

## Statement on Tuition Increase by Kartik Manchanda

*Former International Student at CNC*

*Editor, The Confluence*

I did the math today. Over the course of my Associate of Science degree at CNC, I paid **\$33,675.31** in tuition alone. That's over thirty-three thousand dollars excluding rent, groceries, textbooks, medical insurance, or the stress of surviving in a country where I was allowed to work only 20 hours a week until recently.

And now, CNC plans to increase tuition for international students **again** — by 4% this year, and an additional **pre-approved 4% in 2026 and 2027**. Let me be clear: these aren't just numbers on a page. These are financial barriers that will push more international students into **crisis, dropouts, and debt**.

International students are being treated like **walking bank accounts**. We are asked to pay more, receive less, and never get a seat at the table when decisions are being made. I worked hard, volunteered, represented students, and even helped run the student magazine to give voice to my peers. I've spoken to students who are choosing between paying tuition or buying food. I've seen them take on exhausting jobs just to stay enrolled. I've watched dreams fall apart because the cost of education here is designed to punish international students for showing up.

I always wonder why international students are charged more tuition for the exact same education, sitting in the same classrooms, using the same labs, submitting the same assignments. There is no additional benefit, no extra support, and no justification for this two-tiered system. It's a **profit model** dressed up as opportunity.

The College keeps calling us valued members of the community. But how does CNC show that value? By approving three years of tuition hikes **without even asking students for their input**. That's not valuing us. That's exploiting us.

This is not how you build an inclusive, accessible college. This is how you break it. And if CNC continues down this path, students will stop choosing it. Because no one wants to study where they are treated like a **revenue stream instead of a human being**.

The pre-approved increases **must be cancelled**. Student consultation must be mandatory. And CNC must start standing with us — not stepping on us.