

NEWS RELEASE

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Connecticut
State University
System

Connecticut State University System Reaches All-time Records as Enrollment Continues to Climb

For the first time in its history, the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) has reached all-time records for the number of full-time undergraduate and full-time graduate students in the same year, while overall enrollment, including full-time and part-time students, climbed for the third consecutive year to more than 36,000.

According to newly compiled statistics for the 2009–10 academic year, CSUS has a record 24,307 full-time undergraduate students and 1,770 full-time graduate students. Both numbers reflect increases from a year ago.

CSUS includes Central in New Britain, Eastern in Willimantic, Southern in New Haven and Western in Danbury, and is the state's largest university system.

Overall enrollment, including both full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students, reached 36,503, an increase of more than one thousand students since 2007. Graduate enrollment increased for the first time in the past five years, to 6,808, and overall enrollment topped 36,000 for the first time since 2002. Full-time undergraduate enrollment has increased nearly 50 percent since 1996.

"CSUS takes great pride in offering affordable, accessible, top quality education, and we are pleased that students and their families are responding in record numbers," said Karl J. Krapek, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System. "We are collaborating with high schools to better align curriculum so that students arrive prepared for college level work. And we are working closely with our state's businesses to develop programs of study that will graduate students to meet workforce demands and help them prosper."

Officials noted that 95 percent of CSUS students come from Connecticut, and nearly nine of ten stay in the state after graduation to pursue careers, raise families and contribute to the state's economic vitality and quality of life. Total enrollment at the four universities at the start of the current academic year is: Central, 12,461; Eastern, 5,610; Southern, 11,815; and Western, 6,617, reflecting increases at all four universities from a year ago.

"We have more students pursuing more academic credits on a full time basis, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and we have more students overall," said Chancellor David G. Carter. "While those numbers reflect confidence in the caliber of education at the four universities, they also underscore the importance of the education our students receive to the future well-being of Connecticut."

The increases come against a backdrop of diminishing resources due to state budget reductions, voluntary cutbacks, and early retirements that reduced the ranks of faculty and staff by nearly 200 people. The CSUS Board of Trustees also voted earlier this year to freeze salaries for non-union personnel and implement a 10 percent reduction in those positions. A hiring freeze has been in effect for all but a limited number of essential

personnel who impact the health and safety of students and provide direct instruction, and travel has been curtailed. Faculty and staff have worked diligently to maintain academic excellence and the quality of student services.

Applications for enrollment at the CSUS universities were up 11 percent for the current year, after increasing 18 percent over the previous four years. The CSUS universities received more than 20,000 applications — almost 3,500 more applications than in 2004 — which is a 20 percent increase.

The universities have been working not only to attract new students, but to retain those who are attending. Specific programs aimed at freshmen at all four universities have helped to boost retention numbers in recent years, assisting new students to overcome any difficulties they encounter in the transition to university level work.

The four universities will be holding open houses for high school seniors in October and November, as the process for next year's applications gets underway. (More information at www.ct.edu)

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