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For Immediate Release

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Eastern Hosts American Legion Boys State for 19th Year in a Row

Willimantic, Conn.—Eastern Connecticut State University will host nearly 300 Connecticut high school juniors as well as state legislators, lawyers, police officers and government officials during the 64th American Legion Boys State, June 25-30. This will be the 19th year in a row that Boys State has been at Eastern.

Student delegates will arrive on campus Sunday, June 25. Boys State officially begins with formal opening ceremonies at 7:30 p.m. Lt. Gov. Kevin Sullivan is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

The weeklong program is formatted to educate students on how state and municipal governments operate. Participants will set up and run mock town, city, county and state elections. Students will engage in role-playing where towns are represented, mayors will lobby, and representatives and senators will debate and enact legislation.

David Greenleaf, chairman of the American Legion Boys State Commission, praised Eastern for hosting Boys State over the years. “Eastern makes the summer program a very positive experience for young people who cannot help but return to their communities with a desire to make a positive contribution,” said Greenleaf.

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Boys State, pg. 2

“Eastern Connecticut State University is proud of our longstanding relationship with Boys State, which provides a model of exemplary programming highlighting good citizenship,” said Shelly Gimenez, dean of the School of Continuing Education. “We are delighted to be part of an initiative that grooms future leaders on a local, state and national level. Once again we look forward to hosting Boys State on our campus.”

A number of state legislators and senators have been invited to speak throughout the week. This year’s guests include Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who will discuss issues Connecticut faces today on June 26; First Selectman Phil Miller of Essex and District Judge Dennis O’Brien speak on June 27; and Superior Court Judge Susan Peck joins several state legislators on the agenda on June 28.

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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.