



Connecticut State University System NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Legislature Honors Outstanding Students from Central, Eastern, Southern, Western During College Academic Day

Eight students attending universities of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) were honored today by the Connecticut General Assembly during College Academic Day at the State Capitol for their outstanding academic achievement.

Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) students **Brittany Serke** and **Kathryn Kupchik**; Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) students **Jennifer Gleason** and **Laura Taylor**; Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) students **Allison Godbout** and **Ryne Nutt**; and Eastern Connecticut State University students **Adam Brzozowski** and **Sarah York** were recognized during State Capitol ceremonies.

Each year, state lawmakers honor outstanding students from each of Connecticut's public and private colleges and universities. The students are selected by their respective schools, based on academic achievement and extra-curricular involvement.

The students received an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly in recognition of their academic achievement. In addition, the students were formally introduced to the State Senate and House of Representatives and were joined by legislators during a State Capitol reception. Sponsors of the event include State Representatives Richard F. Roy (119th District), Denise W. Merrill (54th district) and Pamela Z. Sawyer (55th district).

The CSUS students honored during College Academic Day were:

Allison Godbout from Bristol, will graduate from CCSU in May as an elementary education major with a concentration in mathematics. She currently has a 3.87 GPA and has been on the Dean's List each semester. She is treasurer of both Kappa Delta Pi and Alpha Upsilon Alpha, and a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and has been active with the Nutmeg Big Brother/Big Sister program. She is currently a student teacher at Pine Grove Elementary School in Avon and has taught in Bristol, Hartford and New Britain.

Ryne Nutt is originally from Ohio and now lives in New Britain. He is an accounting major and criminal justice minor at CCSU where he will graduate in May. He currently has a 3.97 GPA and on the Dean's List each semester. He is a member of Delta Mu Delta, the CCSU Accounting Society and received the Connecticut Society of Certified

Public Accountants Scholarship. He has played football for the CCSU Blue Devils since 2003, served as co-captain in 2007, and received numerous awards for his football career. His community activities include working on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Cory Stringer's Youth Football Camp, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, and serving as a volunteer student tutor. He has interned at Blum Shapiro and Flex-Strut, Inc. and plans to become a Certified Public Accountant.

Jennifer Gleason, a chemistry major and mathematics minor at SCSU, will graduate in May and currently has a 3.73 GPA. Gleason served as president of the Chemistry Club during the 2006–07 academic year and was previously the club's treasurer. She has worked as a resident advisor, is a member of the Honors College and was selected to the "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." She is the recipient of the 2006 Francis A. O'Connell Memorial Scholarship, the 2007 Harry O. Haakonsen Award and the 2007 Carbone Memorial Scholarship. She made a poster presentation at the American Chemical Society's national meeting and was given a rating of "excellent" for its form and content. She is employed as a laboratory technician at Analytical Consulting Technology, Inc. of Waterbury.

Laura Taylor of Woodbridge, a psychology major at SCSU, will graduate in May and currently has a 3.83 GPA. She has participated in many research projects and internships, including stints as a research assistant for the Yale University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and for SCSU psychology faculty. Taylor has written an entry for Sage Publications' *Encyclopedia of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery*, is president of the Psychology Club, a member of the Honors College and Zeta Delta Epsilon Honors Society. She is a recipient of the Presidential Merit Scholarship (2005–08) and was inducted into the Psi-Chi Honor Society in 2007. She has volunteered as a group facilitator for The Village of Power, a drop-in clinic for homeless women suffering from HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. Taylor has been accepted into the Scripps College Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate.

Brittany Serke of Southbury, a chemistry, biochemistry and Spanish major at WCSU, will graduate in May. She currently has a 3.92 GPA and her academic achievements have earned her the Capital Scholarship, WCSU Foundation Award, Carey Foundation Award Scholarship, Isabelle Farrington Scholarship and the Ellen and Jason Hancock Scholarship. Serke—the General Chemistry Student of the Year for 2003–04—is an American Chemical Society affiliate and member of the Sigma Delta Pi National Honor Society. She has served as president and vice president of Sigma Delta Pi, secretary and president of the Chemistry Club and mentored WCSU students with disabilities. While studying abroad in Guatemala and Puerto Rico, Serke helped gather school supplies for children and donated funds for the installation of plumbing and access to the public water system. She has also sponsored clothing and food drives at WCSU to donate to areas of Guatemala devastated by mudslides.

Kathryn Kupchik of Cromwell, a music performance major at WCSU, will graduate in May and currently has a 3.73 GPA. She earned lead roles in this season's WCSU operas *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica* and last year's *Pirates of Penzance*. She has placed second in the College II division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition; and served as a member of the WCSU Chamber Singers, WCSU's Concert Choir and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She was also among seven WCSU music students selected to participate in a cultural exchange with SIAS University in China. She also earned scholarships from the Connecticut Choral Society, the James Sommers Opera and the Alumni Association. She was also team manager of

the WCSU men's hockey club and tri-captain of the WCSU volleyball team, earning "Rookie of the Year" in 2004.

Adam Brzozowski of Bristol, a triple major in history, political science and mathematical economics, is graduating from Eastern Connecticut State University in May. He currently has a 3.85 GPA and is minoring in philosophy, sustainable energy studies, and peace and human rights. He served on the legislative fuel diversity task force, conducted energy studies of colleges and universities and provided energy education to high school students and municipalities. He received Eastern's 2004 Merit Scholarship, the Sodexo Marriott Scholarship, Peace & Human Rights Scholarship, Roth Scholarship and Past President's Scholarship. He has served as president of the Eastern Peace and Human Rights Organization and is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society and the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honors Society. In addition, he works at Eastern's Institute for Sustainable Energy.

Sarah Catherine York of Dayville, an economics major, is graduating from Eastern Connecticut State University in May. She currently has a 3.80 GPA and her academic achievements have earned her Dean's List each semester and the Eastern Competitive Scholarship and Academic Excellence Award. She is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, Habitat for Humanity and treasurer of the Economics Club. She holds internships at MassMutual and the Connecticut Audubon Society, and her community activities include working with the Special Olympics and Salvation Army.

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