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CONTRACTS from cover

care about us," Carter said. "...We just want to be treated the same way that we feel like we treat the students."

The petition, "Quinnipiac Students Stand with Our Dining Workers: Support a Fair Contract for USW Members," continues to gain support as well, reaching over 1,000 signatures — where several students have shown their support.

"Gotta take care of these guys," one student wrote. "They deserve the world with how much they take care of all of us, so it's only fair. Nicest people I've ever met, and I just want them to get what they deserve."



LILY ZAHKA/CHRONICLE

Several dining hall workers at Quinnipiac University are seen wearing pins that read "Fair Contracts Now" to raise awareness for their negotiations.

Other students shared similar sentiments.

"The QU dining hall staff not only are exceptional, but they form relationships with the students and have an impact on our daily lives," another student wrote.

With the wage disparities taking a mental toll on dining workers, the beginning of contract negotiations has sparked an apparent change in morale, as noticed by Carter.

"People are…excited and eager to see, you know, what are the next steps," Carter said.

That change has also come about with the help of students.

"I feel like the students are involved as well because they come in and they ask, 'Hey, what's going on? How's everything going?'" Carter said. "I can tell that they're eager just as much as we are to try to get everybody a fair contract."

Carter also highlighted how beneficial this change will be for the entire Quinnipiac community.

"It'll just create a better environment, not only for the workforce, but as well as the guests and the customers that come in, because people will be more eager to come to work, want to do a better job, and not have as many stresses outside of work," Carter said. "Not saying that that should be the reason why it's coming into work, but it'll just make everything a lot smoother just for the whole community."

The process isn't quick, but Carter and his colleagues hope for change.

"Going forward, I just hope that we can settle things at the table and that we just get a fair contract for everybody," Carter said.

> **" I just feel like I don't know if they're taking us seriously or not"**
>
> **– Anthony Carter**
>
> **GRILL COOK AND UNION PRESIDENT FOR USW AT QUINNIPIAC**

Quinnipiac drops lawsuit and revokes plans for North Haven Adult Education Center

By CHLOE GRANT
Associate News Editor

On Oct. 6, Quinnipiac University announced that it has dropped its plans for the North Haven Adult Education Center per a press release.

Shared by an anonymous user on the The Town of North Haven CT Community Forum Facebook group via an attached photo of an unidentified newspaper article, the education center, and a 94-car parking lot on 5100 Ridge Road, alongside it, was intended to operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

The facility, according to the attached photo in the Facebook post, would be a part of one of Quinnipiac's campuses. It did not specifically state which of the university's three campuses it would be located on; however, it implied the building was for student use.

The author of the article in the attached photo mentioned how the neighboring streets to the building would likely be a "traffic nightmare" and would regularly require police presence to maintain, foreshadowing what was to come of the plans for the property.

The person also mentioned how the education center would not offer any kind of benefit to the residents of the North Haven and Hamden communities.

In 2024, the university had sought approval for a permit as well as a site plan to build the education center; however, following further review, the North Haven Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) denied its request.

In December 2025, the university filed a lawsuit against the PZC claiming that its rejection of the project was "arbitrary" and "illegally" made, according to the Connecticut Post.

In the lawsuit, the university detailed how it still wanted a "sustainable re-use of the property that would benefit both the university, the neighbors, as well as the local environment," if plans for an education center were not able to be accommodated.

The lawsuit also claimed that details in the testimony regarding the proposed center and its impact on traffic in the area and other environmental factors were overlooked.

On the week of Oct. 6, Quinnipiac withdrew its lawsuit against the PZC and has since not commented on any new plans for the education center.

The education center was supposed to be built on the grounds of a former church the university purchased for an unknown amount of money. However, plans for the project were halted following protests and general opposition from the North Haven and Hamden communities.

When the idea was initially announced publicly, a petition was also started by residents urging the PZC to halt plans. In it, residents shared their concerns about the project, given that the grounds of the property are in a protected aquifer zone, a designated land zone that surrounds a major public drinking water supply in sand and gravel.

"This development abuts a wetland, is entirely within a protected aquifer zone and is in direct contravention to the Town of North Haven's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)," the petition stated. "… If approved, the QU Education Center will irrevocably destroy the rural character and tranquility of the neighborhood. The site and the adjacent wetlands presently support a variety of wildlife."

According to a 2024 Zip News article, Bernard Pellegrino, the attorney representing Quinnipiac at the time of the lawsuit, presented revised plans to the PZC to reduce the number of parking spots in the education center's attached parking lot in an attempt to sway community members. The university took the proposed 92 spots and reduced it to 53.

Despite the plan's revisions, there was still strong opposition and the application was once again denied.

In the same article, North Haven resident John Acampora added that the property would not meet the general purpose of the Town of North Haven zoning regulations. Suggesting how it could hurt the "character" of the neighborhood and could potentially impact the property values of surrounding homes.

"Following further review, the university chose to withdraw the appeal, believing that doing so would best support its long-term institutional and community objectives," Bethany Zemba, vice president for government and community relations and chief of staff at Quinnipiac University said.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University drops its plans for a North Haven Adult Education Center due to backlash from local community, which was set to be housed in the former Mount Carmel Christian Church.