the CCRI Running Start program and I decided to look into it. Although it didn't have what I was looking for, I almost applied just to try something new. Then, New England Tech had announced that they were starting their second year of their Early College Program and applications were open. I had done my research on NEIT and they had exactly what I was looking for, Digital Media Production.

Going to New England Tech has been amazing so far, I have made several friends and I have improved in my academics drastically. Being in a field that allows you to have hands on experience on the first day you start classes is something that I've never heard be done before at any college. It also is saving my family a full years worth of tuition. I currently have a sister who is attending college and paying for 2 children to be in college is a very difficult thing for my parents. Having the Early College Program at NEIT saves my family money and it allows me to be able to attend college for a career that I have interest in without the need for my family to worry about money.

If it wasn't for NEIT for making this program and allowing high school seniors to go to college early and save money, I wouldn't be here speaking and I would still be struggling in high school. Thank you.