

Quinnipiac's Bobcat Challenge breaks another record in its seventh year

By **ADRIANA CERBONE**
Contributing Writer

Breaking the history record, Quinnipiac raised \$1,172,116 this year in the Bobcat Challenge. The Bobcat Challenge is an annual fundraising event for Quinnipiac's Division I athletic programs that takes place on Oct. 21 and 22.

Last year over \$1,030,000 was raised.

Quinnipiac has over 450 student-athletes and 21 Division I teams.

The event included family, friends, students, alumni and faculty. Anyone can donate to one or multiple sports teams to upgrade uniforms, improve nutritional support, reduce travel expenses and more. Teams compete to see who can raise the most money, making them the Bobcat Challenge champions.

To encourage donations, those who donated \$50 or more could receive a stainless steel mug and those who donated \$150 or more could receive a duffel bag, while supplies lasted. These gifts could also be waived for the full donations to go to the sports team.

"Personally, I think the Bobcat Challenge is an amazing initiative because it

unites all of Quinnipiac Athletics," men's ice hockey junior forward Matthew McGroarty said. "Helping our programs go above and beyond to give student-athletes the best opportunity to succeed."

Men's ice hockey raised \$35,801 in total. The donations will help to fund a trip in 2027 to Belfast, Ireland, where the program will compete in the Friendship Four. McGroarty believes this to be "a once in a lifetime experience for everyone involved."

This year, Quinnipiac reached \$500,000 across 1,000 donors in less than 24 hours for the first time in school history.

2025 is the second year in a row where over \$1 million was raised.

Women's softball raised \$25,530.

"With the money that the softball team raised we are using it to play in Vegas for a tournament," freshman infielder CJ Harris said. "It is really important to our seniors this year because a majority of them are from the West Coast. We will also use the money for new equipment as well as possibly field improvements."

Harris explained how she came from a high

school that didn't have a lot of fundraising opportunities. She said it is "heartwarming" to see how many people want to help college athletics and how much they care.

Quinnipiac also included clubs such as the IceCats and the Pep Band during this challenge. These clubs are key to motivating the Bobcats and cheering them on during the games. The IceCats raised almost \$4,000, and the Pep Band hit nearly \$7,000.

At the end of the challenge, donor affiliations were 21% alumni, 25% students, 6% faculty/staff, 34% families/parents, 1% legacy families and 10% friends/corporate partners.

Hockey alumnus, Gill Gallagher, created a challenge for women's ice hockey. This challenge involves making a gift that highlights your number. For instance, No. 5 is equal to \$55, or No. 34 is equal to \$334. When five other alums do this, Gallagher matches it with \$1,000.09 because her jersey number was No. 9. There were so many challenges for each sport and many were completed.

"I'm so grateful to be part of such an incredible program and university," McGroarty said.

Students and faculty affected by Amazon Web Services outage

By **NATHAN ROJAS**
Staff Writer

On Monday, Oct. 20, at 3:04 a.m. Canvas, Quinnipiac University's learning management system went down. It was restored around 7:00 p.m. later that day.

The outage was caused by an Amazon Web Services (AWS) outage. This outage also affected many other applications that use this system — such as social media apps, popular gaming apps, streaming services and online payment apps.

Issues with Canvas were first reported around noon, with the application displaying the following message: "Canvas is experiencing issues due to an ongoing AWS incident."

Quinnipiac's Information Technology Services sent out a statement to the student body at 2:03 p.m.

"As you are likely aware by now, Amazon Web Services, specifically in the US-East-1 region, is currently experiencing problems," John H. Scott, executive director of technology infrastructure, wrote. "These problems are impacting multiple cloud-based applications and services that depend on AWS infrastructure, such as Canvas and Blackboard."

The outage prevented students and professors from using Canvas, impacting their ability to access assignments, leading to frustrations.

"We had some assignments that were due, either today or yesterday, that were hard to access," Norah Falcone, sophomore occupational therapy major said. "It was just inconvenient."

Chiara Malta, a junior accounting major, echoed Falcone's statement.

"I wasn't able to do my work all day, which I had quite a few assignments due this weekend. So I was really stressed out on how it lasted throughout the whole day, up until nighttime," Malta said.

The outage also disrupted students and professors schedules, with some having to cancel classes.

"It kind of paused my work for a couple of hours, or for the day, because I couldn't do what I needed to do," Tammy Pham, a first-year with a double major in computer science and game design said.

Nancy Burns, senior instructor in the biology department, agreed with Pham's sentiments.

"It did prevent me from doing grading that I had set aside. I set time aside yesterday to do grading that was all in Canvas and I was not able to do that," Burns said.

Justin Kile, professor of industrial engineering and program director for industrial engineering, experienced similar issues.

"I wasn't able to build the course materials for my classes for this week, and I wasn't able to do any grading yesterday," Kile said.

Critical Conversation series hosts Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell

By **CHLOE GRANT**
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University's Critical Conversation series hosted Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell on Tuesday, Oct. 21. The discussion was moderated by Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Strategic Initiatives Poonam Arora.

A Connecticut local, Russel grew up in the city of New Haven where he worked part-time at his family's convenience store. As a first-generation university attendee, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of New Haven and later went on to secure a law degree from the University of Connecticut.

In January 2023, Russel assumed his role as state treasurer, making history as Connecticut's first Black, openly LGBTQ+ elected state official. He now advocates for marginalized individuals, acting as a mentor for others.

The discussion began on the topic of Russel's role as treasurer, where his position deals in managing the state's money.

"Most of the decisions that we make in the treasurer's office don't bear fruit until five or seven or sometimes 10 years down the road ... there's this unique lens to really think about the future that we want in the state and how we make decisions that move us in that direction," he said. "Some of the core functions and divisions that we have in the office are our cash management division. So all the money that flows in and out of the state on an annual basis, that's also our short term investment fund."

Russel then went on to discuss debt insurance programs, or in other words, how the state borrows money from people for things such as infrastructure, building new highways, bridges, housing and childcare facilities.

"So this could be money that was owed to you by a doctor's office or a dentist. It could be an old bank account that someone lost track of, and if they can't get that money back to the rightful owner, it's turned over to the state, and then my job is to get that money back to people as quickly as possible," he said.

Russel also explained the importance of meeting financial obligations and making sure all people have the opportunity to participate in the economy. He discussed how government failure to make investments in the people, to lift communities up, and to create more equity and opportunity ultimately may land them in a



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell speaks at Quinnipiac University on Oct. 21. encountered along the way, as well as how he first got his start in the political space.

After providing the audience with insight on his role as state secretary, Russell dug into his past, discussing where he got his start and what inspired him to pursue a career in office.

"It was just learning work ethic and seeing my parents sacrifice so much. But it was also where I learned about community... I watched how my parents helped to you know, when somebody was down or needed something, and how we, the community, ultimately came together (and looked) out for each other," he said. "Just navigating the challenges of poverty, lack of investment and lack of resources...so, you know, I knew I always wanted to do something that was going to help contribute to communities like the one that I grew up in."

Growing up impoverished, Russell feels that it is important that communities like his are represented. Using his platform, he hopes to bring a different perspective and ensure the policies they are rolling out reflect different communities.

He then briefly discussed his experience being the first Black, openly LGBTQ+ individual in office.

"I actually wear it as a badge of honor in terms of knowing that I'm representing communities (and making sure) that we're doing the work to represent and bring those perspectives and voices to the office," Russell said.

The discussion then veered into his time spent in college and some of the struggles he

encountered along the way, as well as how he first got his start in the political space.

"I never thought I would run for office ever. I was involved in politics... When this opportunity came up that really combined the professional work I was doing with politics, I felt like it was a great way to enter public service," Russell said.

As the conversation came to a close, Arora opened the floor for students, faculty and staff to ask questions.

"There was one thing that he said that I really took away, which was that a lot of the corruption that we see within upper middle state and federal is that people want to stay in their position of power versus whatever serves our community the best. And I think that was so impactful," Eve Behrens, second-year health science studies major, said, as she described her biggest takeaway from the discussion.

After hearing what students had to say, Russell concluded the event by sharing one of his greatest role models on his journey climbing the political ladder.

"My dad is just one of the hardest-working people I've ever been around," Russell said. "My dad's (an) 83 (year old) African American guy (who) grew up in the south during the heart of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement, and so for him to just navigate life the way that he has and work so hard to create opportunities for me and my siblings has always been kind of my biggest inspiration."

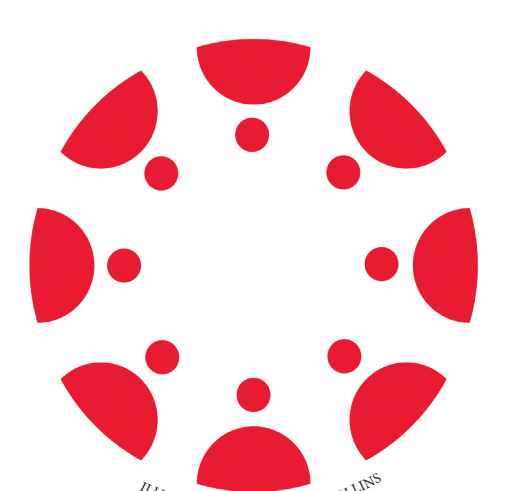


ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA COLLINS