



Eastern Connecticut State University has been closed since the middle of March. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

ECSU students express their disappointment

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WILLIMANTIC — As the spring semester wraps up at Eastern Connecticut State University, students are reflecting on what might be one of the oddest semesters in university history.

No thanks to the global coronavirus pandemic, the Eastern campus has been closed since the middle of March. Students have completed their coursework through online access only.

Eastern students will participate in a virtual commencement ceremony May 19, the same day seniors were scheduled to graduate in Hartford at the XL Center.

Eastern staff said if circumstances permit, later on, the university will attempt to hold a commencement ceremony in the fall.

The last day of classes for Eastern students is May 6.

Eastern students will take their exams virtually May 11-17.

Eastern senior Kris Wright said the campus closure has been difficult.

“I think everyone was unprepared,” Wright said. “I think professors were unprepared, I think students were unprepared.”

Wright said students are often struggling with technology and class participation limitations.

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Eastern Connecticut State University has been practically a ghost town since the campus was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

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Wright, who is majoring in economics with a concentration in business economics, is from Bethlehem.

Wright is also in the Army National Guard and was an intern with the Town of Windham this spring.

As a senior, Wright said he is especially disappointed in the lack of a commencement ceremony.

"I worked really hard to get this degree," Wright said. "I completed 46 credits this year so I could graduate. I worked hard and then that was just taken from me."

Graduating senior Alex Wright, no relation to Kris Wright, said because he plans to enter a graduate program, he knows there will be another commencement ceremony in his future.

However, losing the ability to celebrate and connect with his fellow classmates one more time

is a disappointment.

"I had plenty of friends that I only knew through class," Alex Wright said. "You lose a lot of that interaction and being able to connect with different people on different levels."

Alex Wright is a biology student from East Haddam. He is also the captain of Eastern's rugby team and volunteers at Willimantic's Covenant Soup Kitchen.

The experience this semester tested a lot of Eastern's staff and students.

"This is a demonstration of people's resilience and despite those challenges a lot of people are still working hard to finish out the year with their best abilities," Alex Wright said.

"It just speaks volumes about the type of people that are in college, both at Eastern and around the state."

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