Central Connecticut State University

HELPING TO PREPARE CT'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

CENTRAL EASTERN SOUTHERN WESTERN

CCSU-Naylor Community School Partnership

The partnership between the Dr. James H. Naylor School — a pre-k to eighth-grade school in Hartford — and Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) benefits both the Hartford and CCSU communities. At Naylor, students attend classes while neighborhood families have access to adult education and family services. CCSU student teachers teach and mentor Naylor students, while the Naylor-CCSU Community School is a center for family and community development. CCSU social work students, for example, offer services such as marriage and family therapy, while education students teach adult education.

CCSU ConnCAP Program

The CCSU ConnCAP Program is a college preparatory program for selected New Britain public middle school seventh and eighth grade students who plan to attend New Britain High School.

Students accepted into the program as a seventh-grader commit to participate through high school graduation. Both seventh and eighth grade students participate in an after school program where they learn study skills, strategies to improve grades, and what it takes to go to college. Students also have field trips to cultural and educational events, including college visits. Seventh and eighth grade students are required to participate in a six-week summer academic program.

Upon graduation from eighth grade, ConnCAP middle school students who are active participants in good academic standing are recommended for admission to the ConnCAP New Britain High School program.

American Voices Program

CCSU recently began a three-year "American Voices" program funded by a $965,000 U.S. Department of Education grant where students and teachers from 13 Connecticut school districts work with CCSU's History and Reading and Language Arts departments and the Connecticut Historical Society Museum. It combines learning history with developing reading and writing skills for middle school students. Teachers, professors and historians develop classroom lesson plans.

The districts include: Bristol Public Schools; Cromwell Public Schools; East Hampton Public Schools; Ellington Public Schools; Marlborough Public Schools; Meriden Public Schools; Newington Public Schools; Rocky Hill Public Schools; Wallingford Public Schools; West Hartford Public Schools; Wethersfield Public Schools; Regional District #4 which includes Essex, Chester and Deep River; and Regional District #10 which includes Harwinton and Burlington.

Partners in Science

The Partners in Science program is a partnership between CCSU and Southington and Meriden middle school students. CCSU faculty offer workshops in subjects ranging from molecular biology and physics to earth sciences and computer technology. The program is also offered afterschool at Hartford's Bellizzi Middle School, Kennelly School, Dr. James H. Naylor School, The Sport and Medical Sciences Academy and Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Sciences with a physiology focus and chemistry workshops.

Robotics

CCSU's School of Technology and Engineering sponsors annual robotics competitions on campus for middle and high school students. The fifth annual Connecticut BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology) Robotics Competition was held in October in CCSU's Student Center. The competition included about 70 middle and high school students statewide and from New York and New Jersey. The students had six weeks to design and build a working prototype robotic control system for a hypothetical factory workplace and demonstrated them at CCSU.

Other competitions include the Connecticut First Lego League Robotics Competition in which teams design and build robots relating to a theme; and the VEX Robotics Competition where students build innovative robots.

Young Engineers Program and Young Business Leaders

CCSU's Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD), School of Engineering and Technology and the Consolidated School District of New Britain teamed up for the Young Engineers Program to encourage student interest in engineering, construction management and information technology careers. The three organizations came together to offer the Young Business Leaders Program to provide middle school students workplace skills and teach about business, marketing and economics.

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Western Connecticut State University

HELPING TO PREPARE CT'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

CENTRAL EASTERN SOUTHERN **WESTERN**

STEM Summer Camp

At Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) two-week summer camp for Danbury seventh grade students taught them about astronomy and sea turtle conservation.

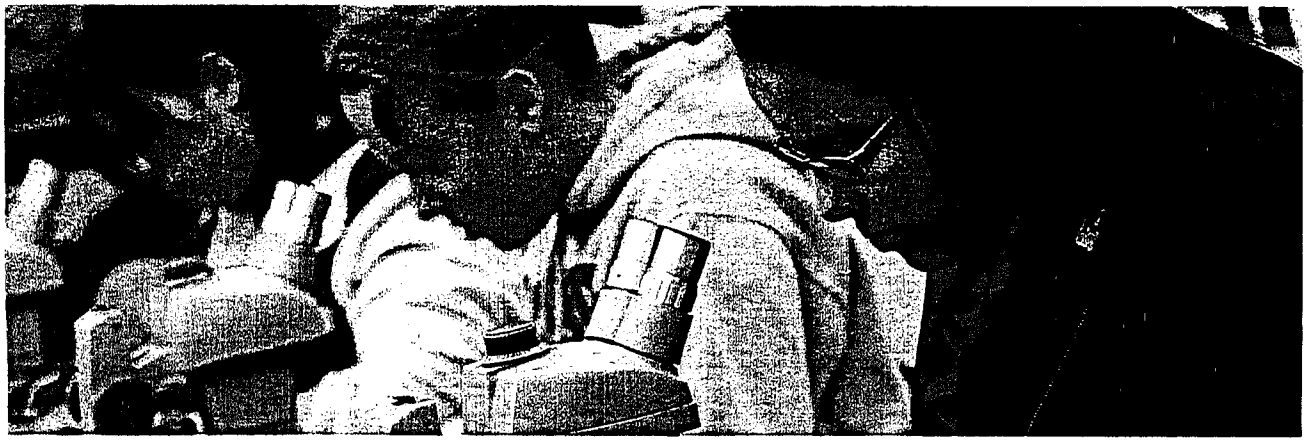
The camp was funded by a three-year grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and is a collaboration between Theodora Pinou, WCSU assistant professor of biological and environmental sciences; Anne Mead, administrator for the Danbury schools extended learning program; and Harry Rosvally, STEM curriculum administrator for the schools.

Meteorology Bridge Program

WCSU launched a Meteorology Bridge Program for middle school students from Rogers Park and Broadview Schools in Danbury and Bethel Middle School. Last spring 14 students learned about weather from WCSU meteorology student mentors and created a PowerPoint presentation of their own weather broadcasts from WCSU's Weather Center. The broadcasts were shown on Bethel's community television channel.

2010 Middle School Summer Camp

The 2010 Middle School Summer Camp for students in the Bethel and Danbury Middle Schools was an opportunity for young students to acclimate to campus life, get involved in science, math and writing, and witness laboratory experiments in the Science Building. Topics included the "Magical World of Mathematics," "Animal Behavior," "The Excellent Bug Adventure," and "Writing about Science, Nature, and the Environment."



Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success

Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success (Bridges) is a partnership between WCSU and the Danbury and Bethel school districts to ensure high school students are ready for college-level courses in math, writing and science. High school teachers and WCSU faculty have met to align course curriculum.

High school students and WCSU first-year students participating in Bridges continue to excel. Only six percent of students beginning at WCSU in 2009 were required to take the remedial writing class, and 29 percent were enrolled in the remedial math class. That compares to 37 percent in remedial writing and 41 percent for remedial math before Bridges began in the 2004-05 school year. In addition to state support, Praxair, Inc., of Danbury, also contributed $50,000 to support the program.

Exploration Academy

Bridges program organizers also developed the Exploration Academy specifically targeted toward middle school students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Last spring, about 100 students from the Exploration Academy at Rogers Park Middle School visited WCSU for a half day of enrichment activities that culminated in a campus tour.

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Southern Connecticut State University

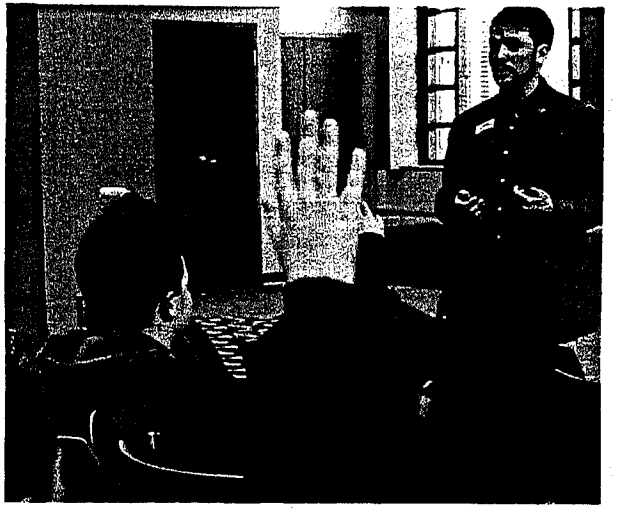
HELPING TO PREPARE CT'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

CENTRAL EASTERN **SOUTHERN** WESTERN

The Galileo Project

The Galileo Project at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) is an initiative designed to provide students from Hillhouse High School in New Haven, Hamden High School in Hamden and Maloney High School in Meriden with better preparation for college-level math and composition classes.

SCSU faculty in mathematics, English and education teamed up with math and English teachers from those high schools to share curriculum information, visit each others' classes and develop strategies to improve instruction. The program, in its second year, is funded by a state Department of Higher Education grant and aims to reduce the number of students who need remedial-level prerequisite courses in college.



Eighth-Grade Career Fair and CAMPY

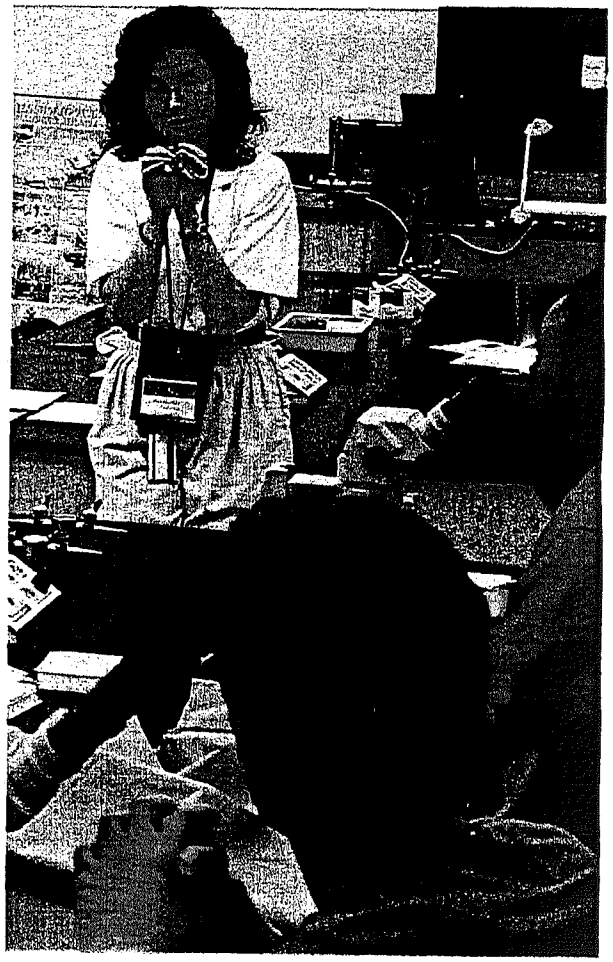
More than 1,300 New Haven eighth grade students visited SCSU to listen to professors and speakers from a variety of careers to encourage them to explore career options in an eighth grade career fair. In addition, SCSU's Elementary Education Department annually hosts CAMPY (Connecticut Association for Mathematically Precocious Youth) for 60 advanced middle school students statewide for math, science and technology workshops.

New Haven Science Fair

The New Haven Science Fair (NHSF) annually hosts 43 schools and 8,000 students. Last spring SCSU communication science students acted as mentors for middle and high school students to develop their science projects. SCSU faculty judged the NHSF and led seminars to teach how to mentor science fair participants.

Connecticut Science Fair

SCSU's Physics Club takes part in the annual Connecticut Science Fair by mentoring middle school students as they design science fair projects. Six Physics Club members spent 150 hours mentoring students who participated in the 2009 science fair.



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Eastern Connecticut State University

HELPING TO PREPARE CT'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

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Summer Transition at Eastern Program/ Contract Admissions Program (STEP/CAP)

At Eastern Connecticut State University, the Summer Transition at Eastern Program/Contract Admissions Program (STEP/CAP) is an alternate admissions opportunity that provides access and academic support to eligible first-time college students. The program is open to high school graduates who are either the first to attend college, are from low-income families, or are from groups traditionally under-represented on college campuses.

Last June, 67 students hoping to enroll at Eastern for fall of 2010 arrived to begin the 27th year of STEP/CAP. Students from Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Norwich, Waterbury, Willimantic and out-of-state attended intensive credit-bearing courses in math and writing, as well as rigorous workshops in social sciences, library research methods, public speaking, study skills and critical thinking. Of these students, 65 successfully entered Eastern for the start of the academic year.

Summer Institute for Future Teachers

The Summer Institute for Future Teachers Conference is hosted annually in July by Eastern's Department of Education, with support from CREC and the Connecticut State Department of Education, for rising juniors and seniors in Connecticut's high schools interested in the teaching profession. Since 1997, about 30 students each year across the state attend the residential program in July on Eastern's campus. Activities include service-learning experiences in summer programs in the Windham Public Schools, workshops on curriculum in pedagogy, educational technology, and cross-cultural understanding, and preparation for academic success in teacher education programs.

Future Teachers Conference

The Future Teachers Conference is hosted annually each summer by Eastern's Department of Education to reach out to middle and high school students interested in the teaching profession. Last year 250 students from across the state attended the conference. Students visit the Eastern campus for an intensive half-day experience with two workshop sessions. The program includes speeches from educators, a college fair and an awards ceremony. Workshops cover a variety of topics, ranging from public speaking and making math fun to cultural diversity and team building.

College Knowledge Days

Eastern Connecticut State University's "College Knowledge Days" program is designed to inspire Connecticut middle and junior high school students to dream of college and help them plan for their postsecondary education and future careers. The program is geared toward students in grades five to nine. Held each year in early June, more than 1,500 Connecticut students from 23 different schools across Connecticut come to campus to participate in this unique program.

Students participate in a full day of engaging age and grade-appropriate sessions focusing on academic preparation, financial planning and career exploration. The College Knowledge program also helps Connecticut youth begin their college planning process early and encourages them to establish realistic and attainable educational goals for themselves.

Dual Enrollment Initiative

The Dual Enrollment Initiative was created by Eastern, Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and Hartford Public High School. Spearheaded by Eastern President Elsa Núñez, the program began by enrolling nine at-risk youths from the Hartford area in three courses at QVCC in fall 2008. The students also took one course at Eastern and lived in Eastern's residence halls. The students, who came from low-income backgrounds and were not planning to apply to college, were recommended for the program by guidance counselors at Hartford Public High School and interviewed by Eastern staff members prior to admission.

Seven of the nine students who enrolled in fall 2008, and eight of the second cohort of 10 who enrolled in fall 2009, have continued their studies at Eastern; a third group of 10 enrolled in the program in fall 2010. Eastern recently won the New England Board of Higher Education's 2011 Robert J. McKenna Award for Program Achievement as well as a College Board regional award for the program's innovative approach to providing access to college to inner-city youth. U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney also recently announced a $300,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to help support the dual enrollment initiative, one of several public and private grants Eastern has received in support of the program.

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