



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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Summer Institute for Future Teachers at Eastern on July 5

Willimantic- More than 40 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. The program runs from July 5 through July 22. ECSU and the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) created the SIFT program as a way for students to come together to explore the teaching profession.

“SIFT aims to increase the number of Connecticut students who consider teaching as a career, recruits for greater diversity among future Connecticut educators, emphasizes the increasingly important role educational technology will play in teaching and learning, and expands outreach efforts to recruit in Windham County and eastern Connecticut” said David Stoloff, chair of Eastern’s Department of Education. “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,” said Stoloff. Participants will develop a professional portfolio and earn three undergraduate credits.

During the four-week program, students are immersed in coursework and field

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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 participants may also take part in a follow-up program, the Future Teachers Conference during Eastern's spring break in March 2006, which helps to further their understanding of the educational process. Students will receive career guidance, training resources and information about professional educators' associations. SIFT participants are selected on the basis of their application, essay and letters of recommendation.

For more information about SIFT, contact David Stoloff at 860-465-5501 or email 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.