

Connecticut State University System



At a Glance

Chairman of the Board, Vacancy

Louise H. Feroe, Acting Chancellor

Established – 1965, 1983

Statutory authority – CGS Sec. 10a-87 through 10a-101, inclusive

System office – 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105-2337

Average number of full-time employees – 3,268

Recurring operating expenditures –

General Fund – \$244 million

CSUS Operating Fund – \$336 million

Value of Real Property – \$1,192 million

Number of students – 36,629

President, Central Connecticut State University – John W. Miller

President, Eastern Connecticut State University – Elsa M. Nunez

President, Southern Connecticut State University – Stanley F. Battle (interim)

President, Western Connecticut State University – James W. Schmotter

Mission

The four comprehensive universities of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) provide affordable, accessible, high quality learning opportunities, offering baccalaureate, graduate and professional programs in approximately 160 subject areas.

Consistent with CSUS's historical missions of teacher education and career advancement and cognizant of Connecticut's workforce areas of high demand, Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University provide extensive opportunities for advancing educational excellence, as well as a wide range of internships, community service and cultural engagement, and serve as a catalyst for Connecticut.

Important facts about CSUS include:

- ***Nearly 94% of CSUS students are Connecticut residents; 86% of CSUS graduates live and work in Connecticut after completing their degrees.***
- ***CSUS enrolls the largest share (41%) of all Connecticut residents who are pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree at all colleges, both public and private, in the state, according to the Department of Higher Education.***
- ***49% of students are first generation in their families to attend college.***
- ***Among undergraduate students, 82% attend CSUS institutions full-time; 18% part-time.***

Improvements/Achievements 2010-11

This past academic/fiscal year was characterized by significant achievements in serving Connecticut students and citizens:

- The number of full-time students continues to increase, now at an all-time high. There has been an increase of nearly 3,000 full-time students in the past five years.
- In 2010, CSUS institutions awarded 7,005 degrees and certificates, the most ever in a single year. In 2000, there were 5,270 degrees granted, reflecting an increase of 33 percent during the decade.
- Reflecting a continuing commitment to ease the transfer of course credits from Connecticut's community colleges to CSUS institutions, a Dual Admission program, which includes all 12 colleges and four CSUS universities, continues to grow. It includes a joint advising component to work with students who plan on transferring to a CSUS university after earning their associate's degree, and had enrolling 158 students in early fall 2010, a year into its implementation phase.
- The number of students transferring from Connecticut Community Colleges has increased 43 percent since 2005. At 9 of the 12 colleges in 2010-11, the number of transfer students matched or surpassed previous record levels.
- For the second consecutive year, four out of five transfers from out-of-state colleges and universities were returning Connecticut residents.
- Slightly more than 75 percent of full-time students received some form of financial aid, and 71 percent of all financial aid awarded was need-based aid. Nearly 90 percent of all non-loan institutional aid awarded was need-based.
- There has been a 19 percent increase in the number of students of color attending CSUS over the past four years.
- The number of CSUS graduates pursuing master's degrees upon graduation grew from 22 percent to 29 percent, and 60 percent of them are doing so at Central, Eastern, Southern or Western, up from 53 percent the previous year.
- The number of urban students is increasing, with Hartford reaching the top ten for the first time in number of students attending CSUS universities, and Waterbury and Bridgeport moving up in the rankings, joining Danbury and New Haven among the communities with the largest number of students enrolled.

- CSUS 2020, a long-term capital infrastructure investment plan for the CSUS, approved by the legislature and Governor, continued with-design and construction on some first-year projects, as well as design for some second year initiatives. The 10-year \$950 million plan includes funds for code compliance, infrastructure improvements, mechanical and electrical upgrades, as well as new construction, consistent with the master plans at the four universities.
- The CSUS universities collaborated to develop a graduate certificate in nanotechnology, to include a Nanotechnology Center at Southern and nanotechnology hubs at each of the universities in the system. The 14 credit program, now in full development phase, will offer courses that include material characterization, physics and chemistry of nanoscale materials, fabrication techniques, nanoscale applications, microscopy with emphasis on atomic force, transmission and scanning electron techniques and applications in nanobiology and nanomedicine.
- Western's innovative collaboration between university faculty and teachers at Danbury and Bethel High Schools to improve core subject college readiness, *Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success*, continues to result in a reduction in the number of freshmen placing into remedial classes upon entering the university, as well as improved retention of those students from freshman to sophomore year. The Bridges program has been extended to include science, and middle school students. Similar programs are now underway at each of the CSUS universities, working with local school districts focusing on their particular needs related to college readiness.
- To help with the realities of growing student mobility, the academic leadership across the CSUS worked with department chairs at all universities to examine credit transfer patterns, course content and learning outcomes for the most enrolled lower division courses. This work resulted in the first collection of Common Course Equivalents, including 84 courses in 21 disciplines. These courses transfer among at least three CSUS universities in a fully reciprocal fashion, are easily identifiable to students and the general public, and are being maintained and updated at each university responding to any curricular changes that may take place.
- The CSUS and the Connecticut Community College (CCC) system created a pilot period for the transfer of Statway credits into General Education/Liberal Arts requirements. Statway is an approach to acquiring mathematics proficiency while simultaneously earning college level credits in statistics at the community colleges. This work adds to the Dual Admissions program with the CCC system.
- Each of the universities has supported the transition to the classroom for men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces with specifically designated Veterans Centers on campus and participation in the federal Yellow Ribbon program.
- CSUS is one of 20 university systems nationwide to participate in *Access to Success*, an unprecedented multi-year, multi-tier effort to increase the number of students entering and graduating college, with special focus on minority and low-income students, recognizing changing demographics and the increasing demands of global competition. The initiative was developed by the National Association of System Heads in partnership with the Education Trust.

- Responding to workforce demand fields and the state’s economic needs, the number of students majoring in the sciences across CSUS has increased by 43 percent since 2005, all four universities have seen an increase in the number of accounting majors (including growth in excess of 30 percent at Southern and Central since 2006), the number of students taking world language courses has increased by nearly 10 percent in the past year, and engineering programs and “green jobs” programs continue to attract increasing numbers of students.
- During the past five years, CSUS has awarded more bachelor’s degrees in nursing than any other institution of higher education in Connecticut, including a 46 percent increase between 2008 and 2010. Overall, CSUS awarded 27 percent of all the nursing bachelor’s degrees in the state in 2010 up from 21 percent in 2008.
- Southern and Western have completed development of a collaborative Ed. D. program in nursing education, which is under consideration for approval by the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The program is designed to increase the number of nurse educators in Connecticut, in response to increasing demand for nurses.
- Eastern was recognized for the second year in a row as a “Great College to Work For” by the Chronicle of Higher Education (one of only 97 institutions in U.S.) and by The Princeton Review as one of the best colleges in the Northeast for the second consecutive issue of their Guide to Best Colleges.
- Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) was designated a Carnegie Community Engagement Institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. CCSU is one of only 115 U.S. colleges and universities selected this year for the special classification.
- CCSU’s Institute for Technology and Business Development (ITBD) was inducted into the Connecticut Business Hall of Fame. ITBD provides a full spectrum of employee training courses, manufacturing process improvement, government procurement assistance and small business development and conferencing services.
- The CSUS Board of Trustees approved a Master of Science in Applied Physics degree program for Southern Connecticut State University, which would be the first in Connecticut. State approval is pending.
- The state Board of Governors of Higher Education granted Accreditation to a program in Creative Writing leading to the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree at SCSU, a program in Nursing leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree at CCSU, and a program in Media Arts with options in Media Studies and Media Production leading to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree at WCSU. Two fully articulated Pathways to Teaching careers programs at Community Colleges were also accredited, allowing students to enter CSUS teaching preparation programs seamlessly.
- The Board of Trustees of the CSUS, highlighting the exceptional scholarship and academic excellence of faculty at the four universities, awarded eight outstanding faculty members with the *Trustees Research Award* and *Trustees Teaching Award*.
- Offering a mix of clinical services, parental support, research and technical assistance, Southern’s new Center of Excellence on Autism Spectrum Disorders provides the state with a distinctive resource to improve the educational and social experiences of students diagnosed with a form of this development disability.

- Legendary entertainer and activist Bill Cosby has been a high-profile supporter of Southern's grassroots efforts to help close the achievement gap. In three recent visits to New Haven, Cosby and SCSU Interim President Stanley Battle have visited local schools, held rallies for education and met with key local and state leaders. Among the university's new initiatives is the Southern Academy, a year-round educational effort geared to help New Haven school children enhance their learning skills in key areas, from reading to calculus, to computer science. The academy includes an intensive, six-week on-campus program of education and activities during the summer months.
- Southern is among a select group of institutions nationwide – and the only one in Connecticut – to be chosen to participate in a national project focused on infusing global learning into the general education curriculum. Out of more than 140 colleges and universities that applied, The Association of American Colleges and Universities selected 32 to participate in General Education for a Global Century, a curriculum and faculty development project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.
- Commencing this fall, Southern will offer 26 full scholarships to promising mathematics and science students from urban high school and community colleges in New Haven and Bridgeport as part of the new Pathways to Excellence program. Supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, this initiative is one of a number of similar programs developed at Southern to increase the number, quality and diversity of students pursuing careers in mathematics and the sciences.
- For the first time, Eastern was included in U.S. News & World Report's Tier One institutions and is the 28th highest ranked public institution in the North (Maine to Pennsylvania, New York to Maryland).
- WCSU's annual "One Book One Community" program to encourage everyone in Danbury to read the same book featured "The Things They Carried," one soldier's personal account of life during the Vietnam War. Residents were invited to join freshmen at Western and Danbury High School students as they read and studied the book and engaged in several special activities to complement the book's theme. The highlight was an appearance by the book's author, Tim O'Brien, at Western.
- From the shores of Western Connecticut's Candlewood Lake to the laboratories and greenhouses of the WCSU Science Building, faculty and students are having an important and growing impact in preserving Connecticut's largest lake — and the Danbury area's primary fresh-water resource — through their deepening research and instructional collaboration with a diverse array of public and private sector partners. Two WCSU research projects currently in progress seek to test and evaluate strategies for more effective containment and eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake.
- Students and faculty at Western conducted research to clean up the water and restore balance to Lake Kenosia. Dr. Theodora Pinou, WCSU associate professor of biology and environmental sciences, said the lake is plagued with low oxygen and a high bacteria count. Earlier this year, the university received a \$45,000 grant from the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources to conduct testing to determine what and how many nutrients are being loaded into the water.
- Western Connecticut State University is the first in the state to offer a bachelor of arts in musical theatre, which began in fall 2010. With a specialized degree in

collaboration with the university's music department, the musical theatre program gives students a comprehensive knowledge of and training in all aspects of musical theatre. The program includes acting, dance training, individual voice instruction, music theory, keyboard competency, auditioning techniques, voice and diction and theatre history.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

It is the intellectual and moral responsibility and the policy of the Connecticut State University System to advance social justice and equity by exercising affirmative action to remove all discriminatory barriers to equal employment opportunity and upward mobility. Accordingly, through its affirmative action plans, the university system has undertaken programs to overcome the present effects of past practices, policies and barriers to equal employment opportunity, and to achieve the full and fair participation of all protected groups found to be underutilized or adversely impacted in its workforce.

For the most recent reporting period, all five of the system's affirmative action plans were in compliance with the requirements of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, pursuant to the Regulations for Affirmative Action by State Government, Sections 46a-68-31 to 46a-68-74.

The system's Affirmative Action Office is located at the CSUS Office, 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105.