



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dwight Bachman

Public Relations Officer

(860) 465-5114 or Bachman@easternct.edu

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations

(860) 465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

Jeffrey Warzecha, University Relations Assistant

warzechaj@stu.easternct.edu

Eastern Student and University Win Awards at WWP Meeting

Willimantic, CT— Eastern Connecticut State University graduate Sarah Hemenway '07 received the Volunteer of the Year award at the June 4 annual meeting for the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership (WWP). Eastern also received an award as Volunteer Organization of the Year. Other awards were presented to the *Hartford Courant* and to Pinecrest Environmental Services.

Hemenway, who redesigned the WWP website, also created an online member management system to keep track of members. Eastern, which is heavily involved in the WWP, has donated time, money and, most recently, more than 35 student volunteers, who helped clean up the Willimantic River as part of Eastern's "ECSU Hits the Streets" program this past spring.

Eastern's President Elsa Nuñez praised the initiative and expressed her continued interest in supporting WWP's goal of revitalizing the Willimantic River and the surrounding area. She also congratulated Hemenway on her award and Eastern professors Eric Martin, Miriam Chirico and Denise Matthews for their support and collaboration with the WWP and the Willimantic community.

Since 2002, the WWP has strived to revitalize and develop the Willimantic River and riverfront for recreation, tourism, commerce and ecological restoration. Recently, it

received a \$1.8 million grant from the Department of Transportation and a \$50,000 state grant from the Office of Policy and Management, secured through the efforts of State Sen. Don Williams. The WWP hopes to transform the trails and rivers in the area, and to create parks for public and tourist use. The WWP's goal is to have the three projects (trails, rivers and parks) fully completed and in use by fall 2013.

For more information, visit the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership's website at <http://www.willimanticwhitewater.org/>

###

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.