



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

Thursday, December 2, 2004

For Immediate Release

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Eastern's Diaz Wins Award

Willimantic – Walter Diaz, director of career services at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), has been named recipient of the 2004 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region 1 Network of Educational Equity and Ethnic Diversity (NEEED) award. Diaz was recently presented with the award at the NASPA Region 1 conference in Mystic.

The NEEED award acknowledges an individual, member institution or individual program which embraces values inherent in racial and ethnic groups through commitment to individual and community understanding.

Diaz has worked at Eastern for five years. His responsibilities include managing the day to day operations of the Office of Career Services, providing career counseling and job search advice to students and alumni, maintaining and cultivating relationships with employers, assisting students with finding co-ops and internships, and supervising career counselors, student employees and interns. In addition, Diaz is a co-advisor for M.A.L.E.S. (Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success), the Unity Group, and O.L.A.S. (Organization of Latin American Students).

Nancy Crimmin, Region 1 award chairperson, wrote in a congratulatory letter to

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Diaz, “Your resume and letters of support demonstrated to the committee that you have shown strong commitment to the students and to the profession of student affairs and you have made a significant contribution to programming and services at Eastern Connecticut State University that promote learning and student development. Clearly, you have established yourself as a dedicated and successful professional in our field.”

Diaz said, “I am extremely honored for having received the award. It recognizes me for the work that I feel passionate about which is working with students and student organizations to promote diversity in the community.”

Diaz was nominated by Laura Tordenti, vice president of student affairs, and by Eastern alumni Ryan Davis, now attending graduate school of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA., and David Jones, now attending graduate school of University of South Florida in Tampa, Fl. Davis and Jones were both members of the M.A.L.E.S. organization and worked with Diaz as interns at the Office of Career Services.

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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.