

Hi, I'm Matthew Cullen.

I'm very excited to be here today to talk about my experience going to college!!!

I went to High School in Ipswich. I love my town but my transition program in Ipswich was located in a separate building. It was away from my peers and it was not challenging for me.

Then, I saw that my friends were going to college. And my brother and sister went off to college. And I said, WHY CAN'T I?

My dream came true because of the MAICEI Program.

When I started at Salem State University, my professors made me feel very included, like I was part of a team and this made me feel confident in myself.

I took classes in public speaking, nutrition, sports injury, and rock climbing. My FAVORITE class was public speaking – I LOVE public speaking 😊

My dream is to work in the medical field and the last semester I took a nursing class. I had a tutor for this class, which was a great way to get my homework done.

I also worked at the library and the gym at Salem State.

I also took Travel training which was amazing because it taught me how to stay safe while traveling and be confident in using UBER which I do now!

In 2018 I graduated from the MAICEI Program at Salem State University! Because of my experience, I am more confident and independent. I am so proud of myself and ready for the real world. I now have 2 – yes 2 – PAID part – time jobs.

I know that EVERYONE deserves the same opportunity!

**SO LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!!**

Thank you so much for your support.