

Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern to Screen “Up and Out of Poverty: An Activist Perspective”**

**Willimantic, CT** - Jaime Gómez, associate professor and chair of the communication department at Eastern Connecticut State University, will host the premiere of his documentary, “Up and Out of Poverty: An Activist Perspective,” on Dec. 7 in Webb Hall 110 at 7 p.m. The public is invited and admission is free.

By telling the story of Ron Casanova, born in New York of African-American and Puerto Rican heritage, the documentary examines the societal issues and motivations of a social activist. As a child, Casanova was placed in an orphanage and later ran away to become immersed in a world of gangs, crime and drugs. At age 41, after having spent time in prisons and mental institutions, he became an advocate for the homeless. In 1993, he founded “Artists for a Better America,” and has served as vice president of the National Union of the Homeless, editor of the “Union of the Homeless National News” and director of the Kansas City Union of the Homeless.

Gómez met Casanova through his work at Curbstone Press in Willimantic. Curbstone is a non-profit literary arts organization founded in 1975 that focuses on human rights and the discourse of social issues.

The documentary is available in VHS format at no cost to schools and higher education institutions in Connecticut.

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It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

For further information and to R.S.V.P. for this event please contact Monica O'Connor at (860) 465-4340 or [occonnorm@easternct.edu](mailto:occonnorm@easternct.edu).

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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.