



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern Bids Farwell to Shirley Ernst

Willimantic—After 18 years of teaching in the Department of Education at Eastern Connecticut State University, Shirley Ernst will retire at the end of December. In honor of her career, the department will hold a tribute on Dec. 12, beginning at 3:30 p.m. at Webb Hall, located on Eastern's North Campus.

Ernst is a lead faculty member in Eastern's Reading and Language Arts Program, where she has taught courses on the undergraduate and graduate level. Throughout her tenure at Eastern, Ernst has organized regional gatherings of teachers and community members to promote reading, participated in the Teacher Cadet Program at Hartford High School, and been recognized as a national leader in reading instruction through her affiliation with the International Reading Association. Over the years, she has also collected thousands of books, many of which she has donated to the J. Eugene Smith Library's Curriculum Center. The center serves as a resource to students in the Education Department and teachers in eastern Connecticut.

"Shirley's energy, insightfulness, persistence and hard work will be missed by her colleagues in the Education Department and throughout campus," said David Stoloff,

department chair. “Her commitment to literacy, children’s literature and preparing caring teachers is unmatched, and her passion continues to be seen by all of her students.”

A book brigade will kick off the tribute at 3:30 p.m. Donated books from Ernst’s collection will be passed from Webb Hall to the Curriculum Center of the J. Eugene Smith Library. At 4:15 p.m., a plaque will be dedicated to Ernst for her contributions to the Library. Immediately following the dedication, a reception will take place from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Paul E. Johnson Community Conference Room.

For more information about the reception or to RSVP, call Patricia Kucharski, at (860) 465-5264 by Dec. 5.

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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.