



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern's ConnCAP Named Semifinalist in Presidential Award Program

Willimantic, Conn.—The ConnCAP (Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program) at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) has been recognized as a 2004 *Coming Up Taller* semifinalist. The *Coming Up Taller* program, sponsored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and its partner agencies, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, showcases cultural excellence and enhances the availability of out-of-school arts and humanities programs for children.

Finalists will be announced in July and honored at an award ceremony in the fall, where they will be presented with a plaque and a \$10,000 award. All semifinalists will receive a *Coming Up Taller* Certificate of Excellence. More than 300 nominations from 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were reviewed.

Floyd Bagwell, executive director of ConnCAP and Director of the Learning Center at Eastern, says being selected as a semifinalist is "in itself a remarkable honor." Bagwell will join forces with Octavia Brown, Coordinator of ConnCAP in New London/Norwich; and Diana Morales, ConnCAP Secretary, to make the 2004 ConnCAP session at Eastern as successful as possible.

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ConnCAP has been a part of Eastern for more than eight years. Participants are talented students in grades 7 through 12 from New London, Windham and Norwich. The program is motivational and rewards accomplishment, encouraging students to complete high school and to develop skills necessary to their acceptance to college. The primary purpose of the program is to overcome the challenges that impede the progress of ConnCAP students.

The components and activities of ConnCAP include peer and professional tutoring in math, English, civics, study skills, mentoring and counseling. During the summer 2003 session, students participated with admitted college students in a University forum-lecture series that was designed to focus on civility and human regard. The guest lecturer for the series was Borbie Davis, an expert in the field of writing and a professor at Norfolk State University in Virginia. Summer 2002 participants joined together to write *By Hands...In Their Own Words*, a collection of art and poetry.

ConnCAP 2004 will work in conjunction with The Writer's Block InK, a program that promotes educational strength through the utilization of the stage. Each student will have a chance to develop a script about their own life experiences. All the scripts will be recorded, forming a story about experience that will be turned into a play. The culminating event of the summer will be the production of the play. Students are responsible for all aspects of the production including advertising, lighting, staging, set construction and acting.

The stage will also be used to solve math problems. Instructors will turn on different lights to help students work through geometry and algebra II problems. All the techniques used will help to develop higher thinking skills.

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For more information about the ConnCAP program, please contact Floyd Bagwell at
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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.