



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern Set to Host STEP/CAP**

**Willimantic, CT.**—On July 1, more than 75 students hoping to enroll in Eastern Connecticut State University will converge on campus to participate in the University's Summer Transition at Eastern Program/Contract Admission Program (STEP/CAP). In its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the program targets highly motivated students who may not have been admitted under traditional admissions criteria.

For six weeks, students from towns such as Bridgeport, Hartford, New London, Norwich, Waterbury and Willimantic, as well as some out-of-state students, will work hard to demonstrate their academic readiness; those who are successful will be admitted for the fall semester. The students will take credit-bearing courses in math and writing, and workshops in library research methods, public speaking, self-directed behavior, study and critical thinking skills. In the fall, full academic counseling, tutoring and guidance are provided. Step by step, students discover how to choose courses and what majors best fit with their interests.

“We are eager to offer this opportunity for students to take a part of their summer and devote it to their education,” said Margaret Hebert, acting director of Eastern's Learning Center, which administers STEP/CAP. “We ask the students to be disciplined and ready to make the changes that are needed to make the transition from high school to college.” Successful STEP/CAP students have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, insurance executives, personnel managers, and much more — remarkable achievements for young people labeled in high school as incapable of college-level work.

This summer's theme examines racism and identity in America. Before coming to campus, students are required to read James Baldwin's classic essay about race relations, "The Fire Next Time." Once students settle into Eastern and begin their classes, they will take field trips to Boston, where they are scheduled to enjoy the citywide trolley tours and visit such historic spots as the famous Freedom Trail.

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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.