



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Eastern Professor Receive Endowment From Pfizer**

Willimantic, CT— Eastern Connecticut State University professor, Elizabeth Cowles was recently awarded the 2006 Green Chemistry endowment from Pfizer Global Research and Development. The \$5,000 endowment was awarded to Cowles based on her work with natural food dyes.

“Natural, food-approved dyes are intrinsically safe to vertebrates, which make them harmless to handle in the lab or their eventual use in agriculture,” Said Cowles. Having her undergraduates test for insecticides in the dyes is an excellent learning experience for those doing basic research, she said. “Valuable aspects learned from this system can be applied to other fields such as pharmacology.”

Pfizer selects its recipients based on the idea that work contributes to a greener, more natural approach in scientific research and development.

When asked what the endowment would be used for Cowles replied, “Our department practices a ‘hands on’ approach to learning biology, so this will help me guide students into performing basic research and working on their own independent studies.”

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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.