



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EASTERN'S SOAR PROGRAM INSPIRES INCOMING STUDENTS

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Eastern Connecticut State University's 2007 SOAR

(Summer Orientation, Advising and Registration) program is taking place on Eastern's Willimantic campus from late June to mid-July. This year's program will consist of six two-day sessions during which approximately 200 incoming students per session will attend informational meetings and social events. All new first-year resident and commuter students are required to attend the program. The SOAR program is the start of activities that are interwoven throughout a student's first year in order to assist in academic and personal growth.

The goal of the SOAR program is to assist Eastern students in making the transition to college life. This year's SOAR program is entitled "SOAR with pride and champion your future." Dean of Students Paul Bryant says, "This year's theme coincides with the University's motto, 'Excellence that Inspires.' Students register for their fall classes and receive their IDs and e-mail accounts. By the time they leave, they are Eastern students in all regards!" This year, students will also take a LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) survey. "This will help our professors recognize how each student learns so they can better instruct to students diverse learning styles," said Bryant.

During SOAR, students stay overnight in Constitution Hall, Eastern's newest freshman residence hall, which gives them an opportunity to experience life on campus.

They also participate in entertaining social events such as the Welcome Picnic and the Eastern Spirit Event, receive academic advisement, are introduced to the faculty, and attend various health and wellness and motivational sessions.

“Year in an Hour” is an event specifically designed to teach incoming students how to set realistic goals upon beginning their college career. The gymnasium in Eastern’s Sports Center is set up as a mock university, complete with academic advisors and professors. Students go from place to place trying to accomplish their goals in the time allotted. After the program is over, the students are left with a good idea about what they need to focus on in order to succeed when they come to Eastern.

Parents are also invited to participate in a related orientation session which occurs on the first day of the SOAR program. The parents of each incoming student are invited to a two-hour program during which they can meet with staff and student leaders, as well as educate themselves about the opportunities, services and resources at Eastern and learn more about campus life.

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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.