



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern Welcomes New Students all Summer Long

Willimantic, CT -- New student orientation at Eastern Connecticut State University

begins June 29, much earlier than in past years. Six two-day orientation programs will take place beginning in the end of June and run through July, and will include 150 – 160 students in each session.

The new student orientation program concludes with a final two-day session on Aug. 26 – 27. Motivational speaker Ed Gerety will deliver the keynote address on Aug. 27. Program organizers say Gerety is well known for his ability to connect with his audience and will be a treat for the new students. Singer/songwriter Mark Rust also will perform for students.

Eastern students normally go home on the weekends, but during orientation weekend, students will participate in workshops on transitioning to college, student success, educational support services, student activities, wellness and diversity. One activity, an interactive program called “Sex Signals,” will allow students to respond to scenarios involving date rape.

The goal of the orientation program is to acquaint students with university life and each other. For two days, new students will work in small groups led by student

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orientation counselors, experienced student leaders who will help new students adjust to campus life through discussions and activities.

Briana Sevigny, Eastern's student orientation coordinator, believes the orientation will have a tremendous benefit. "Orientation is a great opportunity to meet other students in your class, learn a little about what to expect in the fall and alleviate some fears you might have about starting college."

Paul Bryant, dean of students at Eastern, agrees. "Students face many challenges," said Bryant, "but we believe we have managed to incorporate a quality program for them, one of which we will be proud."

Parents also have the opportunity to learn more about Eastern during orientation. They can participate in a workshop designed to answer any questions they may have about their student's upcoming college experience.

A voluntary community service project for students that gives them an opportunity to complete their four hours of community service before the semester begins will also be provided.

No orientation would be complete without opportunities for socializing. An ice cream social, a video dance party, and a magician/psychic/mentalists will perform for students. Students will also see the movie, "Supersize Me," and participate in a pep rally. Prizes and giveaways will add an extra incentive for student participation.

After all this excitement, classes begin for new and returning students on Aug. 29.

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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.