

# ECSU ready to help clean up the community

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University and United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut will hold their fourth annual Day of Caring on Saturday.

The event coincides with United Way's Windham Regional Community Campaign Kickoff and will mobilize approximately 150 volunteers through Eastern's Center for Community Engagement and the University of Connecticut.

The Day of Caring is a large-scale community clean-up event and will begin at 8:15 a.m. with a community gathering in the Windham Recreation

Center's Kramer Gym at 322 Prospect St. in Willimantic.

Guest speakers will include Paula Gilberto, chief executive officer of United Way; Windham Economic Development Coordinator Jim Bellano; and Shawn Maynard of Windham Community Memorial Hospital.

With approximately 150 Eastern and UConn students, the day will be filled with painting, trail cutting and maintenance, raking and other fall clean-up projects within the community.

Student volunteers will also construct literacy kits for area children, which are designed to get students to actively

engage in book reading activities.

Volunteers will also sort through and give away school supplies, books and other donated items.

Volunteer locations will include community gardens, parks and churches.

They will also make stops at the Willimantic Housing Authority, Willimantic Whitewater Partnership, Windham No Freeze Hospitality Center, Horizons and other locations. The day will end with a community lunch in the Kramer Gym to celebrate everyone's efforts.

*For more information contact the CCE at 860-465-0090 or visit [www.easternct.edu/cce](http://www.easternct.edu/cce).*