

Dr. Elsa M. Nuñez

On May 18, 2006, Dr. Elsa M. Nuñez was unanimously elected by the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System as the sixth president of Eastern Connecticut State University. She assumed the Office of the President on August 4, 2006. Dr. Nuñez is the first Latina president of a Connecticut State University.

Prior to her appointment as President of Eastern Connecticut State University, Dr. Nuñez was vice chancellor for academic and student affairs of the University of Maine System from 2003–2006, where she oversaw all academic matters related to the System's seven universities. Her responsibilities included new program approval, faculty reappointments, promotion, tenure, and academic and student policies.

Before joining the Maine System, Dr. Nuñez served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Lesley University where she was responsible for the university's six schools, as well as student affairs, the library, and the office of admissions. She joined Lesley from Wheelock College, where she served as the vice president for academic affairs. From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Nuñez was the dean for academic affairs and vice chancellor for student affairs at The City University of New York. Her administrative career began at the College of Staten Island of The City University of New York where she was Dean of the Faculty from 1986 to 1992. Dr. Nuñez began her academic career as a tenured faculty member at Ramapo State University the public liberal arts college of New Jersey, where she taught English. She also has held tenured faculty positions at the College of Staten Island of the City University of New York, and Lehman College of the City University of New York.

Dr. Nuñez received a bachelor's degree from Montclair State College in 1970. She then earned a master's degree in English from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1973 and a doctorate in linguistics from Rutgers University in 1979.

Dr. Nuñez has received several fellowships during her career, including the American Council on Education Fellow in Academic Administration and Hispanic Leadership Fellow in Academic Administration in New Jersey. Dr. Nuñez was selected as one of three Outstanding Women of the Year by Governor Thomas Kean of New Jersey in 1987. She is the author of *Pursuing Diversity* (1992) and has published articles in the areas of language acquisition, diversity, retention and student success in higher education, and cultural differences in education.

Dr. Nuñez, who was born and raised in Puerto Rico, is married to Richard Freeland, who stepped down as president of Northeastern University in 2006. They have two children, Maria, a medical student at George Washington University, and Antony, an information technology professional who lives and works in New Haven.