



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

(10/28/15)

For Immediate Release

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Eastern to Host Sustainability Workshop for Connecticut K-12 Schools

Willimantic, Conn. – On Nov. 3, Eastern Connecticut State University will host “Best Practices in Sustainability Education: Collective Impact for School Change,” a workshop that will bring together K-12 educators, administrative personnel and school support staff from around the state. The program will run from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. in Eastern’s Student Center. Jessica Hing, the Green and Healthy Schools coordinator of the New England Region for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will deliver the keynote presentation.

The workshop supports the goals of the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools program, a national recognition that highlights exemplary schools, school districts and institutions of higher education. The “Best Practices” workshop aligns with the Green Ribbon Schools’ three goals: reduced environmental impact, improved health for students and staff, and effective environmental and sustainability education across multiple disciplines. These are the same goals of the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program, which include 81 Connecticut K-12 schools, all striving for environmental sustainability.

Laurel Kohl, an education specialist at Eastern’s Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) and Connecticut Green LEAF co-chair, is helping to organize the event. “The Green LEAF goals work best when there is collaboration between a school’s different departments,” Kohl said. “You need the buy-in of faculty, administration, facilities, and health and nutrition staff to

address issues like sustainable energy consumption, learning with school gardens or using the school as a learning laboratory.”

“Best Practices” is co-sponsored by Eastern, Connecticut Green LEAF Schools, the Connecticut Departments of Education and Energy & Environmental Protection, Common Ground High School and the Connecticut Garden Center, and Connecticut Outdoor and Environmental Educators. For more information, visit www1.easternct.edu/sustainenergy/best-practices-2015/.