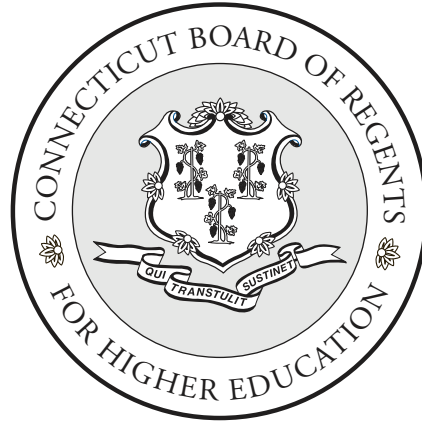




INAUGURATION ^{OF}_{THE}
SEVENTH PRESIDENT
DR. KARIM ISMAILI

Investiture Program

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025



*Board of Regents for the
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities*

Marty Guay, *Chair*

Juanita T. James, *Vice-Chair*

Richard J. Balducci

Ira Bloom

Shian Earlington

Sophia Jappinen

Richard J. Porth

Luis Sanchez-Chiriboga

Ari Santiago

Erin Stewart

Elease E. Wright

Ted Yang



DR. KARIM ISMAILI

President, Eastern Connecticut State University

Dr. Karim Ismaili is the seventh president of Eastern Connecticut State University. A first-generation immigrant college student, he brings close to three decades of experience in higher education, serving in academic and leadership roles at institutions across the United States and Canada. Before joining Eastern, he was Executive Vice President and Provost at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, where he played a key role in expanding student success initiatives, creating and strengthening academic programs and advancing educational equity. His career has also included appointments at Radford University, St. John's University, Toronto Metropolitan University and Kennesaw State University.

Born in London, Dr. Ismaili moved to Canada at age 13 to escape domestic violence. Raised by a single mother who instilled in him the values of respect and perseverance, he worked multiple jobs to support his education. His journey led him to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from Simon Fraser University, a Master of Philosophy in Criminology from the University of Cambridge and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Ismaili's professional work has been shaped by his commitment to educational access, academic excellence and the liberal arts. A scholar of crime policy and social theory, he has published widely on topics including immigration, policing and public policy. A tenured, full professor in Eastern's Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology and Social Work, Dr. Ismaili plans to teach an Eastern Liberal Arts Core (ELAC) course titled "Why Universities Matter" in fall 2025.

Dr. Ismaili is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, forward-thinking academic community that prepares students for meaningful careers and engaged citizenship. He is a strong advocate for student success, faculty innovation and partnerships that connect Eastern's mission with the needs of Connecticut and beyond.

Dr. Ismaili lives with his spouse, Wendy, and their Labrador Retriever, Gemma. He is a lifelong supporter of Liverpool Football Club and is a citizen of the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

Processional Order

Eastern Connecticut State University Senate President
Board of Regents, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
Delegates for Other Universities and Colleges
Faculty Delegates from Eastern Connecticut State University

Platform Party

Dr. Peter Bachiochi, *Faculty Speaker, Professor of Psychological Science*
Jeremy Campbell, *Vice President for Finance and Administration*
Terrence Cheng, *Chancellor, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities*
Dr. Frederick W. Clark, *President, Bridgewater State University*
Dr. LaMar Coleman, *Vice President for Equity and Diversity*
Hatshepsu Coutain-Julien '25, *Multicultural Student Leadership Council*
Gregg Crerar, *Delegate, Western Connecticut State University*
Michelle Delaney, *Vice President for Student Affairs*
Thomas DeVivo, *Mayor, Town of Windham*
Lisa Drzewucki, *Member of the Ismaili Family*
Dr. Philip Ellmore, *Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement*
Dr. Thomas Gibson '96, *Alumni Representative*
Marty Guay, *Chair, Board of Regents*
Tony Hayes, *Chief Information Officer*
Dr. Karim Ismaili, *President, Eastern Connecticut State University*
Ed Klonoski, *President, Charter Oak State College*
Dr. William Lugo, *Eastern Connecticut State University Senate President*
Dr. O. John Maduko, *President, Connecticut State Community College*
Emma McCormack '25, *Student Speaker*
Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, *President Emeritus, Bridgewater State University*
Justin Murphy '98, *President of the Board of Directors, ECSU Foundation, Inc.*
Dr. Elsa M. Núñez, *President Emerita, Eastern Connecticut State University*
Dr. Niti Pandey, *Dean of Education and Professional Studies*
Dr. Benjamin Pauley, *Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*
Dr. Dwayne Smith, *Interim President, Southern Connecticut State University*
Mia Sommers '26, *President, Student Government Association*
Anna Sucki-Lenczewski, *Delegate, Central Connecticut State University*
Dr. Emily Todd, *Dean of Arts and Sciences*
Dr. Kemesha Wilmot '05, *Dean of Students*



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Order of Exercises

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|---|---|
| Prelude | Brass Quintet |
| Processional | “Crown Imperial,” by William Walton Performed by Brass Quintet Arranged by Brian Bindner |
| Welcome | Dr. William Lugo <i>Professor of Sociology and Criminology Eastern Connecticut State University Senate President</i> |
| Musical Selection | “America the Beautiful,” by Katharine Lee Bates Performed by Dr. Emily Riggs Dr. David Ballena, <i>Accompanist</i> |
| Reading of Proclamation | State of Connecticut Designee |
| Greetings from Board of Regents | Marty Guay <i>Chair</i> |
| Greetings from Connecticut State Colleges and Universities | Terrence Cheng <i>Chancellor</i> |
| Greetings from the Eastern Community | Emma McCormack '25 <i>Senior, History Major Student Speaker</i> Dr. Peter Bachiochi <i>Professor of Psychological Science Faculty Speaker</i> |
| Musical Selection | “Measure Me, Sky!” By Leonora Speyer Performed by Eastern Concert Chorale Dr. David Belles, <i>Conductor</i> Eric Ouellette, <i>Accompanist</i> |
| Distinguished Guest Speakers | Lisa Drzewucki <i>Member of the Ismaili Family</i> Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria <i>President Emeritus Bridgewater State University</i> |
| Inaugural Presentation and Investiture of the President | Marty Guay Terrence Cheng |
| Inaugural Address | Dr. Karim Ismaili <i>President Eastern Connecticut State University</i> |
| Musical Selection | “Here Comes the Sun,” by George Harrison “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” by Oscar Hammerstein II Performed by Eastern Concert Chorale Dr. David Belles, <i>Conductor</i> Eric Ouellette, <i>Accompanist</i> |
| Adjournment of Inauguration and Recessional | Dr. William Lugo |

Delegates

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1823 <i>Trinity College</i> Suzanne Blancaflor | 1873 <i>Massachusetts College of Art and Design</i> Dr. Mary Grant Dr. Brenda Molife | 1909 <i>University of Wisconsin La Crosse</i> Dr. James M. Beeby |
| 1839 <i>Framingham State University</i> Dr. Kristen Porter-Utley | 1874 <i>Worcester State University</i> Dr. Lois Wims | 1925 <i>Albertus Magnus College</i> Kierran Broatch |
| 1839 <i>Westfield State University</i> Dr. William Salka | 1893 <i>Southern Connecticut State University</i> Dr. Dwayne Smith | 1927 <i>University of Bridgeport</i> Herron K. Gaston |
| 1840 <i>Bridgewater State University</i> Dr. Arnaa Alcon Dr. Frederick W. Clark | 1894 <i>Fitchburg State University</i> Dr. Patricia Marshall | 1932 <i>University of Saint Joseph</i> Dr. Rhona Free |
| 1849 <i>Central Connecticut State University</i> Anna Suski-Lenczewski | 1894 <i>Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts</i> Dr. James F. Birge Dr. Richard Glejzer | 1938 <i>Mitchell College</i> Dr. Elizabeth Beaulieu |
| 1854 <i>Rhode Island College</i> Dr. Jack R. Warner Sara S. Enright | 1894 <i>University of Wisconsin Stevens Point</i> Dr. Thomas Gibson | 1942 <i>Fairfield University</i> Dr. Paul Thompson |
| 1854 <i>Salem State University</i> Dr. David J. Silva | 1903 <i>Western Connecticut State University</i> Gregg Crerar | 1957 <i>University of Hartford</i> Sundeep Muppidi |
| 1863 <i>University of Massachusetts Amherst</i> Peggy Jablonski | | 1973 <i>Charter Oak State College</i> Ed Klonoski |
| | | 2023 <i>Connecticut State Community College</i> Dr. O. John Maduko |

Acknowledgments

Brass Quintet

Adam Crowe, Renée McGee, Karna Millen, Bryce Nakaoka, Kelly Watkins

Eastern Concert Chorale

Dante Adams, Jasmine Alina, Devin Arline, Clara Benedic, Taegan Botti, Temi Bradlee, Katelin Briere, Todd Butler, Zoe Calhoun, Shannon Carbonell, Emily Conte, James Crotty, Manuel De La Flor, Aria DeGrazio, Stephanie DeGrazio, Emma Ferrall, Jacob Fitts, Sarah Fortune, Marissa Freitas, Daniel Gargano, Kiyah Grady, Andrew Grzywacz, Maxfield Hand, Ian Harrington, Rachael Hutchinson, Denise Kegler, Jocelyn Kirwan, Noah Klein, Juliana Kost, Alexandra Lavelle, Li Liang, Samantha Mallory, Carolyn McDonald, Eduardo Sampaio, Fin Showalter, Melissa Snow, Jordyn Szretter, Allison Thebeau, Heather Tusch, PJ White, Jacob Wurst, Emma Yacono

Inauguration Committee

Co-Chairs

Candace DeAngelis '98

Ryan Quigley

Members

John Beck '06, M'13

Dr. David Belles

Jeremy Campbell

Dr. William Dickson Cunningham

Carmen Diaz

Dr. Philip Ellmore

Ed Figiela

Lisa Houghtaling '99

Travis Houldcroft

Dr. William Lugo

Sarah McCollum

Kristen Morgan

Lana O'Connor '93

Dr. Niti Pandey

Sheila RuJoub '14

Joe Salvaggio

Brooks Scavone

Mia Sommers '26

Dr. Sudha Swaminathan

Chief Stephen Tavares '96

Dr. Emily Todd

Kelly Watkins

Dr. Kemesha Wilmot '05

Pamela Wrinn

*The committee wishes to acknowledge the tremendous campus wide support
that contributed to the success of the inauguration celebration events.*



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, Eastern Connecticut State University—Connecticut’s public liberal arts university—has long been a pillar of academic excellence, preparing generations of students for leadership, service, and success across the state; and

*W*HEREAS, Eastern strengthens Connecticut’s workforce and economy, educating students in high-demand fields such as education, health sciences, business, data science, nursing, environmental sustainability, and the arts while fostering critical thinking, civic engagement, and lifelong learning; and

*W*HEREAS, Dr. Karim Ismaili was appointed as the seventh president of Eastern Connecticut State University, bringing nearly three decades of leadership in higher education and a steadfast commitment to student success, academic excellence, and educational equity; and

*W*HEREAS, Dr. Ismaili is an internationally recognized scholar in crime policy and social theory, holding a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario, an M.Phil. in Criminology from the University of Cambridge, and a B.A. in Criminology from Simon Fraser University; and

*W*HEREAS, Dr. Ismaili’s vision aligns with Connecticut’s commitment to public higher education, positioning Eastern as a leader in preparing students for a competitive, evolving world while upholding the values of free speech, civic engagement, and community service; and

*W*HEREAS, Dr. Ismaili’s personal journey—from first-generation immigrant college student to university president—exemplifies the transformative power of education and reflects Eastern’s mission to inspire and empower students from all backgrounds; and

*W*HEREAS, Dr. Ismaili is proud to call Connecticut home, embracing its vibrant communities and rich history while also maintaining his lifelong enthusiasm for Liverpool Football Club and enjoying time with his spouse, Wendy, and their Labrador Retriever, Gemma; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, in recognition of Dr. Karim Ismaili’s dedication to Connecticut’s students, leadership in public higher education, and commitment to Eastern Connecticut State University, do hereby officially proclaim the day of April 11, 2025, to be

Dr. Karim Ismaili Day

in the State of Connecticut. I encourage all citizens to recognize his contributions to our state’s educational excellence and Eastern’s role in shaping Connecticut’s future.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR

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The Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation, Inc.

Presidential Strategic Initiatives Fund

Join us in shaping the future of Eastern Connecticut State University by contributing to the Presidential Strategic Initiatives Fund. Your generosity helps support student scholarships, enhance academic programs, invest in faculty and staff development and strengthen student services. Gifts to this fund empower President Ismaili to advance initiatives that uphold Eastern's mission and values.







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