



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

Monday, December 12, 2005

For Immediate Release

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Eastern Professor Awarded Prestigious Rockefeller Fellowship

Mary Kenny, associate professor of anthropology at Eastern Connecticut State University, has been awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship. The fellowship will allow Kenny to work with the Smithsonian Institute's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, based in Washington, D.C., to further her work with endangered ethnic communities. Kenny hopes to develop ways to identify key factors that can ensure the preservation of ethnic cultures and their value to the international community.

Kenny was selected from 200 applicants to be part of a six-member strategic planning group, and was one of only three fellows chosen from the United States, the other three being international scholars. The group will develop a model plan for ascertaining the various types of cultural heritage associated with many developing countries and develop a process to ensure their international recognition, preservation and sustainability. Such a model would involve developing marketable ways to improve the economies of small ethnic communities that could be replicated throughout the world.

The prestigious Rockefeller Fellowship opportunity will require Kenny to be in Washington, D.C. for the spring 2006 semester. "The experience at the Smithsonian will enhance my ability to expand the quality of education for her Eastern students," said Kenny. In addition to developing her research activities, Kenny also expects to increase

internship opportunities for Eastern students through enhanced development of her research activities.

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