



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern Receives CQIA Innovation Prize

Willimantic, CT—Eastern Connecticut State University was awarded a Silver Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Innovation Prize from the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership. Eastern won for its numerical-results directed innovation—CTEnergyEducation.com: Developing an Educational Program through Collaboration. The award was presented at the Quality and Innovation Conference on October 19, 2007 at Waters Edge Resort in Westbrook.

This open access website was created after the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund asked Eastern's Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) to create a statewide high school energy education program to address both local and global issues concerning climate change and energy efficiency. The website can track users and downloaded lessons to ensure that teacher's needs are being met; offers the most current information and resources on emerging topics; addresses eight of the nine required framework standards in the state of Connecticut; and has 26 online lessons.

The CTEnergyEducation.com program started with a team of 20 stakeholders, including high school science educators and administrators; Connecticut State Department of Education specialists; energy professionals; and university faculty in education and science. The team developed an open access web-based program, featuring lesson and resource materials on energy efficiency, fundamentals of energy and climate

change. This was refined by a series of teacher workshops, and by demonstrations and surveys of 143 science educators attending the National Science Teachers' Regional Conference in Hartford in 2005.

Thirty-one teachers piloted the lessons, and 253 have attended workshops and educators' conferences. Spring workshops, summer institutes and extending learning experiences are expected to reach more than 100 additional teachers by the end of the 2007 school year.

The Compact Fluorescent lesson will be shared in the international environmental magazine, "Green Teacher," this coming spring. Of the more than 700 members, more than 150 are teachers.

The program has seen major involvement from Karen Schroeder, education university assistant; Laurel Kohl, education specialist; and William Leahy, operating officer for the Institute for Sustainable Energy; as well as instrumental assistance from Eastern professors Jeanelle Day, Catherine Tannahill and Fred Loxsom.

Established in 2001, the ISE's mission has been to identify, develop and implement the means for achieving a sustainable energy future. The ISE has done this through leveraging the University's educational expertise, the Institute's energy knowledge and community contacts throughout Connecticut.

Eastern also held a Renewable Energy Curriculum Workshop for Teachers from July 23-24, where teachers and administrators from the surrounding communities learn methods and information to develop curriculum for introductory college-level classes in sustainable energy studies.

Over the past few years, Eastern has installed the state's largest geothermal heating and cooling system, installed photovoltaic electric panels on bus stops and

recycling centers and was the first institution to use B20 bio-fuel to heat one of its facilities.

In recent years, Eastern also has won several other silver prizes and a gold prize from the CQIA. This year the CQIA is celebrating its 20th anniversary as America's first state-level award to use the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Performance Excellence criteria.

For more information, please contact William Leahy at leahyw@easternct.edu or (860) 465-0252.

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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.

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