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Dwight Bachman, Public Relations Officer
(860) 465-5114 or bachman@easternct.edu
Ed Osborn, Director of University Relations
860-465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

**Governor Rell to Speak at ECSU
Groundbreaking Ceremony**

Willimantic, Conn. -- Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell and David G. Carter, president of Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), will lead a long list of dignitaries when Eastern conducts **groundbreaking ceremonies for its new Child and Family Development Resource Center on Thursday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. at the construction site on Eastern's North Campus.**

The three-story, \$12 million, 40,000-square-foot project, complete with a \$2 million information technology system containing digital cameras and recording equipment, will open in fall 2005. The center will be split between classrooms and a child care facility. When it opens its doors, the center is expected to be a model child-care education center for the nation, offering comprehensive, one-stop, day-care services for children from birth to age 5 and their families. This includes social, health/mental health and employment services, financial support, and nutrition and parenting development programs.

“My administration is committed to creating an early childhood education system that is the best in the country,” said Governor Rell. “Eastern’s new Child and Family Development Resource Center is consistent with this vision. It will help many youngsters get the care and support they need to be able to succeed in school and in life. It will also

provide state-of-the art education and training for our future teachers. Eastern is to be commended for developing this new innovative facility that will help provide a great start for many children in our communities.”

“This Child and Family Development Resource Center project is a key part of our master plan for Eastern Connecticut State University,” said James T. Fleming, commissioner for the State Department of Public Works. “It is also a very special project for the entire Willimantic region. We look forward to excellent results, on time and on budget.”

“We intend to be a model for the nation in the optimal development of children and the family unit,” said Patricia Kleine, dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies at Eastern. “Through this center, we will forge an innovative, integrated approach by collaborating with local, regional and state agencies to prepare our children to become the citizens of tomorrow.”

“Eastern has a rich tradition of leadership in early childhood education,” said Carter. “However, today it is critical that we blend the best teaching practices to form a holistic approach to delivering services our children need. This center demonstrates the commitment and support of Governor M. Jodi Rell to higher education. It also represents the combined efforts of dedicated people from many quarters -- State Senator Donald Williams, State Representative Walter Pawelkiewicz and other members of the Connecticut General Assembly, the Connecticut Board of Governors, the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees, Chancellor William J. Cibes Jr. and the System Office staff, the Department of Public Works, Commissioner of Higher Education

Valerie Lewis and her staff, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, and of course, our students, faculty and staff.”

The center exterior will reflect some of the prevalent architecture in the area -- Victorian homes, mill and agricultural buildings. Toddler and infant rooms, activity rooms, learning passages, gathering spaces, observation, conference and health rooms, support areas, and services offices comprise the interior

The center’s contractor is Farmington-based Konover Construction Corp. The architect and designer are Mansfield-based Karl Norton Architect, LLC and New England Design, respectively. Applied Thermodynamics Associates, Inc. in Coventry served as the engineering firm for the center. Norwich-based C.R. Klewin Northeast, LCC served as construction administrator.

Speakers at the ceremony will include Governor M. Jodi Rell; Commissioner James T. Fleming, Connecticut State Department of Public Works; Commissioner Valerie F. Lewis, Connecticut State Department of Higher Education; Chancellor William J. Cibes, Jr., The Connecticut State University System; Lawrence McHugh, chairman, The Connecticut State University System; and David G. Carter, president of Eastern Connecticut State University.

Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) is part of the Connecticut State University System and is the state’s public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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