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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fundraiser at ECSU to Benefit Graduate's Work in Africa

Willimantic—The International Outreach Committee and the Arthur L. Johnson Unity Center of Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) invite the public, as well as students, faculty and staff to take part in a fundraiser to improve nutrition in Mauritania, West Africa. **The reception will take place on April 22 at 7 p.m. in the Betty Tipton Room of ECSU.** Light refreshments will be served.

For the past three years, Liz Kenton, a 2000 graduate of ECSU, has served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mauritania, West Africa. Kenton and other volunteers work to improve the land so that it is more productive and less likely to erode. They also help farmers to produce the most nutritious foods with their type of land. Specifically, Kenton and other volunteers have been working with a fast-growing and highly nutritious plant

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called Moringa Oleifera and are making an effort to introduce this “miracle plant” into the diets of Mauritians.

Funds collected from the event will benefit Kenton's mission by allowing her to purchase more Moringa Oleifera trees and provide instruction and gardening equipment to serve the people of Mauritania as best as she can.

Liz Kenton's father, Steve Kenton, of **Willimantic**, a professor of math and computer science at ECSU and former Peace Corps volunteer will host the reception and discuss some of the projects his daughter is working on. His daughter is currently in her third year of service with the Peace Corps in Africa. Additional speakers include Shelagh Scollin, a Peace Corps worker in Mauritania, Amacire Bocoum, (fiancé of Scollin), Lynnette Ritland, a Peace Corps recruiter, and Susan Troilo, who will discuss her Peace Corps experiences.

Suggested donations for students is \$5. Administration, faculty and staff are encouraged to donate \$10. Checks may be made payable to Peace Corps Partnership and dropped off or sent to Mark Murray at the V.I.S.T.A office on 182 High Street in Willimantic, CT for those unavailable to attend the event.

For more information, please contact Mark Murray at (860) 465-5747.

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