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### **Lani Guinier to Speak at ECSU**

Willimantic, Conn.-- Accomplished civil rights activist and author Lani Guinier will speak at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) as part of the Arts and Lecture Series on **Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. in the Betty Tipton Room of the Student Center.**

Guinier overcame many challenges in her life and was rewarded when she became the first black woman to be appointed a tenured professorship at Harvard Law School, in 1998. Prior to being tenured at Harvard she was a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School for ten years.

She is the author of numerous articles and op-ed pieces on democratic theory, political representation, education equity, and issues of race and gender. Her latest book co-authored with Gerald Torres, *The Miner's Canary*, deals with the experience of people of color as a warning or a "canary" signaling larger institutional inequities.

One of her most powerful pieces was written after 1993 when she was nominated by former President Bill Clinton to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, but later had her nomination withdrawn without a confirmation hearing. She turned this experience into a political memoir, *Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice*.

She has also written *The Tyranny of the Majority* (1994) and *Who's Qualified?* (co-author Susan Sturm, in 2001). While a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania Law School she researched the experience of women in law school and co-authored *Becoming Gentlemen: Women, Law School and Institutional Change*.

In the 1980s Guinier was the head of the voting rights project of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She also served in the Carter administration as special assistant to then Assistant Attorney General Drew S. Days.

Guinier has been recognized with numerous awards including the 1995 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award from the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession, the Champion of Democracy Award from the Nation Women's Political Caucus, the Rosa Parks Award from the American Association for Affirmative Action. She has also received awards from the universities at which she was tenured; the Harvey Levin Teaching Award (Univ. of Penn.), the 2002 Sacks-Freund Teaching Award (Harvard), and the recipient of eight honorary degrees. She herself is a graduate of Radcliffe College of Harvard University and Yale Law school.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and are available at the Student Center desk, (860) 465-4693 or email: [tickets@easternct.edu](mailto:tickets@easternct.edu). ECSU faculty and staff get one free ticket. ECSU students are admitted free.

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It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for the event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

Eastern Connecticut State University, located in Willimantic, Connecticut is part of the CSU System.

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