



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Renowned Wesleyan Scholar Jan Willis to Visit Eastern**

**Willimantic, Conn.** – Jan Willis, an author and professor of religion at Wesleyan University in Middletown, will deliver a lecture at Eastern Connecticut State University on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Theatre. A book signing will follow. The public is invited. Admission is free.

One of the earliest American scholar-practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism, Willis has published numerous essays and articles on Buddhist meditation, hagiography, women and Buddhism, and Buddhism and race. Her latest book is “Dreaming Me: Black, and Buddhist: One Woman’s Spiritual Journey” (2008). Willis also is the author of “The Diamond Light: An Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Meditation” (1972); “On Knowing Reality: The Tattvartha Chapter of Asanga’s Bodhisattvabhumi” (1979); “Enlightened Beings: Life Stories from the Ganden Oral Tradition” (1995); and she is the editor of “Feminine Ground: Essays on Women and Tibet” (1989).

Willis has studied with Tibetan Buddhists in India, Nepal, Switzerland and the United States for four decades, and has taught courses on Buddhism for 34 years. In December 2000, Time magazine named Willis one of six “spiritual innovators for the new millennium.” In 2003, she was a recipient of Wesleyan University’s Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching, and was profiled in a 2005 Newsweek article about “Spirituality in America.” In 2007, Ebony Magazine named Willis one of its “Power 150” – one of America’s “most influential African Americans.” The magazine cited Willis for her work in Buddhist Studies and listed her along with 16 other African American leaders in religion.

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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.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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