



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern to Host Two Summer Programs for Future Teachers**

Willimantic- More than 50 high school juniors and seniors from 24 Connecticut school districts will receive an inside look at what it takes to become a teacher when they participate in the Ninth Annual Summer Institute for Future Teachers (SIFT) program at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU). The program runs from July 5 through July 29.

The Institute for Future Teachers Using Technology (IFTUT), a week-long program sponsored by a Connecticut State Department of Education grant, will also bring more than 30 high school students from schools across Connecticut to the campus from June 26 through July 1. The technology program, in its fifth year, will focus on video production, Power Point presentations, and writing for educational media. The program provides a one-week residential college experience, in combination with hands-on training and rigorous undergraduate courses.

“There’s a shortage of teachers all over the country,” said David Stoloff, chair of Eastern’s Department of Education. “In Connecticut, math, science and world language teachers are especially hard to find. These programs provide future teachers with a taste of the profession.”

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ECSU and the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) created the Summer Institute for Future Teachers as a way for students to come together to explore the teaching profession.

SIFT's program objectives include increasing the number of Connecticut students who consider teaching as a career, recruiting for greater diversity among future Connecticut educators, emphasizing the increasingly important role educational technology will play in teaching and learning, and expanding outreach efforts to recruit in Windham County and eastern Connecticut. Workshops will include team-building exercises, study and practice in curriculum development and classroom management, and field experiences in a summer enrichment program and in educational institutions in eastern Connecticut. Participants will reside at Eastern from Sunday evening to Friday afternoon and will develop a professional portfolio and earn three undergraduate credits. During the four-week program, students are immersed in coursework and field trips, and work with pre-school, elementary and middle school children. Stoloff says taking field trips integrates educational theory with practical experience.

Students are expected to prepare and present lesson plans, create positive learning environments, give detailed reports defending their choices for classroom layout, and maintain journals reflecting on their teaching observations and experiences.

SIFT and IFTUT participants may also take part in a follow-up program, the Future Teachers Conference during Eastern's spring break, which helps to further their understanding of the educational process. Students will receive career guidance, training

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resources and information about professional educators' associations. SIFT and IFTUT participants are selected on the basis of their application, essay and letters of recommendation.

For more information about SIFT or IFTUT, contact David Stoloff at 860-465-5501 or email [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu).

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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.