

# NEW ENGLAND CANNABIS RESEARCH & EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2022



## NEW ENGLAND CANNABIS RESEARCH & EDUCATION CONFERENCE



**FRIDAY & SATURDAY OCTOBER 21-22**

Eastern Connecticut State University  
83 Windham St. Willimantic, CT 06226



## DAY 1

Friday, October 21



### REGISTRATION & DINNER RECEPTION

5:30 p.m. Lobby, Student Center Cafe, Eastern campus

5:30-6:45 p.m. Dinner in Student Center Cafe



### FEATURED SPEAKER -- DR. GERALD BERKOWITZ

**7 p.m. Student Center Theatre, Eastern's Student Center**

Dr. Gerald Berkowitz is a professor in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Connecticut. The title of his talk is "Molecular Analysis of Cannabinoid Biosynthetic Genes: How Hormones, Environmental Signals and Transcription Factors Can Increase the THC (or CBD) Content of Cannabis"

Read Dr. Berkowitz's profile on p. 5.

## DAY 2

Saturday, October 22



### 8 A.M. REGISTRATION/EXHIBITOR HALL OPENS

**Lobby, Science Building**

Conference attendees can register, browse Exhibitor Hall and gather for the beginning of the NECREC conference

**8:30-9:30 a.m. -- Breakfast in Science 301**

### 9:40 A.M. CONFERENCE WELCOME PANEL

**Science 104**

Welcome from Eastern faculty and administration and a panel on the future of Cannabis Studies in Higher Education to launch the first NECREC conference.





## EASTERN GREENHOUSE TOURS 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Meet in the Science Building Lobby. Tours at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

### 10 A.M. PANELS

10 a.m. **Grow Your Own - Considerations on Starting College Cannabis/Hemp Programs** -- Dr. Bryan Connolly and Dr. Jason White (Science 114)

10 a.m. **Cannabis Business and Employment Possibilities** -- Ryan Vassar, Josh Carroll, Kaitlyn Fenton, Todd Lessard (Science 116)



### 11 A.M. PANELS

11:05 a.m. **Cannabis as Medicine and Pain Management** -- Dr. Steven Kinsey, Carl Rodriguez, Uzma Zakir, Antonio Matt Reck, Ann Marie Luisi-Rosado (Science 117)

11:05 a.m. **Sustainable Cannabis Cultivation** -- Ryan Vassar, Dr. Bryan Connolly, Dr. Patricia Szczys, Blake Costa (Science 134)



## FEATURED LUNCH SPEAKER -- DR. JASON WHITE

**12 p.m. Science 104 Lecture Hall - Pick up lunch in Science Building Lobby**

Dr. Jason White is the director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The title of his lecture is "The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: 147 Years of Consumer Product Safety." Read Dr. White's full profile on p. 5.





## 1 P.M. PANELS

1:05 p.m. -- **Cannabis Chemistry and Testing Techniques** -- Olivia Vanegas, Josh Carroll, Dr. Syed Islam, Terri Arsenault, Anuja Bharadwaj (Science 132)

1:05 p.m. **Cannabis Legalization and the Black Market** -- Dr. Marin Kurti and regional legal experts (Science 116)



## 2 P.M. PANEL

2:05 p.m. -- **Plant Management Tips & Tricks** -- Lauren Kurtz, Ryan Vassar, Dr. Bryan Connolly, Michael Goodenough (Science 114)

2:05 p.m. -- **Undergraduate Research Panel 1** -- Tanner Demko, Sydney DeNoncour, Grace Franklin, Natasha Durand (Science 117)



## 3 P.M. PANELS

3:05 p.m. -- **Undergraduate Research Panel 2** -- Alexa Jacobson, Giahna Ellis, Ava Odum, Adam Wysocki (Science 132)

3:05 pm. -- **Poster Session** (Science 301)



## THANK YOU DESSERT RECEPTION

4 p.m. -- Enjoy a hot chocolate bar, cupcake station, cookies and coffee to celebrate the first New England Cannabis Research and Education Conference! (Science 301)



**DR. GERALD  
BERKOWITZ**

*NECREC Plenary Speaker*

## PROFILE

With degrees from Brandeis University, Texas Tech University and Cornell University, Dr. Gerald Berkowitz has been a research force in Plant Science at the University of Connecticut for the past 40 years. The recipient of numerous teaching and research awards and grants, Dr. Berkowitz serves on the editorial boards of *Frontiers of Plant Science*; *Plant Signaling & Behavior*; *The Open Nitric Oxide Journal* and *Plants*. He's a member of the American Society for Plant Biology. Dr. Berkowitz' research interests include plant signaling and pathogen defense, cannabis molecular biology and cannabis horticulture.

**DR. JASON  
WHITE**

*NECREC Lunch Speaker*

## PROFILE

With degrees in Environmental Toxicology from Cornell University and Environmental Science from Juniata College, Dr. Jason White has expertise in the use of nanotechnology in agriculture and the sustainable use of nanoscale micronutrients and other materials to suppress crop disease, increase tolerance to abiotic stress, and enhance food production. Dr. White has experience in the detection of pesticides, toxins, poisons and heavy metals for food safety and food defense. He also has expertise in the remediation of persistent organic pollutants such as PFAS in soil, as well as more generally on the fate of organic contaminants in soils, sediments, and waters. He is the Director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, CT.



## SINSEMILLA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*Mr. Nice Guy Cannabis Cultivation &  
Garden Supply Store*



Cannabis Cultivation and  
Garden Supply Store  
57 Tosam Road Wolcott CT 06716  
513 817 4367  
*"Don't Panic It's Organic"*



*Ryan Vassar, owner of Mr. Nice Guy*

## DINNER SPONSOR FOR NECREC

Ryan Vassar has been interested in plant biology since he was an Eastern student living in Occum Hall in the early 2000s. After graduating from Eastern with degrees in Biology and secondary Education in 2003, Vassar became a science teacher for 13 years. But he was still interested in the new avenues developing around growing hemp in Connecticut. After years of researching hemp and cannabis plant physiology, Vassar decided to open up a gardening business that would also help supply hemp farmers once the crop was legalized in Connecticut. He started small at 200 square feet with a motto of "Don't panic, it's organic!"

**Mr. Nice Guy** in Wolcott, CT now supplies hydroponic gardening supplies, fertilizers, soils, grow tents and greenhouse lights. Today, his operation is 2,000 square feet and still growing as producing recreational cannabis is now legal in the state.

<https://mr-nice-guy-hydroponic.business.site/>



# The Botanist™

## DINNER SPONSOR FOR NECREC

**The Botanist** was born from a desire to serve the needs of people who seek potential relief and balance, and we are proud to offer a variety of cannabis-derived products and services for our Medical Card Holders. The Botanist pharmacists help guide guests as they discover cannabis and the potential power of herbal wellness through cannabis expertise and education.

The Botanist now has locations in Montville, CT and Danbury, CT as well as 2 locations in Massachusetts, 4 locations in New York, 3 locations in New Jersey and 5 locations in Ohio.

<https://www.shopbotanist.com/locations/montville>

# NECREC 2022



## SINSEMILLA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*ECSU Foundation, Inc.*

### NECREC LUNCH SPONSOR

**The ECSU Foundation, Inc.** is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to raising funds to support programs at Eastern Connecticut State University. Incorporated in 1971, the foundation is directed by a volunteer board of business leaders and civic-minded friends of the university. In receiving the majority of charitable contributions for Eastern Connecticut State University, the foundation raises funds to support the academic quality and reputation, and fiscal health of the institution.

The foundation's top priority is growing the institution's endowment, with an emphasis on scholarships, special programs, faculty development and classroom resources.

Under the leadership of its independent board of directors, the ECSU Foundation receives gifts on behalf of the University, solicits donations, manages assets and distributes monies in accordance with prescribed procedures. The foundation exists solely for the educational support of Eastern but operates independently from the University under its own tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status.

**<https://ecsufoundation.com/>**



*Eastern's President Dr. Elsa M. Núñez addresses ECSU Foundation and guests at a scholarship reception*





## INDICA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*Willimantic Food Co-Op*

### DESSERT RECEPTION SPONSOR

**The Willimantic Food Co-Op** has been a member owned and operated food store open to members and non-members in the Willimantic community since the early 1970s. In addition to groceries, vitamins, paper goods and homeopathic remedies, the store also carries a variety of hemp and CBD products.

<https://www.willimanticfood.coop/>



## INDICA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*Leading Edge Construction*

### DESSERT RECEPTION SPONSOR

Owners Todd and Serge Lessard of **Leading Edge Construction** in Enfield have decades of experience building for the area's most successful companies. Leading Edge Construction is the most recent addition to the Lessard Family portfolio. Our new company will allow us to focus on the needs of our commercial and industrial clients in general contracting, designing, pre-construction and advisory services.

<https://www.leadingedgeconstructionllc.com/>





## INDICA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*GrowSpan Greenhouse Structures*

### DESSERT RECEPTION SPONSOR

**GrowSpan Greenhouse Structures** has been providing superior greenhouse solutions for more than four decades. We've grown as an industry-leading manufacturer of growing structures and now have a greenhouse megastore and design, financing, installation for Venlo Glass greenhouses, cannabis operations and environmental control requirements. Our company was founded with the idea that customers deserve the highest-quality products at the most competitive prices and exceptional service, and to this day, this is still our mission.

<https://www.growspan.com/>



# NECREC 2022



## SATIVA SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*Sweet Heal and Higher Health*

### NECREC BREAKFAST SPONSORS

**Sweet Heal** is a New England based farm-to-bottle hemp grower and CBD producer. Sweet Heal grows only the highest quality industrial hemp in our fields and greenhouses while partnering with local farmers to cultivate and harvest the finest genetics available. Once our crop is hand-harvested and processed, we use all-natural techniques and basic physics to extract the cannabinoids and distill premium quality, full-spectrum CBD and CBG oils.

<https://sweetheal.com/>

**Higher Health** is a medical cannabis card provider in the state of Connecticut and a Sweet Heal partner agency. Higher Health helps Connecticut residents who are over 21 and have a debilitating medical condition register with the Department of Consumer Protection and get their medical marijuana approval.

<https://www.higherhealthlife.com/>



**SWEET HEAL**  
PURITY • CLARITY • CBD

*Higher Health*

## CONFERENCE SURVEY

**SCAN THE QR CODE AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU LIKED AND NEEDS IMPROVING FOR FUTURE YEARS OF NECREC**



**Scan this code to take the survey!**

This survey should take approximately ten minutes to complete.





**LEARN MORE ABOUT EASTERN'S CANNABIS MINOR PROGRAM AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.EASTERNCT.EDU/BIOLOGY/PROGRAMS-OF-STUDY/MINORS/  
CANNABIS-CULTIVATION-AND-CHEMISTRY-MINOR.HTML](https://www.easternct.edu/biology/programs-of-study/minors/cannabis-cultivation-and-chemistry-minor.html)**





LEARN MORE ABOUT EASTERN'S CANNABIS MINOR PROGRAM AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.EASTERNCT.EDU/BIOLOGY/PROGRAMS-OF-STUDY/MINORS/  
CANNABIS-CULTIVATION-AND-CHEMISTRY-MINOR.HTML](https://www.easternct.edu/biology/programs-of-study/minors/cannabis-cultivation-and-chemistry-minor.html)



