



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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***For Immediate Release***

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## **Eastern Connecticut State University Joins Liberal Arts Association**

Willimantic, Conn.—Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) has been accepted into the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). The Council accepted the recommendation of its membership committee at COPLAC's annual meeting in Charleston, S.C., this past June 19-21.

“I am pleased and honored by COPLAC's decision,” said Eastern's President David G. Carter. “It is a tribute to the talent, hard work, and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. COPLAC membership is yet another firm indication that Eastern's commitment to an affordable, high quality and accessible liberal arts education is on the right track.”

To be considered for COPLAC membership, Eastern submitted a 40-page application in October 2003, responding to criteria that served to evaluate the University's commitment to the liberal arts. This past May, two members of COPLAC's Membership Committee—Michael McManis, University Dean for Planning and Executive Assistant to the President at Truman State University, and Allen Berger, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Maine-Farmington—visited Eastern to validate their findings.

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In recommending Eastern's membership to COPLAC, the Membership Committee said Eastern "has deliberately entered upon a path of intentional change to become a public liberal arts university with a distinctive mission within the Connecticut State University (CSU) System." The review team noted that although the CSU Board of Trustees endorsed Eastern's redefined mission in 1998, Eastern "had been positioning itself for this move several years in advance."

COPLAC and its 21 member institutions seek to influence public policy to ensure accessible, affordable liberal arts education. Through modeling and best-practice advocacy, COPLAC also works actively with its members to improve the quality of liberal arts and sciences education nationwide.

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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.