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JAMAICAN EDUCATORS EARN ECSU DEGREES

Willimantic, Conn. - A graduation ceremony will be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica for 68 Jamaican teachers and principals who studied at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU). **The ceremony will be held at the Half Moon Hotel conference center in Montego Bay on Sunday, March 2 at 3p.m.**

The Jamaican Program has been a three-year collaborative effort between ECSU and the Hanover Education Foundation, in conjunction with the Jamaican Ministry of Education. The graduates, pursuing bachelor's degrees in sociology, fulfilled the residency requirement by taking part in the one-month program of study for the past two summers at ECSU's Willimantic campus.

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Barbara Gloudon, a respected radio personality in Kingston, Jamaica will be the commencement speaker. Other dignitaries attending the ceremony include the Honorable

Burchell Whiteman, former minister of education and current minister of information of Jamaica; Wesley Barrett, Jamaica's chief education officer, the Honorable Ralston Anson, Member of Parliament, Western Hanover; the Honorable Barrington Grey, Member of Parliament, Eastern Hanover; Vincent Guthrie, regional director of education; the Right Reverend Dr. Howard Gregory, Bishop Suffragan, Montego Bay Region; Denton Campbell, chair of the Board of Rusea High School; Donald Bernard, principal, Rusea High School; Reverend Fr. Percival Lynch, chair of the Hanover Education Foundation; Lloyd Johnson and Gloria Spence, Hanover Education Foundation; and Mavis Whittier-King, Custos, Hanover, Jamaica.

Dr. David Carter, president of ECSU, Dr. Beverley Anderson, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at ECSU, Dr. Robert Wolf, chair of the Department of Sociology and Applied Social Relations at ECSU, and Dr. Carol Williams, associate dean of ECSU's School of Continuing Education, will represent Eastern Connecticut State University at the ceremony.

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Dr. Anderson, a native of Jamaica, was instrumental in bringing the program to ECSU.

Dr. Wolf served as a facilitator and instructor for the program. Dr. Williams coordinated the visits to ECSU which included, in addition to academic courses, several excursions for the students including visits to the United Nations and Harlem in New York City,

Yale University in New Haven, the Mashantucket Pequot Research Museum in Ledyard, the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts.

ECSU faculty members involved in the program were impressed by the dedication of their Jamaican students. Kim Dugan, assistant professor of sociology, described the students as insightful and purposeful with an impressive desire to learn. Those who took part in the program deemed it a great success: “This program has benefited the Jamaican community as well as the ECSU faculty,” said Dr. Wolf. “In addition to having the pleasure of teaching hard-working students with a commitment to higher education, the ECSU faculty who traveled to Jamaica fully enjoyed the Caribbean hospitality.”

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the
Connecticut State University (CSU) system.