
ECSU donates medical necessities

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WILLIMANTIC — Connecticut's public colleges, including Eastern Connecticut State University, are working to prepare housing space and donate protective equipment to health care workers fighting the coronavirus.

According to a release issued by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, Eastern donated personal protective equipment to health care workers throughout the state.

"This pandemic is unlike anything we have seen before, and combating it will require all hands on deck," said CSCU President Mark Ojakian.

"Our public colleges and universities are part of the solution, not only providing space for mobile hospitals, but also providing housing space for health care workers, and donating tens of thousands of units of personal protective equipment to those on the front lines of fighting this disease."

According to the release, Eastern

donated 1,200 masks in total.

Eastern President Elsa Núñez also said the university donated approximately 1,500 pairs of disposable gloves.

"It's all the supplies from the science departments," Núñez said. "The faculty voted to donate them all. I think it's a wonderfully generous thing to do. People don't have gloves and masks, so why should they be sitting in some closet?"

Collectively, the CSCU system

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ECSU donates supplies

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has donated 184,400 gloves, 11,345 masks, 1,885 gowns and 15 ventilators.

“I could not be more proud that at the same time they are providing the highest quality education to students, albeit in a remote setting, our colleges and universities are playing a role in the state’s response to COVID-19,” Ojakian said.

“Donating PPE is the least we could do to support our heroic health care workers — many of whom are graduates of our public colleges and universities.”

Meanwhile, gymnasiums are being used as health care facilities at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven

and Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

Núñez said Eastern would likely be the fourth university to house health care facilities if needed after Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.

However, Núñez said the university was already preparing both the gymnasium and the dormitories for those in need.

Ojakian said he was proud that CSCU is part of Gov. Ned Lamont’s crisis response team.

“We will continue to do everything in our power to assist the state in this critical time,” Ojakian said.

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