

ECSU professor lauded for social work

TRACI HASTINGS
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

WILLIMANTIC — A professor at Eastern Connecticut State University has received the Dr. Joyce Yearwood Humanitarian Award.

Eunice Matthews is a professor of social work and the coordinator of the school's social work program. She is also a clinician at the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut.

The humanitarian award is given each year to an advocate of equality, fairness and justice in the community in the areas of education, employment, health care, housing or voting rights. Matthews received the honor because of her 20 years of clinical work.

Matthews began her tenure at ECSU in 2000, when she helped to develop the social work program that is now nationally recognized, after a stint as a faculty member at Fordham University's School of Social Services.

Dr. Matthews' commitment to clinical social work demonstrates her tireless efforts to advocate for the people in her community through her medical practice in Stamford.

Chris Murphy

In 2001, she began her work as a clinician. She also served as a consultant from 2001 to 2016 on the Health Families New York in the Bronx.

Additionally, Matthews served on the board of directors of the Southern Conference of African American Studies and the Council of Social Work Education.

She earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Morgan State University, a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and her doctorate in sociology from the City University of New York.

Matthews received the award Sept. 27 at the NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

"Dr. Yearwood was a personal friend who I loved and greatly respected for her diligence in enhancing the lives of others," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who attended the dinner, before thanking Matthews for the "wonderful work" she has already done and continues to perform.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., offered a testimonial on Matthews' contributions:

"Dr. Matthews' commitment to clinical social work demonstrates her tireless efforts to advocate for the people in her community through her medical practice in Stamford," Murphy said. "It is my privilege to recognize her exceptional achievements and the work she has done to benefit our state."

Special Neighbor



Left to right, Stacey Close, Eastern's associate provost and vice president for equity and diversity; Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; honoree Eunice Matthews; Denise Rodriguez, lecturer in Eastern's Department of Social Work; Shirley Matthews, sister of Eunice Matthews and professor of clinical psychology at Columbia University; and Isabel Logan, assistant professor of social work at Eastern. Courtesy of ECSU

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