

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019 DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



EASTERN
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

83 WINDHAM STREET • WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT 06226 • 860-465-5000

July 1, 2019

2018-2019 Student Affairs Yearly Report

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Division of Student Affairs continued its mission to create a supportive and challenging environment seeking to increase the academic achievement and personal excellence of our students at Eastern Connecticut State University. Throughout the Division, our Strategic Plan and our units' Operating Plans continue to chart a course of meaningful experiences and expansive learning opportunities for our students.

We assist our students with their own learning and development outside of the classroom which will distinguish them from peers and give them educational opportunities making them more competitive in the marketplace beyond Eastern.

This annual report highlights the work that occurred within the Division of Student Affairs at Eastern Connecticut State University for the 2018-19 academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Diaz".

Walter Diaz, Ed.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs



MISSION STATEMENT

The Division of Student Affairs creates a supportive and challenging environment that is conducive to academic achievement and is responsive to student needs through inclusive excellence. The Division prepares students to be successful leaders in a global society through programs and services that enhance student learning, personal and professional development, and civic responsibility.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan was developed through the collaborative and intentional work of the Division's Assessment Committee and department staff in response to the 2013-18 University Strategic Plan. Through this plan, we seek to engage our students in meaningful ways, connecting them to experiences that separate them from their peers in higher education and provide both an intellectual epiphany and a competitive edge in the marketplace. Facilitating first year students to become engaged and then graduate four years later as significantly more sophisticated and articulate leaders for our society is an outcome that we seek for our students. That Eastern experience, grounded in the liberal arts, is what separates this University from its peers and is what will foster the potential of each of our students. The strategic initiatives identified will inform our work and will challenge us to reach the next level. Our goal is to become one of the leading student services programs among our peer institutions by placing emphasis on both the intellectual and interpersonal growth of the students we serve.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Retention

The connections that Student Affairs staff make with students are integral to the successful retention and graduation of Eastern students. The Division of Student Affairs will

1. Develop strategies to meet the needs of a diverse and changing student population, e.g., at-risk, first generation, transfer, veterans, honors, athletes, students with disabilities;
2. Increase student awareness of University support services;
3. Effectively engage with students to create meaningful student impact;
4. Enhance collaborations with academic departments and faculty to support student success; and
5. Increase collaboration with the Financial Aid Office to ensure staff members are familiar with financial support opportunities for students.

Assessment

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to an intentional, rigorous, and honest assessment of the programs and services provided by its offices. The purpose of such assessment is to foster

a culture of learning within Student Affairs that determines the collective impact of the entire division on the education and development of Eastern students. The Division of Student Affairs will assess its programs and services through

1. Development of goals and measurable outcomes;
2. Measurement and analysis through quality assessment tools and strategies;
3. Benchmarking for evaluation of best practices; and
4. Application of results for continuous improvement.

Engagement

Students who are actively engaged invest their time and efforts in activities that

1. Encourage personal, social and professional development;
2. Nurture curiosity and learning;
3. Forge a connection with their peers, the University, and the community; and
4. Develop the ability to mutually respect and understand others.

The Division of Student Affairs will focus its efforts to enhance student engagement in several key areas:

1. Leadership development.
2. Cultural, social, and athletic activities.
3. Personal development, wellness, and positive decision-making.
4. Experiential education and community engagement.

Professional Development

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to developing the knowledge and skills of our students and staff members. We value the education and career development of each student and employee and believe professional development is essential to promoting a standard of excellence within a learning organization. We focus on continued development of students and team members to ensure intentional preparation for the work of Student Affairs. The professional development process includes

1. Formal and informal learning strategies for professional and personal growth;
2. Knowledge that is shared, skills that are expanded, new thinking and ideas that are stimulated and models of cooperation and collaboration and are provided to strengthen the community; and
3. A lifelong commitment that includes development of skills at varying levels and at different stages throughout the career path.

Enhancing and Sustaining a Culture of Inclusion

The Division of Student Affairs will provide effective leadership and support to create an inclusive life-long learning environment in support of the University's Core Value of Inclusion. The Division will

1. Promote inclusive excellence across the Division of Student Affairs and the University;

2. Plan and deliver programs and services that embrace and advance the University's commitment to inclusiveness;
3. Enhance efforts to improve the diversity climate within campus life;
4. Pursue opportunities to collaborate with the academic community in areas that will enhance diversity and multicultural competence; and
5. Develop and implement effective strategies to recruit, hire and retain a diverse student workforce within the division.

Enable Academic Achievement for All Students

Student academic achievement is a core value of the University and is central to the mission of the Division of Student Affairs. In keeping with Eastern's liberal arts mission, the division will provide support for and will facilitate transformative student experiences that integrate academic learning with student development through

1. Assisting and engaging students in their academic and co-curricular experience;
2. Development of student learning objectives and outcomes for all programs and services that connect to students' academic experiences;
3. Partnerships with academic departments and programs to meet the needs of students; and
4. Alignment divisional learning goals and departmental learning outcomes with the University's Strategic Plan.

PLANNING TO ASSESS STUDENT LEARNING:

WARRIORS ASSESS FOR SUCCESS!

We assess all our programs in Student Affairs, so we can assure we have useful data in making decisions that drive change and improvements in all our units' offerings. Assessment gives insight to our work and informs us if students are learning in all the programs we offer outside of the classroom.

What We Measure

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

OAS: Student coaches understand concerns and provide academic and social skills development. Research tools to assist students and develop workshops based on student population needs.

WELLNESS: Student workers collaborate with professional staff to facilitate programming. Students learn to write operational mission, goals, objectives and assessment measures for their respective programs

STUDENT CONDUCT: Student employees read selected material and write reflections on them in consideration of Student Conduct's mission. Readings ranged from policy to field work. Student Employees must relate the reading to the work within the office.

Oral and Written Communication

OAS: Student coaches in person and through email to address student concerns and needs, relaying valuable information to clients. They also present workshops and create the OAS newsletter.

CCE: Held fourth Civic Action Conference for Eastern faculty on November 14, 2018. 12 presenters spoke on the themes of Writing Assignments to Promote Civic Action, Employability and Community Engagement, Higher Education as a Public Good, and Community Engagement Research. 35 faculty attended.

CICD: Walk-In Resume Critique Day Collaborated with Alumni Affairs to bring back professional alumni to review resumes

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Professional development is incorporated into staff meetings covering topics such as resume writing, effective communication, problem solving, teamwork, customer service and leadership

WELLNESS: All student employees have been asked to report in writing to the Coordinator ways in which they feel they have addressed each employment competency, to be added to their permanent file. These are reviewed with the student annually or as they prepare for resume review and career placement.

Digital Technology

OAS: Student workers effectively use Microsoft excels, create flyers for events and contact the copy center to print them, effectively communicate through email, use Outlook calendar to maintain OAS Support Program appointments. Student workers explore and create tutorials for new assistive technology equipment, SmartPens.

Teamwork and Collaboration

OAS: coaches have collaborated with the campus organizations, such as: Pride Center, DiversAbility Club, Career Center, and 3 on 3 End Relationship Violence Basketball Tournament/Awareness committee

WELLNESS: All student employees are expected to research and develop material for one Wellness program of their choosing per year, present material for outreach and develop quantitative and/or qualitative assessment measures.

Leadership

HOUSING: Residential student, Abigail DeMarkey, has been elected to the position of Regional Director for the Northeast Affiliate of College & University Residence Halls (NEACURH) which is under the umbrella of the National Association of College & University Residence Halls (NACURH). This is the first time Eastern has been represented in a leadership capacity with this professional leadership organization.

OAS: coaches provide resources to motivate students, such as: Stress Management Workshops, Time Management skills

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Participation in Student leadership positions and programs.

Professionalism

OAS: student workers are held to a standard which mandates confidentiality of OAS registered students and any sensitive information. This is emphasized during initial student worker trainings and monitored through supervisions.

HEALTH SERVICES: employs student workers who gain experience about office management, working with confidential health information, organizing, multitasking and interpersonal communication.

WELLNESS: all students working within the Office must maintain a professional demeanor and are expected to act in an ethical manner with attention to confidentiality.

Career Management

STUDENT CONDUCT: This academic year, 4 of our 5 student workers were criminology majors. The other student employee has a criminology minor. This led to many great conversations about transferable skills after graduation. We also instituted a weekly project for all student employees to complete. This ranged from reading and reflecting on articles within the field, court cases, current policies, or suggested policy revision. Create/establish undergraduate Communications internship with OAS, focused on Outreach services and Public relations.

Global and Cultural Literacy

ARTHUR L. JOHNSON UNITY WING: Students who serve as ambassadors or are members of the Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC) within the Arthur L. Johnson Unity Wing will excel while building meaningful connections with individuals of diverse backgrounds.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2018-2019 Office of Accessibility

Mission: The Office of AccessAbility Services (OAS) philosophy and mission is to encourage independence, assist students in realizing their academic potential, and to facilitate the elimination of physical, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers. The OAS works to assist individuals with disabilities in meeting their educational challenges successfully. The OAS guides its work with best practices under the strategic plan of the University and the Division of Student Affairs. OAS services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of students with documented permanent and temporary disabilities such as ADHD, ASD, learning disabilities, psychological disabilities, deafness and hearing impairments, blindness and visual impairments, and physical disabilities.

Highlights

- ✓ The OAS Scholarship Committee awarded \$1,000 Scholarships to four students with disabilities.
- ✓ The OAS hosted 12 outreach events open to all students on campus.
- ✓ 18 Programming Initiatives

By the numbers

- ✓ Student numbers served. Numbers are rising!
- ✓ Letter of Accommodation:
 - 1135 Letters (14-15)
 - 1290 Letters (15-16)
 - 1356 Letters (16-17)
 - 1470 Letters (17-18)
 - 1542 Letters (18-19).
- ✓ Exams Proctored by Testing Center:
 - 619 Exams (14-15)
 - 680 Exams (15-16)
 - 802 Exams (16-17)
 - 894 Exams (17-18)
 - 1125 Exams (18-19).

2018-2019 Athletics

Mission: By placing its highest priority on the overall quality of the liberal arts educational experience, Eastern Connecticut State University's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Intramurals & Recreation seeks to integrate its programs and goals with academic and developmental objectives and to assure the assimilation of student-athletes into the general student body. To achieve this end:

- Eastern offers a broad-based, Division III athletic program aimed at safeguarding the amateur aspects of the various sports and maintaining the proper perspective of athletics within the academic mission of the University.
- Eastern encourages male and female students from all backgrounds to participate in some component of the athletic program to develop their full potential, so they may contribute more effectively to our society and live richer, fuller lives.
- Eastern places emphasis on good sportsmanship on the part of student-athletes, both when engaged in competition and when supporting their peers from the stands.
- Eastern offers a quality co-curricular athletic program that positively affects the health and wellbeing of the student population, either directly through participation, or indirectly through spectatorship and school spirit.

Highlights

- ✓ Won NCAA Division III Ethnic Minority & Women's Internship Grant for 2018-2020. Position is Coordinator of Student-Athlete, Success, Employability and Inclusion.
- ✓ ***Little East Commissioner's Cup 3rd year in a row!!*** Only Keene won this for the first 16 years of the conference, now we have won 3 straight titles!
- ✓ Day of Giving: Raised \$60,360 (increase of \$27,176!!) + match of \$45181= \$105,542.

By the numbers

- ✓ ***Women's softball (36-13). Little East Conference Champion.*** Advanced to the NCAA World Series (semifinal) in Tyler, Texas.
- ✓ ***Women's volleyball (23-7). Little East Conference Champion.*** Most wins in 12 years. 17th NCAA tournament appearance.
- ✓ ***Women's basketball (19-9). Little East Conference Champion.*** 17th NCAA tournament appearance.

First-Year athlete retention was 92.5% (above campus average)

2018-2019 Center for Community Engagement

Mission: The Center for Community Engagement supports the mission and vision of Eastern Connecticut State University by providing resources to build a culture of civic responsibility and engaged learning. The CCE creates sustainable, effective, and productive relationships with community partners that benefit students, faculty and the community.

Highlights

- ✓ In FY19 the Center for Community Engagement applied for and received over \$100,000 in grant funding to support and expand community-based mentoring and tutoring programming.

By the numbers

- ✓ 41 weekly programs with 56 weekly shifts. 95 one-time events.
- ✓ More than 1,100 individual students volunteered through the Center for Community Engagement in AY19, completing 37,561 hours of service in the local Windham community.
- ✓ The value of volunteer time from Independent Sector is \$25.43, resulting in \$677,099 worth of services to the local community.
- ✓ In the 10 years that the Center for Community Engagement has been open, 10,718 students have contributed 149,494 hours totaling more than \$3.8 million to the greater Windham community.
- ✓ The CCE sponsored 37 tutoring and mentoring programs at all grade levels from pre-K to high school, involving 1,068 volunteers and providing 18,867 hours of tutoring and mentoring engagement.
- ✓ This year we saw a 30% increase in the hours completed by students in service-learning classes and a 30% increase in the number of service-learning volunteers.
- ✓ 38% increase in student volunteers in service-learning courses (390); 30% increase in service-learning volunteer hours (7,197); 93% increase in faculty (from 14 to 27), 27% increase in service-learning course sections (from 33 to 42).

Graduation Rates!

- ✓ There is a very large gap in the graduation rates between CCE Volunteers and the general undergraduate population. Of students who entered Eastern in fall, 2013, there is a 22-point difference in the 4-year graduation rate (68% of CCE volunteers vs. 46% of all undergraduates).

“Volunteering impacted my identity by allowing me to not judge people based on social labels, it has allowed me to better interact with those who are older than me and has reassured me of my love for helping my community.” -Student Volunteer

2018-2019 Center for Internships and Career Development

Mission: The Center for Internships and Career Development provides advising and resources to actively engage students in the lifelong process of career development. Our mission is to encourage students to

- Explore the process of self-evaluation and career exploration by utilizing our 4 Year Career Plan ;
- Network and engage with employers through career education programs and career fairs;
- Participate in pre-professional and experiential learning opportunities, such as internships, co-ops, joining clubs and organizations and taking part in volunteer activities; and
- Engage in office programs to acquire integrative skills connected to goal setting, life planning and the internship and job search process.

Highlights

- ✓ Established a Career Studio. The Career Studio model has become a popular component within many collegiate career service offices and our office joined the movement by initiating a studio the Fall of 2018. The purpose of our Career Studio is to provide a location for students to receive peer to peer messaging related to their career development on a drop-in basis, no appointment necessary.
- ✓ Facilitated a Career Readiness Conference for Sophomore students in January 2019. There were 92 students that participated in the conference.

By the numbers

- ✓ It should also be noted that first year student interaction rose by 66%.
- ✓ 85% of employers surveyed at the Career & Internship Fair reported that they were very satisfied with the fair,
- ✓ It was also found that 84% of the employers surveyed stated that most, if not all, of the students they spoke with projected a professional & well-groomed appearance and greeted them appropriately with enthusiasm, eye contact & a strong handshake.
- ✓ Increased internship postings from AY18 = 992 to AY19=2,235. 114% increase in new employers posting on Eastern's website!
- ✓ Increased on campus employers from AY18=135 to AY19=162
- ✓ Increased student use of Eastern Career Network from AY18=543 to AY19=928. 71% Increase!

2018-2019 Counseling

Mission: The mission of Counseling and Psychological Services is to provide a resource for the students of Eastern who are in need of information, support, consultation and /or clinical intervention. It is the belief of our professional staff that an essential part of a student's education involves developing an understanding of themselves and how they interact with the world around them. Ultimately, our services are designed to help students mature and work toward obtaining more fulfilling educational, vocational and personal lives during their time at Eastern and beyond. Although our primary goal is to serve the mental health and developmental needs of students, we also serve as a source of information, consultation and support to faculty and staff.

Highlights

- ✓ Bryce Crapser earned a Ph.D., in Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology May 2018.

By the Numbers

- ✓ Increased direct service hours from 3325 hours to 4495 hours (increase of 33%)
- ✓ Increased group counseling offerings from 42 group appointments to 70 group appointments
- ✓ Number of unique clients increased from 391 to 548 students
- ✓ Student demand for counseling services increased 33% from the previous year; which were met without using a formal wait list, through a variety of approaches:
- ✓ CAPS Staff engaged in 48 Outreach opportunities, which totaled over 1400 total student attendance

“Doing counseling through CAPS was one of the best decisions I have ever made. (CAPS Counselor) has helped me in so many ways and she always make me feel very comfortable when talking to her about issues that I'm having. She is by far the best counselor I have ever had after many attempts with different counselors and therapists. She has helped me gain so much confidence and helped me heal after some very dark times.”

2018-2019 Health Services

Mission: Student Health Services continued to successfully execute its mission to promote the lifelong health and well-being of Eastern's students through the provision of accessible, comprehensive, caring, confidential, and cost-effective primary health care and educational outreach. Staff was able to meet the demand for high quality healthcare & confidential services, maintaining equal levels of healthcare services across a diverse group of students. Services included providing easy access to same day and next day appointments, as well as urgent walk-in visits.

Highlights

- ✓ Hiring of new highly qualified APRN provider to fill vacant full-time 12-month position.
- ✓ Providing free STD testing to 112 students during April's GYT (Get Yourself Tested) campaign.
- ✓ Secured funding for necessary medical procedures for 34 uninsured students. Total of \$8461.90 was used to support student health needs, with most requests below \$500.

By the numbers

- ✓ Achieving a 98% compliance rate for MMR immunization requirements for incoming students.
- ✓ SHS conducted 4510 medical appointments during the 2018-2019 AY (Up from 4413 in previous year.)

"I feel so special to know that you were thinking about me. You are the best health care professional I have seen so far in USA and Canada...Thank you so much."

2018-2019 Housing and Residential Life

Mission: The Office of Housing and Residential Life strives to provide a nurturing, safe, enriching environment that fosters lifelong learning and allows students to grow intellectually and socially. Students will be exposed to an interactive living-learning experience that provides hands-on opportunities to interact with students in the residential communities designed to make their college experience meaningful.

Highlights

- ✓ Six Week Challenge (SWEEP) sponsored 54 events and had a total attendance count of 8,753 first year students (up from 5,135 a 70% increase) between those programs during the fall semester.
- ✓ Partnered with the Office of Wellness Promotions & Education to sponsor an Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Education Workshop attended by 894 (94%) of first year students.
- ✓ Paul Serignese, was recognized by the university and was awarded the Excellence in Service to the University Award at the University Meeting.

By the numbers

- ✓ Housing sponsors 15 Theme Housing Communities that house approximately 270 students. Theme housing students are retained at a rate of 92%.
- ✓ 100% compliance of all residential students having taken and passed the online “Not Anymore” Training.
- ✓ 60% of all student workers (RAs, OAs, DAs, etc.) who work for Housing are students of color.
- ✓ Weekend Programs. 327 weekend programs were sponsored by Housing & Residential Life that were attended by 9,500 students, up from 137 weekend programs with 5,230 attendance for the last academic year (2017-2018).
- ✓ Overall programming attendance for residential students has increased from last year. This year, 31,120 students attended residential programs compared to 30,222 students during the last academic year (2017-2018).

2018-2019 Student Activities

Mission:

Student Activities office works to provide a supportive and challenging environment that is conducive to academic achievement and is responsive to student needs through inclusive excellence. Our offerings, in line with the mission of the Division of Student Affairs, seek to engage our students in meaningful ways, connecting them to experiences that separate them from their peers in higher education and allow for opportunities that contribute to their employability after Eastern.

The staff in the Student Activities office strive to support new and returning students to actively engage as learners among their peers and ultimately graduate as employable leaders through co-curricular learning, both on and off campus. Our staff support clubs and organizations to plan and execute educational, social and community service driven events. We also provide several department initiatives to support an enhanced, engaging experience for the students of Eastern, helping them to feel connected to Eastern, be retained, and provide experiences that will promote employability, professional development, and a culture of inclusion.

Highlights

- ✓ CAB won the NACA Excellence in Programming award at the 2018 Regional Conference in Hartford.
- ✓ Senior Reception location at a new venue, Foxwoods Resort Casino with increased attendance of approximately 175 students (60 more than last year).

By the numbers

- ✓ 100 Events in 2018-2019 with a total of 14,077 attendees!
- ✓ Several new clubs were established bring our total to over 100 clubs by the end of the spring semester
- ✓ MEDLife Club, LatinX Dance Sensation, Rowing Club, Space Club, Muslim Student Association, Student Center Section Club, Natural Hair Club, K Pop Club, Sociology Club, Wrestling Club, Debate Club, Investment Club.
- ✓ Spring 2019 Freshman-Students in Clubs 3.00, Students Not in Clubs 2.31; Overall total-Students in Clubs 3.11, Students Not in clubs 2.81
- ✓ Fall 2018 Freshman-Students in Clubs 3.04, Students Not in Clubs 2.63; Overall total-Students in Clubs 3.16, Students Not in Club 2.87
- ✓ SOAR- 2019 SOCs were rated 4.79 of 5 or higher in helpfulness, friendliness, knowledge of campus, ability to answer questions and professionalism

2018-2019 Student Conduct

Mission: The Office of Student Conduct is both instructional and educational in design while providing protection to the academic community in a collegiate setting. It provides students with core values and lessons on how to act as a responsible adult in a community-based living-learning environment. Through this process, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and realize that the University, by design, is its own community.

Highlights

- ✓ Facilitated the first Title IX support person training made available to all faculty and staff
- ✓ Planned and implemented the first ever Student Conduct event series with programs that focused on areas such as community standards and campus climate

By the numbers

- ✓ A 22% reduction in recidivism (number of students found responsible for a second code of conduct violation within 18-19 academic year)
- ✓ An increase in cases heard by the Director of Student Conduct increased from 87 in the 17-18 academic year to 100 in the 18-19 academic year
- ✓ 84% of students could identify where to find the Student Code of Conduct
- ✓ 80% of students found responsible for code of conduct violations felt respected during the conduct process
- ✓ Only 16% of students felt like they were treated unfairly during the hearing process
- ✓ 76% of students agree that their experience with the conduct process has helped them identify possible alternatives for dealing with similar situations in the future (14% were neutral)

2018-2019 Unity Wing

Mission: The Arthur L. Johnson Unity Wing promotes and creates a strong inclusive community amongst students, faculty, staff and administrators that reflects Eastern's core values of academic excellence, engagement, inclusion, integrity, empowerment, and social responsibility. Through meaningful connections and outreach, we establish strong partnerships across campus, with the Willimantic community and around the State of Connecticut to increase engagement and accountability to the level of awareness and responsibility. The Arthur L. Johnson Unity Wing is a visible symbol at Eastern that reflects who and what Eastern stands for.

➤ *Intercultural Center Highlights*

The Intercultural Center directly facilitated a healing circle for processing grief surrounding violence against Muslims around the globe and organized an Iftar, the evening meal which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset.

➤ *Pride Center Highlights*

Organizations including the Pride Alliance, campus departments, Housing & Residential Life (i.e. Gender-Neutral Housing), the Social Work Department, local organizations such as AIDS CT, former representatives such as Evelyn Mantilla, brought visibility onto our campus. Socials and interactive programs highlighted the location of the Pride Center, along with open mic nights to bring the community together, LOVE+ to educate people on healthy relationships, and many more enabled our interaction with hundreds of students.

➤ *Women's Center*

Taking seriously the issues of gender-based violence, Eastern continued its commitment to the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women grant, the Center worked to fulfill and sustain the "Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Safe and Friend Environment Project (CSCU SAFE)." Remained proactive in sponsoring a total of nineteen workshops, and training over 205 students, mostly student athletes, who were educated. Inspired and empowered to identify problematic situations, interrupt, and respond to problematic situations.

SEXUAL ASSAULT & INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM (SAIV-RT)

First Year students entering the institution do not know the behaviors that constitute as interpersonal violence, how to intervene, and the resources available to provide support.

Along with in-person training provided to first year students and transfer student during orientation, online programs including "Not Anymore," expand the scope of information literacy. This year students were mandated to complete the platform, which resulted in these students learning about essential resources that shaped their development and recognition of issues of gender-based violence, their response, and resources for responding to the impact of such behaviors.

2018-2019 VETS Center

Mission: The VETS Center aims to help veteran students and their families by providing resources and opportunities that further allow these students to excel in their academic careers during their time at Eastern. Our goal is to promote the VETS Center as a safe space for veteran students and their family members to relax as well as study, while providing resources ranging from food to textbooks.

Highlights

- ✓ Increased generation of new programs to include Workout Wednesday, Ruck March, and Military Talks; all of which helped to increase visibility and/or monetary donations to the Books-for-Vets Scholarship.
 - Ruck March- In the 2019 Spring Semester, the VETS Center hosted a 5-mile ruck march at the Mansfield Hollow Dam.
 - The team effort built camaraderie, raised over \$350 for the Books-for-VETS scholarship, provided physical exercise and experience, and ended with snacks, drinks, and grinders as a reward and thank you for their time and commitment.
 - Granting of Books-for-Vets Scholarship to 5 students.
- ✓ A continuous Workout Wednesday program was successfully executed this year and will continue the following semester. While the program typically ran on Wednesdays, accommodations were made to meet the busy schedules of students who wished to improve their physical abilities.
 - The mission of this program was to provide students with guidance for physical activity in an accommodating environment. Emphasis was placed on providing aid to students who were looking to improve their physical capabilities in preparation for law enforcement, military, or other physically demanding careers.
- ✓ An increased level of communication with the student veteran/service member population aided in providing a place of comfort as well as networks to departments and organizations here on campus that provide both social and professional support (CAP, Office of Wellness Education, CICD).
- ✓ During the Spring 2019 semester, Rebekah Avery, VETS Center coordinator was awarded by the CTARNG (Connecticut Army National Guard) for being an, “outstanding service to the member of the CTARNG”, in her efforts in not only helping veteran students but also encouraging these students to succeed and put forth their utmost effort in their studies during their time as an Eastern student.

By the numbers

- ✓ Scholarships were awarded to alleviate the cost of books and other school supplies thanks to the generous donations of supporters of the Books-for-Vets Scholarship.
- ✓ 2 new student workers and one new VA work study were hired.

2018-2019 Wellness Education & Promotion

Mission: The Office of Wellness Education holds as its mission to “support Eastern Connecticut State University students by enhancing their capacity for academic and personal success, emphasizing physical, emotional, intellectual, environmental, social and spiritual wellbeing.” Targeted programs and outreach initiatives have worked to support both the Division of Student Affairs goals and the University’s Core Values. Collaborative partnerships across the University have added to the effectiveness of Wellness Education initiatives. Students attending Wellness Education and Promotion programs have engaged in learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. Students are better informed of how personal decisions can affect academic outcomes and are better prepared to use campus resources for support, increasing their ability to thrive in the university environment.

Highlights

- ✓ Educational outreach initiatives have addressed over 4,000 attendees and participants in Wellness Education prevention programs.
- ✓ The Office of Wellness Education and Promotion received the Campus Opioid Education and Awareness Grant for a second year, as provided by the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative of Wheeler Clinic. \$10,000 was awarded for opioid prevention programming. Awarded the Campus Opioid Prevention and Education grant for a second year. 72% of residential students are more aware of addiction services due to grant initiatives. 75 students and staff received training in the use of Narcan to reverse overdose. 38% of attendees to related workshops and forums report new knowledge for opioid use prevention. 94% of all incoming students completed the mandatory alcohol and drug education program.
- ✓ The Office of Wellness Education, in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs and the Jordan Porco Memorial Foundation (JPMF), presented Fresh Check Day for suicide prevention. Attendance surpassed previous years with 520 students attending the event. 76% students surveyed report “being more aware of the signs of suicide”, and 79% report being “better prepared to help a peer or friend” who is struggling with issues related to mental health. 81% report an increase in knowledge of available resources, both on and off campus.

By the numbers

- ✓ There has been a 50% reduction in the number of students who attended CHOICES who later went on to have a second policy violation, as indicated by sanctions to BASICS.
- ✓ The Office of Wellness Education and Promotion surpassed expectations for new students to complete alcohol and drug education programming, with 94% of students complying with mandated sanctions.
- ✓ 3 Narcan trainings offered to students in collaboration with Health Sciences faculty.