

Tribal chief to speak at ECSU graduation

HARTFORD/WILLIMANTIC — Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba, chief of the Mohegan Tribe, will be the commencement speaker at Eastern Connecticut State University’s 129th Commencement Exercises on May 21.

Commencement will be at the XL Center in Hartford.

Malerba will also receive an honorary doctorate degree at the ceremonies.

She has worked in the health care and tribal governance fields.

Malerba became the 18th chief of the Mohegan Tribe on Aug. 15, 2010, and is the first female chief in the tribe’s modern history.

The position is a lifetime appointment made by the tribe’s council of elders.

She previously served as chairperson of the tribal council and was also executive director of health and human services for the tribal government.

Prior to her work for the Mohegan Tribe, Malerba was a registered nurse and served as director of cardiology and pulmonary services at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London.

She earned her doctor of nursing practice degree at Yale University and was named a Jonas Scholar.

Malerba has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Connecticut and has an honorary doc-



Marilynn ‘Lynn’ Malerba, chief of the Mohegan Tribe. Contributed photo

torate from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Malerba has achieved a national reputation as an advocate and supporter of health issues and the welfare of native peoples.

She is chairperson of the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee of the Federal Indian Health Services; a member of the U.S. Justice Department’s Tribal Nations Leadership Council; serves on

the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health; is a member of the U.S. Treasury Department’s Tribal Advisory Committee; and serves as a technical expert on the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

Malerba also serves as the United South and Eastern Tribes board of directors secretary and is a member of the board of directors for the Ms. Foundation for Women.

In Connecticut, Malerba serves as a trustee for Chelsea Groton Bank, as a board member for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, as an advisory committee member for the Harvard University Native American Program and served on the board of directors for Lawrence Memorial Hospital for 11 years.

More than 1,200 undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas at Eastern’s graduation exercises on May 21, with an audience of more than 10,000 family and friends expected.

In addition to Malerba, dignitaries expected to attend include Eastern President Elsa Núñez; Mark Ojakian, president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System; and Merle Harris, vice chairman of the Board of Regents for Higher Education.