



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

March 13, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Dwight Bachman

Public Relations Officer

(860) 465-5114 or Bachman@easternct.edu

Edward Osborn, Director of University Relations

(860) 465-5043 or Osborne@easternct.edu

Rachael Burkey, Public Relations Assistant

(860) 465-0686 or burkeyr@stu.easternct.edu

Eastern to Host Statewide Meeting on Education

Willimantic, Conn. – Eastern Connecticut State University is inviting the public to participate in a series of New England-style town meetings to discuss why education is important for Connecticut’s economic future. The series, “Education Now. Prosperity Tomorrow. Growing Connecticut’s Future,” is sponsored by a statewide coalition of more than 20 state agencies and organizations and the Connecticut State University System. The town meeting will be held on March 31 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the Betty R. Tipton Room in the Student Center.

Eastern’s sister universities, Western Connecticut State University in Danbury; Central Connecticut State University in New Britain; and Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, will host their own town meetings. In addition to panel discussions and audience participation, the meetings will feature a special opening video message from Governor M. Jodi Rell. All four town meetings will be moderated by Ann Baldwin, formerly of NBC30 WVIT-TV.

At each meeting, leaders of business and industry, education, labor and community organizations will discuss how Connecticut’s educational system has to become an even stronger force if the state is to remain competitive technologically and globally.

Each of the town meetings will be taped for later broadcast by Connecticut Public Broadcasting (CPTV). The final televised product, “Today’s Children in Tomorrow’s World: Town Meeting,” will be aired on April 24 at 8 p.m. Jennifer Boyd, Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, will produce a supplementary hour-long television special to be shown in mid-June. Boyd has produced 12 energy-related documentaries and six other documentaries distributed throughout the Public Broadcasting System (PBS).

Organizations participating in the town meeting series include: Connecticut Business & Industry Association; Connecticut Association of Boards of Education; Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges; State Office for Workforce Competitiveness; American Federation of Teachers; Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents; Northeast Utilities Foundation; Connecticut Health & Education Facilities Authority; Capitol Region Council of Governments; State Board of Education; Connecticut Small Business Development Centers; Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors; State University Organization of Administrative Faculty; AFSCME; Council 4 – Local 2836; Connecticut Community Colleges; Connecticut State University System Foundation; Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network and the Connecticut State University System (CSUS).

For more information, please visit www.ct.edu and click on the “Education Now” logo. The website has details on panelists, statistics, demographic material, and links to organizations with expertise in the field.

###

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.

#