



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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Kappa Delta Pi Inducts Eastern Honorees

Willimantic, Conn. – Twenty students in teacher education programs at Eastern Connecticut State University's were inducted into the Epsilon Nu chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), the national honor society for educators, on Dec. 8 in the Paul E. Johnson, Sr. Community Conference Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library.

Inductees included Erin Bagdikian (Enfield), Kaitlin Beavan (Norwich), Emelia Brackbill (East Hampton), Cara Brown (Manchester), Kristin Churila (West Hartford), Katherine Dudzinski (Bristol), Sarah Erb (Griswold), Jonathan Ferris (Storrs), Carrie Fleischer (Tolland), Nicole Henry (Columbia), Susan Mike (Columbia), Jennifer Miner (Manchester), Drew Mizak (Mystic), Ashley Reklaitis (Burlington), Kaitlynn Seipold (East Haven), Ashley Smith (Moosup), Lindsey Smith (Somers), Jaclyn Wilkinson (Durham), Chelcey Williams (Hartford), and Dawn Witham (Wells, Maine).

Chapter officers assisting Catherine Tannahill, associate professor of education, in the induction ceremony, included President Tiffany Bucko (Colchester), Vice President Jessica Schlask (Waterbury), Secretary Allison Cook (Farmingdale, NY), Treasurer Stephanie Conforti (Milford), Historian/Public Relations Officer Taylor Ackert (Coventry), and member participant Hillary Borges (Eastford).

Patricia Kleine, dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies, reminded the audience of students, parents, and faculty that Connecticut has the most stringent teacher certification standards in the United States, so credible that 43 of the other 49 states accept Connecticut-certified teachers without

requiring retesting. Eastern's education program is one of a small handful of programs in Connecticut accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Kleine also noted that Eastern's 400 education majors are "double majors," majoring both in education and in an academic major, taking the same rigorous curriculum as biology majors, business majors, and other liberal arts majors. "You are our best," she told the inductees, "and you should be proud to be in one of the most rigorous teacher preparation programs in the country."

Eastern President Elsa Nuñez told the inductees, "You have a special place in my heart, for you have decided to make the ultimate contribution to our nation. You are about to embark on the task of teaching children the tools they need to be tomorrow's leaders. You will do so not only by teaching them academic competencies, but also by helping them to learn ethics, social skills, and other important life lessons."

President Nuñez told of Professor Morris McGhee, her freshman English teacher at Montclair State College, and how he took an interest in her as a student and made her feel comfortable. "To this day, 40 years later, I will never forget the support he gave me. I hope that you too can make a similar impression on one or more of your students in the coming years. That is why we teach. This is why you and I have chosen this profession."

Eastern's Kappa Delta Pi chapter was founded in 1943 and has inducted many outstanding future teachers in its 74 years. Reflecting the feelings of faculty members in her department, Leslie Ricklin, professor of education, told the new KDP inductees that she was pleased they share her belief in the mission of serving children and their families.

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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.