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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Visual Arts Chair to Receive Outstanding Women Award

Willimantic—Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) professor Imna Arroyo has been selected to receive the Outstanding Women of Connecticut award. A ceremony was held at the **Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Hartford, CT March 4th, 2003.**

Arroyo, who has been teaching at ECSU for eleven years, was nominated for this distinction by Suzanne Benton, fellow artist and collaborator on “Positive Power: Connecticut Women Artist Forum.” In 2000, Arroyo, Benton and others joined forces to present a series of four forums featuring Connecticut women artists. The goal of this project was to promote visibility of women artists in Connecticut. It was Arroyo’s connection to this project that earned her the nomination for the award.

Arroyo received the news just two weeks ago, when she received a letter from Michaela C. MacColl, chairwoman of the Outstanding Women of Connecticut. Arroyo was pleased to have her work acknowledged, she said, but added that she is dedicated to public service and that she does not serve “for reasons of public recognition.”

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This award is given in honor of Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen, lifelong supporter of the United Nations and founder/editor of the United Nations Calendar for Peace. Before her death in May 2002, Steinkraus-Cohen had hoped to complete this award which has been given twice before, in 1976 and 1987. To honor her memory and recognize her dedication to the promotion of public service, the award has been renamed the Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen Memorial Award for Outstanding Women of Connecticut. It is being given under the auspices of the United Nations Association of the United States (Connecticut, Southwestern Chapter) and UNIFEM—Connecticut.

Arroyo adds this accomplishment to an already impressive list of honors and distinctions, including the Excellence Award, in Recognition in Creative and Scholarship Activity given by Eastern Connecticut State University. She has also served as President for the National Women's Caucus for Art and took part in the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women/NGO Forum in Beijing, China.

[A photograph will be made available via email upon request.]

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Eastern Connecticut State University, the state's public liberal arts university, is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) System.