



Eastern Connecticut State University
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Works Helps ECSU Celebrate New Buildings

Willimantic, CT — Connecticut Department of Public Works Commissioner James T. Fleming and Eastern Connecticut State University President Michael Pernal were joined by other state and local officials today to celebrate two major construction projects on Eastern's Willimantic campus.

Science Building

The first event, a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Science Building, was held in the Paul E. Johnson, Sr., Community Conference Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library. The Science Building will be located to the west of the library and just south of Webb Hall. The construction budget for the five-story, 173,000-square-foot building is \$45.85 million, with completion scheduled for spring 2008.

“Our university community is looking forward to having a Science Building designed to meet the needs of today's students and equipped with the latest technology,” said Pernal. “This building will be living proof that a strong science and mathematics foundation is a critical component of a liberal arts education.”

The Science Building will consolidate the departments of biology, computer science/mathematics, environmental earth science, and physical sciences into one building. It will house general purpose classrooms, laboratories, a large resource room, and a 150-seat lecture hall. The materials and systems in the building were designed to meet the requirements for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

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“We are happy and excited to be breaking ground for this new multi-million dollar facility,” said Commissioner Fleming. “I am looking forward to a first-class academic building delivered on time and on budget.”

In addition to Fleming and Pernal, speakers included Connecticut Department of Higher Education Commissioner Valerie F. Lewis; CSU Chancellor David G. Carter, Sr.; and Chairman Lawrence D. McHugh of the CSU Board of Trustees.

The contractor for the project is O & G Industries of Torrington; the construction administrator is Konover Construction Corp. of Farmington; and the architect is S/L/A/M Collaborative of Glastonbury.

Child and Family Resource Development Center

Following the Science Building groundbreaking, a dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting was held at the university’s new Child and Family Development Resource Center to officially mark its completion. The 40,000-square-foot center, built at a construction cost of \$10 million, is situated at the northern end of the campus. It opened Feb. 27 to 15 preschool children, ages 3 and 4. The infant/toddler program at the center will begin operations in approximately one year.

“We at Public Works are proud to see our work come to fruition at the Eastern campus with the completion of the new Child and Family Resource Development Center,” stated DPW Commissioner Fleming. “It is a terrific facility for students, faculty, families and the Willimantic community.”

The contractor for the project was Konover Construction Corporation of Farmington; the construction administrator was C.R. Klewin Northeast, LLC, of Norwich; and the architect was Karl Norton Architect, LLC, Mansfield.

The center is a “new school” model for the state and nation and includes a state-of-the-art early care and education center with comprehensive services for children and their families; teaching facilities; faculty offices; and related spaces. For Eastern students

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preparing for careers as early childhood educators, the center provides a modern teaching facility, complete with the latest instructional and distance learning technologies. The center offers services for children 50 hours per week, 51 weeks of the year. The maximum enrollment for the center will be 75 preschool children and 15 infants/toddlers.

In addition to education, families' needs are addressed in a "one-stop" mode with social services, health/mental health, financial support and employment services, nutrition, and parenting development programs.

"I think it is fitting that we are dedicating this new center just a little more than 50 years after Eastern opened its first early childhood center — Keelor Hall," said Eastern President Pernal. "Eastern has been a leader in the field of early childhood education for years, and this new facility restates our commitment to excellence in this area. We will strive to provide a model early care and education center, combined with professional development for teachers and those preparing to enter the field."