

# NEWS RELEASE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009



Connecticut  
State University  
System

## Connecticut State University System Offers Range of Programs to Support Veterans in Higher Ed

### Central, Eastern, Southern, Western Will Mark Veterans Day with Observances

Each of the four universities in the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) — Central, Eastern, Southern and Western — will honor veterans this month, highlighting services provided year round to support those who have served our country. More than 1,500 veterans and military service personnel attend the CSUS institutions, including National Guard members and reservists.

The four CSUS universities have Veteran Affairs Offices that work with veterans to secure available benefits and assist with the admission and financial aid processes. Each of the universities has also established a Veterans Center on campus, providing access to computers, a quiet place to study and a location to talk with other veterans. **Western will formally open their Veteran's Room in the Student**

**Center on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, on the Midtown Campus in Danbury.**



The Veteran Affairs Offices can help direct veterans to the many services offered on campus that can help them excel. Academic services will assist with the credit evaluations process, which enables veterans to receive academic credit for military training. Career Services and student

employment can help with job placement. Advisors and counselors are also available to assist with the transition from service member to student. Current students can offer additional support as well. At each of the universities, there is a student veteran organization that helps make the transition to the classroom smoother and assists with the development of programs for the entire University community.

"The Connecticut State University System has a continuing commitment to veterans and we are privileged to offer our support and provide services to those who have served our country," said Karl J. Krapek, chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System. "Our veterans deserve this recognition for the sacrifices they and their families have made, and we are committed to assisting them pursue higher education in our state."

### Veterans Day Commemorations Scheduled at Universities

**Southern's** Program Council will hold a ceremony in honor of Veteran's Day, on **Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.** The guest speaker will be J.R. Martinez, who served in Iraq and suffered severe burns to more than 40 percent of his body. Martinez has previously made appearances on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Good Morning America." In addition, the U.S. Navy Band will perform at Southern's John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts on **Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.** Tickets are free but required for admission. Contact the Lyman Center's Box Office for tickets and information, [www.tickets.southernct.edu](http://www.tickets.southernct.edu)

**Eastern's** Veterans Society will work with the Veterans Education and Transitional Services (VETS) Center to host a Veteran's Challenge to raise money for the Eastern Veterans Scholarship. The challenge

will occur throughout the day on Veteran's Day, **Wednesday, Nov. 11** and will follow the same work routine performed by Lt. Michael Murphy while deployed in Afghanistan. Murphy died under hostile fire in Afghanistan in 2005. Students in teams of four will wear a 10- or 20-pound vest while running two miles and performing 100 pull ups, 200 pushups and 300 air squats. All teams participating are asked to raise \$100 each.

In addition to the formal opening of the Veterans Center, **Western** will observe Veteran's Day on **Wednesday, Nov. 11** with a ceremony at 12 p.m. in the Ives Concert Hall on the Midtown campus.

**Central's** Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department and other university offices will host a reception to recognize women veterans at Central on **Nov. 9 at 4:30 p.m.** Following the reception, there will be a panel discussion featuring Dr. Linda Schwartz, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.

On Veteran's Day, **Wednesday, Nov. 11**, Central will host a Veterans Monument Dedication Ceremony at 3 p.m. at the Student Center Circle. At the ceremony, the recipients of the first Veterans Excellence Scholarship will receive their award, in addition to community and university members who will receive awards in Veterans Excellence.

Central will also honor veterans during **Military Appreciation Day** at the university's home football game against Monmouth, on **Saturday, Nov. 14**. The colors will be presented before kickoff and a ceremony will be held during halftime. The game will begin at 12 p.m. CCSU is working with the *Wounded Warrior Project*, a non-profit organization which honors and empowers wounded veterans. Wounded warriors Michael Ryan of Middletown and John Bethin will be honored at the game.

### **Additional Assistance for Veterans**

Eastern also offers a program that assists veterans of the Coast Guard and Navy earn their bachelor's degree. As a member of the Service members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) — a consortium of approximately 1,800 institutions which aids in the achievement of a degree for service members, their families and veterans — Eastern's School of Continuing Education has developed a distance learning program that makes the process of earning a bachelors degree easier.

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System voted to participate in the federal government's Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program. Veterans who meet the requirements of the new Post 9/11 GI Bill can receive assistance at all four CSUS institutions under program, which established a partnership between the Department of Veteran Affairs and the universities to contribute additional funding for degree seeking veterans. The funds are available for fee expenses that exceed the GI Bill's maximum tuition and fee rate. Further information and links to additional sources is available on the web at [www.ct.edu/veterans](http://www.ct.edu/veterans).

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