

“Making the decision to start college was an easy one, but for me successfully applying and registering for college was not as easy. My high school education, an experience I would describe as unpleasant, left me emotionally fatigued and unprepared to continue my education. Eventually, though, the day came when delaying my education was no longer acceptable. Unfortunately, I had no idea how to acquire financial support and my confidence in my decision was fading fast. Thankfully I was put in contact with Life-long Learning Supported Education Program (LLSE) at Mental Health Connecticut. They assisted me every step of the way. After successfully being enrolled they have also provided the support and guidance I needed to keep my goals on track.”

Christopher first came into the LLSE program in August of 2014. He was excited about finding the support he needed to achieve his education goals here at Mental Health Connecticut. He was eager to go to a college of his choosing. Christopher found himself ineligible for financial aid. His supported education specialist helped contact the school and government offices to resolve the issue by registering with Selective Service which then qualified him for a Pell Grant. Christopher stated, “This was a task that if I had to perform by myself it would have been abandoned. My supported education specialist at the time wasted no time in assisting me to gather the resources I needed, and soon enough I was approved for the Pell Grant.”

Christopher then proceeded to apply to NVCC (Naugatuck Valley Community College) in June of 2015. After submitting all other necessary documentation he was accepted on July 22, 2015. Christopher opted to attend as a full time student and registered for five classes. Since then, Christopher has successfully completed his first semester at NVCC with straight A’s. In

addition, Christopher recently applied and was awarded a part time work study in the NVCC's Admissions office.

Please join us in congratulating Christopher on his accomplishments thus far! It has been a pleasure to work with Christopher on this part of his journey, and to see him succeeding in all of his classes! He is currently in his second semester at NVCC as a full time student, and doing remarkably well.