

CAMPUS BRIEFS



National Science Foundation awards \$650,000 to Eastern for Success Scholars program

Eastern has been awarded a \$649,957 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to implement a scholarship program for lower-income students in pursuit of science-related careers. Titled “Beyond the Curriculum: A Learning Community for Success,” students accepted into the program — who are designated “Success Scholars” — will receive an annual scholarship and benefit from a supportive STEM education rooted in the liberal arts.



Each scholarship is valued at \$9,750 per year for four years. Five students will be accepted for the initial fall 2021 cohort. The program is tailored for students who intend to pursue

science-related careers, have a demonstrated financial need, have a high school GPA of 3.4 or higher, and plan to major in biology or mathematics.

“Many lower-income students are from underrepresented groups, and often are the first in their family to attend a university,” said Barbara Murdoch, biology professor and director of the Success Scholars program. “Navigating the university system to the final goal of degree completion can be tough, especially without guidance. A key feature of this program is to provide the NSF Eastern Success Scholars with close faculty and peer mentoring, to support them throughout every aspect of their time at Eastern.”

Eastern reaffirms commitment to climate

After the Biden Administration formally rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement on Feb. 19, Eastern united with thousands of communities and organizations to sign the “America Is All In” promise, a national effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.



Following its own track record of sustainability as well as the guidance laid out in the University’s Climate Action Plan — which was revised in late 2020 — Eastern has set a more ambitious goal than the one established by America

Is All In. Eastern’s pledge is to achieve carbon neutrality on campus by 2030, rather than 2050.

As outlined in its Climate Action Plan, Eastern’s three-pronged approach aims to increase efficiency and lower the carbon footprint of campus operations, nurture a sustainability-minded campus culture, and support sustainability beyond Eastern’s borders in communities throughout Connecticut.

Building on the progress of Eastern’s first Climate Action Plan in 2009, the 2020 revised plan focuses on short-term, intermediate and long-term strategies to be implemented within the current decade.

3 Eastern faculty receive Board of Regents Awards

The Board of Regents honored three Eastern faculty members in its annual Faculty Awards program this past April. The awards recognize distinguished faculty from the 17 institutions in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

Eastern awardees include History Professor **Thomas Balcerski**, recipient of the statewide faculty research award; English Professor **Susan DeRosa**, recipient of Eastern’s campus-based teaching award for full-time faculty; and Sociology Lecturer **Brenda Westberry**, recipient of the campus-based teaching award for part-time faculty.

Balcerski is a scholar of early American history with a focus on the Antebellum period. His teaching interests include African American History, American popular culture, environmental history and U.S. presidential history. His knowledge of U.S.

Awards continued

presidents and the political history surrounding them has made Balcerski a popular contributor for CNN, the Washington Post, Smithsonian Magazine, Time, NBC News, C-Span, the BBC and other media outlets.

DeRosa is a rhetoric and writing studies specialist whose most recent research is on multi-modal writing theories, first-year college writers and writing center pedagogy. In addition to creating three new courses in Eastern's English major, as well as helping to develop the Creative Writing concentration, DeRosa supports student writers on independent study projects, internships and honors theses.



Thomas Balcerski



Susan DeRosa



Brenda Westberry

While teaching part time at Eastern since 2001, Westberry also serves as an adult probation officer in Connecticut's Court Support Services Division, an experience she shares with her students. Westberry brings her unique perspective to courses ranging from Criminal Justice and Society to Violence in Relationships, Victimology and others.

Gomez-Stafford and Beazoglou named 2020-21 Barnard Scholars

Biology major **Justin Gomez-Stafford '21** and Business Administration major **Hannah Beazoglou '21** are this year's recipients of the Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Awards. The award is the highest undergraduate distinction presented by the Connecticut State Universities system, which annually honors 12 students from the four state universities.



Gomez-Stafford is pursuing a master's degree in human genetics and genetic counseling at Stanford University. His undergraduate career can be defined by academic and athletic excellence, leadership and a commitment to social justice. He aspires to diversify the healthcare field and improve the lives of marginalized people.

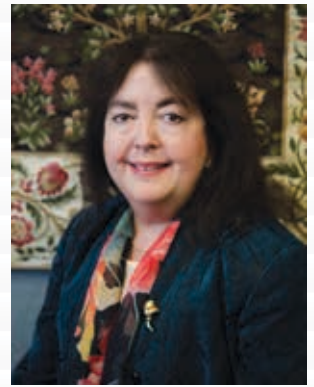
"I feel ready to take on this new journey thanks to Eastern's rigorous curriculum and incredibly knowledgeable faculty, who molded me into a better scholar year after year."

Beazoglou is working in the General Management Development Program at CVS Health. She was a member of the University's competitive Honors Program and her research concerning hospitalization rates landed her presentations at regional and national conferences.

"I have countless memories of my time at Eastern. The most impactful are the strong relationships that I've been able to develop with so many professors who supported me and encouraged me to take risks."

Deans Cid and Scott retire

The Eastern community bid farewell to two longstanding administrators this past spring semester. **Carmen Cid**, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and **Elizabeth Scott**, dean of the School of Professional Studies, retired from their posts, with Scott returning to the faculty for the fall 2021 semester.



Carmen Cid



Elizabeth Scott

Cid's Eastern career spans 34 years, first as an ecologist in the Biology Department and later as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, overseeing 14 departments, 21 majors and 45 minors.

A tireless advocate for undergraduate research and STEM advancement, Cid has also worked to advance women and minorities in the sciences over the past three decades. In her retirement she will serve as the Ecological Society of America's vice president for education and human resources — a term that runs through 2024.

Scott came to Eastern in 2002 as an associate professor in the Business Administration Department. She served as coordinator of Eastern's master's degree in organizational management (MSOM) from 2002–18 before being named interim dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies.

Her research interests in organizational ethics and justice led to her participation in a Fulbright-Hays Seminar in China and being an invited visiting researcher at Melbourne University in Australia. She has also served as managing editor of "Business Ethics Quarterly," a top journal in the field, for the past 14 years.

Scott will return to the faculty for the fall 2021 semester in the Management and Marketing Department and will retire on Jan. 1, 2022.