

Lamont brings his campaign to Eastern

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WILLIMANTIC — The Democratic gubernatorial hopeful visited a younger demographic Tuesday when he stopped at Eastern Connecticut State University a week before elections.

Democrat Ned Lamont was invited to campus by the ECSU College Democrats and spoke to a small group on campus.

He spoke briefly about his positions on hot-button issues like gun control, tax cuts, women's rights, job availability and universal health care.

Lamont compared himself to his opponent, Republican Bob Stefanowski.

Stefanowski has an A+ rating from the NRA, according to Lamont.

"I would prefer keeping our Sandy Hook reforms in place," Lamont

said. "Look what happened at that synagogue. We can do better than that."

During his speech, Lamont said tax cuts to rich families will only hurt college students who are just starting out in their careers.

supports former President Barack Obama's universal health care plan, the Affordable Care Act.

After his introduction speech, students asked questions.

Students questioned Lamont on his stances on undocumented immigrants, environmental protections, the opioid epidemic and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs in public schools.

Demitra Kourtzidis, a member of ECSU College Democrats, asked Lamont how he will protect the "Dreamers," the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals students who study at ECSU.

"This is a state that needs each and every one of these folks," Lamont said. "You need a governor that respects folks, respects the



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"There will be a lot less funding right here at Eastern. That'll be reflected in your tuition," Lamont said. "That's the wrong way to go. We ought to be investing in education."

Lamont knew his crowd and was able to crack a few jokes between political ideologies.

For example, Lamont said he

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Gubernatorial candidate Ned Lamont takes a selfie with Eastern Connecticut State University senior Roland Dunham of New London during Lamont's visit Tuesday. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

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Dreamers.”

After the event, ECSU College Democrats President Alex Thompson said he was glad the Democrats and Lamont were able to make the event happen.

“Everything he says, you can tell it’s from the heart,”

Thompson said. “He plans to put Connecticut first and make people want to live here and want to work here.”

Besides students and ECSU faculty, community members like state Rep. Gregg Haddad, D-Mansfield, state Rep. Susan Johnson, D-Willimantic, and state Sen.

Mae Flexer, D-Danielson, attended.

Eastern President Elsa Núñez thanked Lamont for visiting the Willimantic campus.

“Ned is here in eastern Connecticut,” Núñez said. “Candidates go to western Connecticut and to the central part of the state.

“Very few candidates take the time to come to eastern Connecticut to talk to us as voters.”

Before Lamont spoke, Thompson said Eastern does not endorse Lamont and the university is nonpartisan.

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