

U CONN ECE

A magazine for the UConn Early College Experience Community

WINTER 2025-26 • VOLUME 16



**We're gonna
need a bigger...**



4



10



24



28

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THE DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS



As we reach the midpoint of the 2025–26 academic year, we do so as a community of educators, leaders, and learners united by a shared pride in the lasting impact UConn Early College Experience has had on generations of Connecticut students. Throughout this year, the 70 Years, 70 Faces, 1 UConn ECE Legacy campaign has captured stories from our program's rich history while also documenting the present-day educators, partners, and students who contribute daily to the program's rich story.

Reflecting on this journey, it is worth pausing to celebrate a remarkable truth: the nation's earliest conceptualization of what would later be defined as concurrent enrollment originated here in Connecticut. On January 29, 1946, high school principals and building leaders from across the state met with university officials, including UConn's Albert E. Waugh, to explore new ways to support graduating seniors. At the time, these students faced increased competition for college

admission as World War II veterans returned to campuses aided by the Servicemen's Readjustment Act. As recorded by Waugh, two proposals emerged from that meeting. The second would become the foundation for concurrent enrollment, envisioning high schools offering a "freshman year of college" taught by their own teachers, approved by the University, using college curriculum, with credits honored by the institution.

In the decade that followed, Albert E. Waugh, working in partnership with the University President, Senate, and high school principals across the region, formally launched the Cooperative Program for Superior High School Students in 1955. Through these early partnerships, and those that continue today, generations of Connecticut students have benefited from the University's longstanding commitment to expanding access to UConn coursework.

Because of this enduring collaboration, today more than 20,000 students are enrolled this year in academically rigorous and meaningful UConn courses, continuing Waugh's vision of "allowing these outstanding students to stay in the high school taking work under our supervision and getting college credit for the work" (Waugh, November 5, 1953).

Together, we continue to strengthen pathways to higher education and deepen collaboration among school districts, educators, and the University of Connecticut. In doing so, we ensure that the legacy of the UConn Early College Experience remains one of a national and regional leading program, rooted in history, and responsive to the future.

I hope you enjoy the 2025-2026 Winter Edition of the UConn ECE Magazine as we celebrate and recognize the true experience of UConn ECE.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris - Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Christopher M. Todd
Executive Director



ECLIPSES

— We're gonna need a bigger *Telescope* —

By Alina Britchi

Alina Britchi is a UConn ECE Instructor certified to teach PHYS1201Q: General Physics I, PHYS1202Q: General Physics II, PHYS1401Q: General Physics with Calculus I, and PHYS1402Q: General Physics with Calculus II.

Many call a total solar eclipse a “once-in-a-lifetime” event but most people who see one often want more. I’m one of them. I experienced my first totality in 1999 in Romania. A special banknote was printed to celebrate the event. I still remember the awe like it was yesterday: sudden darkness, wind, birds flying all over, crowd growing louder, and then... the Sun’s corona! What a beauty! Two unforgettable minutes of totality ended in a blink of an eye.

Fast forward a decade and a half later, I live in the U.S. Year 2016 brings chatter of not one, but two Great American Eclipses heading our way: 2017 and 2024. And now the knowledge that solar eclipses are not very rare, but totality is happening over populated areas. In 2017 I would have only seen a partial solar eclipse, but now a new idea: I could travel to see totality. And that’s how I became an eclipse chaser. Like sunsets, no two eclipses are identical. I’ve seen three and plan to see more.

My second eclipse, the 2017 one, became a shared obsession. My husband had never seen one. As we were in Utah for an unrelated event, we drove four hours to Idaho to experience the totality. This time, in an open

field, made the Moon shadow traveling in front of our eyes very obvious. With few people around, the celestial show was humbling. We learned to photograph the partiality with simple gear; eclipse glasses over the lens of a simple Canon camera. And thus, our first solar eclipse collage was born.



And now we are set for the 2024 American eclipse and booked a hotel a year ahead. I wore eclipse-themed shirts for months and organized a school photo contest. We chose Niagara Falls but clouds limited us to a mere 10 seconds of totality. We hoped for 4 minutes, but now we focused on different things: the light shifting from day to night and back to day

over the falls was worth it.

Upcoming opportunities include 2025 (Spain, Greenland, Iceland), 2026 (Spain, Middle East), and 2028 and 2030 in Australia.

If you’ve never seen a total solar eclipse, consider traveling to one, you will never regret seeing the Sun’s corona and the magic of totality. ■

A Scholar Across Ages: Celebrating the Retirement of Prof. Sherri Olson

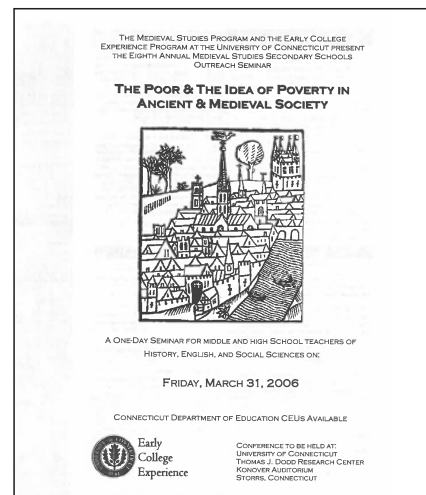
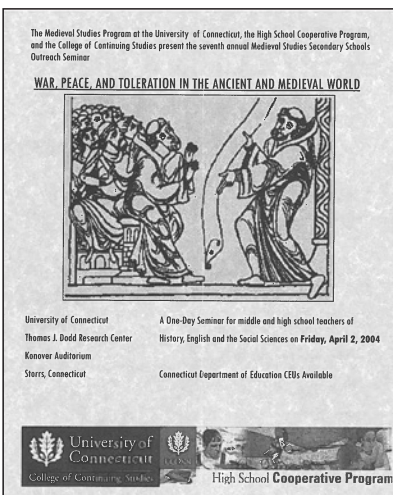
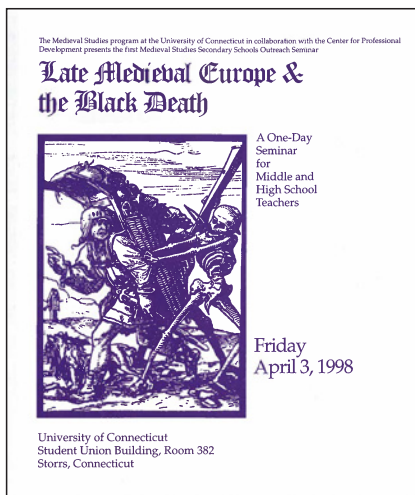
— We're gonna need a bigger *Legacy* —

By Stefanie Malinoski

After a 37-year tenure at the University of Connecticut, Professor Sherri Olson retired in January, closing a distinguished chapter in the Department of History. For more than twenty years, Dr. Olson served as the UConn ECE Faculty Coordinator for European History, shaping

On behalf of Early College Experience, we extend our deepest gratitude to Sherri for her decades of dedication to our community and offer our warmest wishes as she embarks on a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

nership. Over the years, UConn's Collegium Musicum, under the direction of Professor Eric Rice, added a musical component to the seminars. This ensemble of student singers and instrumentalists perform music from the late Middle Ages through the Renaissance



curricula, mentoring colleagues, and inspiring educators and students.

In 1998, she helped launch the first Medieval Studies outreach seminar for middle and high school teachers, "Late Medieval Europe & the Black Death." Offered by UConn's Medieval Studies Program in partnership with the Center for Professional Development, the program was originally known as the Medieval Studies Secondary School Outreach Seminar.

The seminar's first formal collaboration with ECE, then called the High School Cooperative Program, followed in 2004 with "War, Peace, and Toleration in the Ancient and Medieval World." The first official mention of Early College Experience appeared in 2006, with the seminar focused on "The Poor & the Idea of Poverty in Ancient & Medieval Society," marking the beginning of an over 20 year part-

and Baroque periods, often using period-specific instruments.

In her role as ECE Faculty Coordinator for Medieval History, Dr. Olson provided a wide range of seminar themes in collaboration with colleagues at UConn, and her former graduate students now serving as faculty members at colleges and universities across the country. Her former students were always eager to return to UConn to share their research with Connecticut educators. The program has run almost every year since 1998, each time offering educators a fresh and engaging theme, and we look forward to continuing the program under new leadership.

Now embracing a slower pace, Dr. Olson plans to return to some of her hobbies, including knitting, and continuing to contribute to the field through book reviews and other scholarly pursuits. ■



Professional Development Workshops

We're gonna need a bigger *Event Space*

By Caroline Lynch, UConn ECE Graduate Assistant, Master's Student, UConn, Higher Education and Student Affairs

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of another semester here at Early College Experience! This Fall has been chock-full of events, including 18 professional development workshops for our ECE Instructors from various disciplines. So far, we've been given the opportunity to connect with our Instructors from U.S. History, Philosophy, Chemistry, Business, Chinese, European History, Marine Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Economics, Human Rights, Environmental Sciences, Sociology, Music, English, Human Development and Family Sciences, and Math, as well as holding a Fall training for our ECE Library Media Specialists. Please enjoy a brief overview of some of the professional development highlights from the Fall 2025 semester.



September 25, 2025: U.S. History Workshop

Our first event for the 2025-26 academic year was a virtual session for United States History Instructors, including a keynote address titled "Teaching US History in Our Current Climate: Challenges, Opportunities, and Student Support Strategies." Fifty-two teachers joined us for this interesting and topical session, and we were excited to kick off the year with such a highly attended event.



October 10, 2025: Business Workshop

In early October, we hosted our first-ever ECE Business Workshop, thanks to the efforts of our ECE Business Faculty Coordinator, Associate Professor Vishal Baloria. Eleven Instructors were in attendance for the event, which included several guest addresses. First, Daniel Gilham, Managing Director of Advisor Strategy at Farther financial services firm, facilitated a discussion on wealth management and technology. Next, Francine McKenna, a financial journalist and lecturer at the Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania) presented a talk on financial and media literacy. Finally, Ilona Bastiaansen, Assistant Professor of Accountancy from the University of Notre Dame, joined us for a discussion on high school financial education mandates. The biggest highlight of the day was a lively student panel with four undergraduates who had previously been enrolled in Dr. Baloria's Personal Financial Literacy course. Thank you to Conner, Jack, Kaeleigh, and Maya for their time and insights.



continued on page 7

October 10, 2025: Chinese Workshop



Also on October 10th, our ECE Chinese Instructors convened on the UConn Storrs campus for a networking opportunity, as well as several presentations from ECE Instructors and guest faculty who shared teaching strategies and assignment ideas to integrate into their classrooms. First, Amy Watt from Simsbury High School and Shiffon Theodore from Conard High School led the group in a discussion on strategies to improve L2 Chinese reading. Then, Feng Xia from Amity High School executed a presentation on engaging communicative projects in class. Finally, Yang Wang, an Associate Teaching Professor of East Asian Studies from Brown University, presented a digital storytelling project to the group.

October 23, 2025: Human Rights Workshop



The week of October 23rd, UConn's Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute hosted their annual summit, entitled "Sport and Human Rights." UConn ECE Instructors were invited to the second day of the conference, convening on the UConn Storrs campus for a keynote address by Pablo Torre, host of the acclaimed podcast "Pablo Torre Finds Out" and a celebrated sports journalist and human rights advocate.

For a full overview of the summit schedule, review the link here: summit.humanrights.uconn.edu/2025-summit/

November 6, 2025: Environmental Sciences Workshop



October 17, 2025: Mechanical Engineering Workshop

Marking another UConn ECE first, our Mechanical Engineering Instructors met on October 17th for a jam-packed professional development experience. Many thanks to our joint Faculty Coordinators, Jorge Paricio Garcia, Ph.D. and Edward Weingart for their collaborative efforts to make this a session to remember! Several guest contributors joined Instructors on campus for a variety of resource demonstrations. First, Nate Delson from Grove Education delivered a demo of Spatial Vis, an engineering education software that helps students improve their 2D and 3D spatial visualization skills via an app on their personal devices. Next, Rachel Gregorio of Tech Ed Solutions provided a demonstration of SolidWorks, an industry-standard engineering technology used in the UConn College of Engineering.

The afternoon continued with a field trip to the Krenicki Arts and Engineering Institute, an "innovative, interdisciplinary nexus that offers groundbreaking classes in areas like entertainment engineering and industrial design" that was born out of a collaboration between the College of Engineering and the School of Fine Arts at UConn. Instructors shared lunch in the Institute and then were given the chance to explore the 3D printers at the facility.



UConn ECE took a field trip with our Environmental Sciences Instructors on November 6th to the UConn Middlesex County Extension Center in Haddam, CT. Instructors were given lots of time to share resources and

build connections with one another, as well as engaging in a keynote address delivered by Dr. Mayra Rodriguez, the UConn Extension Center's Assistant Extension Educator in Urban and Community Forestry, entitled *Building Connections to Urban Forests: Your Teacher's Toolkit*.



November 7, 2025: Sociology Workshop



On Friday, November 7th, our UConn ECE Sociology Instructors met on the UConn Hartford campus for their annual professional development conference. Instructors were given the opportunity to engage in a lively discussion of current successes and challenges in their classrooms, followed by a

continued on page 8

January 28
Kinesiology

February 25
History 1400

February 27
Political Science

March 11
American Sign
Language

March 11
Spanish

March 12
Animal Science

March 16
Allied Health

March 24
Digital Media & Design

March 24
Biology

March 25
French

March 26
Educational Psychology

March 27
English

May 12
Human Development
and Family Sciences



Scan QR code to visit the
ECE Events page for
additional information
about 2026 Workshops.

PROFESSIONAL Development Workshops



continued from page 7

presentation of exemplar assignments by Instructors Mike Barile (Suffield High School) and Karen Prager (CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering), and Faculty Coordinator Dr. Ingrid Semaan. We extend our thanks to our contributors and to Dr. Semaan for her continued efforts to support our UConn ECE Instructors and community.

November 21, 2025: Fall English Conference

Our largest event this semester was our Fall English Conference, which boasted over 100 attendees from high schools across the state. The theme of this year's conference was Speaking Together: Discourse as Literacy, and throughout the day Instructors were encouraged to "explore activities and strategies that put students in conversation with each other, hone their critical thinking skills, and build their confidence as consumers and producers of knowledge." There were several panel sessions throughout the day, which focused on themes including reading and revision, authentic discussion, and multimodality.



UConn ECE extends our thanks to all our Faculty Coordinators, guest speakers, and attendees for their contributions towards making Fall 2025 such a successful semester. To find more information and photographs from these and the rest of our professional development events, please feel free to visit the "ECE PD Blog" on our website. In the meantime, we are busy gearing up for the Spring, which will be filled with even more engagement opportunities and professional development events. We look forward to seeing many more of our UConn ECE community members very soon. ■



Wallace Stevens Poetry Contest

2025–2026
UConn ECE
Students

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Include a cover sheet that lists:

- Your name
- Title of poems
- Home address
- Home telephone number
- Preferred e-mail address
- UConn NetID (ex. abc12345)

Your NetID should appear on every page, but your name should ONLY appear on the cover sheet!

All 2025–2026 UConn ECE students are eligible.

Submit a 5-page packet of poems (cleanly typed, legible size 11 or 12 pt. font, with only one poem per page).

Your packet must be submitted as a **Word document** (.doc or .docx) and you must attach the file directly to your email. We cannot access files hosted elsewhere (e.g. Google Docs, Google Drive, OneDrive, etc.)

\$ CASH PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE: \$500
SECOND PRIZE: \$300
THIRD PRIZE: \$200

Submit to: ECEWSCONTEST@UCONN.EDU

DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 1st, 2026

Winners will be recognized during the Wallace Stevens Poetry Program on March 11th, 2026, featuring poet Brenda Hillman and the First Prize winner will read from their work.



Instagram: @UConnCW
X: @WritingUConn

2025

UConn ECE

At the Avery Point Campus | September 29, 2025

Cardboard Boat Race:

By Jessica Dunn

Photos by Gordon Daigle
and Michael Illuzzi

We're gonna

On September 19th, UConn ECE hosted the annual Avery Point Cardboard Boat Race with the thrilling theme “You’re Gonna Need a Bigger Boat,” celebrating the 50th anniversary of Jaws. This year’s challenge invited students to channel their creativity and engineering skills into crafting cardboard and duct tape vessels that could float and hopefully survive the waves!

The event drew 17 high schools from across the state, with 31 boats competing and more than 450 participants cheering from the



2025 UCONN EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE EVENTS



need a bigger boat.

shoreline. From sleek speedboats to jaw-dropping shark-themed designs, the ingenuity on display was nothing short of impressive. Adding to the excitement, Jonathan XV made a special appearance, bringing school spirit and plenty of photo opportunities.

The race was filled with suspense, laughter, and unforgettable moments as students tested their designs against the elements. Beyond the fun and the academic morning

sessions with esteemed UConn Avery Point Faculty and Graduate Students, the event highlighted teamwork, problem-solving, and the vibrant community that UConn ECE fosters among partner schools.

Want to experience for the first time or relive the excitement of the boat race? Scan the QR code on page 13 to watch the amazing video created by Ellington High School students.

continued on page 12



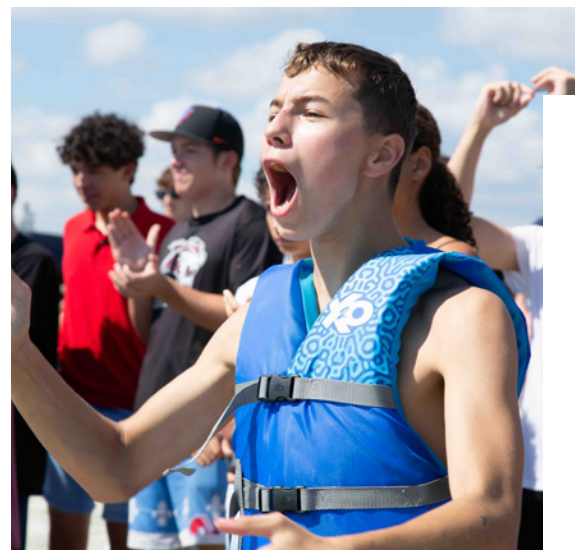
UConn ECE Cardboard Boat Race

*We're gonna need a
bigger boat.*

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Thank You to our Participating High Schools

- Bethel High School
- Branford High School
- Bridgeport Aquaculture
- Daniel Hand High School
- East Granby High School
- Ellington High School
- Emmett O'Brien Technical High School
- Franklin Academy
- Holy Cross High School
- Ledyard High School
- Manchester High School
- The Sound School
- Stratford High School
- Terryville High School
- The Morgan School
- University High School
- Waterford High School



UConn ECE Cardboard Boat Race

2025 Winners

Heat 1 Trophies

- #1 Waterford High School – Bruce 2
- #2 Ellington High School – Silver Bullet
- #3 BRASTECC – Bruce

Heat 2 Trophies

- #1 Holy Cross High School – Totally Jawsome
- #2 The Morgan School – Finley
- #3 University High School – Meg-a-lodon

Heat 3 Trophies

- #1 Bethel High School – We’re Gonna Need a Bigger Boat
- #2 Waterford High School – Amityville Tourist
- #3 Ellington High School – Barknado

Heat 4 Trophies

- #1 Waterford High School – Sharky
- #2 Ledyard High School – The Fin-isher
- #3 Bethel High School – Bruce

Championship Race

Holy Cross High School – Totally Jawsome

Best Visual Design Award

The Morgan School (Finley)

Best Boat Name Award

Manchester High School (The Pawseidon Adventure)

Interdisciplinary Collaboration Award

East Granby High School (Chum Runner)

People’s Choice Award

University High School (Meg-a-lodon) ■



Scan QR code to view the "Ellington Armada - Keeping Knowledge Afloat" video.

Neag School Hosts Second Annual Early College Experience Day for High School Students

By Mikala Kane, *Director of Communications & Digital Strategy, UConn Neag School of Education*
Photos by Gordon Daigle and Michael Illuzzi



EDCI 1100, EPSY 1100, and EDLR 2001 students visit Storrs to learn more about UConn and potential careers

October 24, 2025

On October 24, the UConn Neag School of Education hosted its second annual Early College Experience Day for high schoolers participating in its Early College Experience course offerings. Over 110 students from eight schools spent the morning in Storrs, learning more about UConn, the Neag School, and potential careers in education and sport management.

“In 2024-2025, our ECE courses provided the opportunity to earn college credits to 924 high schoolers in 45 schools,” Dean Jason G. Irizarry says. “That is a significant increase from only 201 students in five districts in 2021-2022, when we piloted our courses. Offering this opportunity for high school students to learn more about higher education, as well as future career paths, is central to our goal of improving access to education.”

Irizarry began the day's activities by welcoming students and teachers from Bridgeport, Burlington, Enfield, Milford, Simsbury, and Waterford. All either teach or take EDCI 1100: If You Love It, Teach It; EDLR 2001: Contemporary Issues in Sport; or EPSY 1100: Introduction to Special Education.



The group then heard an overview of the Neag School from ECE Faculty Coordinators and professors, as well as Assistant Professor-in-Residence Danielle DeRosa and Assistant Dean and Certification Officer Ann Traynor.

“Supporting a vibrant ECE portfolio is a priority of the Neag School and the Sport Management Program,” says DeRosa, who is also one of the Neag School’s ECE Faculty Coordinators. “It allows high school students to earn UConn credit and experience the rigor of our courses. This experience helps to facilitate college readiness and prepare students for the student success journey.”

Around midmorning, students enjoyed tours of campus and the athletics facilities before attending sessions specific to their classes. Those enrolled in EDCI or EPSY courses attended a panel moderated by Director of Teacher Education Alyssa Hadley Dunn and hosted by current Neag School students, who offered insights about the Integrated Bachelor’s/Master’s Teacher Education Program. The high schoolers enrolled in EDLR 2001 attended the Business, Sport and

Human Rights panel at UConn’s Dodd Human Rights Summit, which was dedicated to Sport and Human Rights this year.

“Visiting UConn for my ECE class was a valuable experience,” says Marek Nardi, a student from Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington. “Seeing the campus, meeting faculty, and learning how college courses operate gave me a clearer understanding of what academic life looks like and what standards I should aim for going forward.”

Overall, it is a great day for all educational stakeholders involved, and I look forward to doing it again in the future.”

- Bristol Eastern High School
- Capital Prep Harbor School
- Enfield High School
- Jonathan Law High School
- Joseph A Foran High School
- Lewis S. Mills High School
- The Ethel Walker School
- Waterford High School ■



“Being able to take my students to UConn Storrs is an incredible experience,” says Erik McKay, an educator from Lewis S. Mills High School. “UConn is providing insight into what college looks, sounds, and feels like. There are many intangible experiences my students get from being on campus, seeing the athletic facilities and classrooms, and meeting and working with the UConn faculty.



2025 UConn ECE Italian *Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl*

By Jessica Dunn | Photos by Gordon Daigle and Michael Illuzzi

On October 23rd, UConn proudly hosted its fourth Italian Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl, bringing together talented students for a day of language, culture, and spirited competition. After an exciting series of rounds in the afternoon Quiz Bowl, we congratulate this year's trophy winners:

- First Place:** Holy Cross High School
- Second Place:** Bristol Central High School
- Third Place:** Newington High School

A special shout-out goes to our 2025 MVP, Luis of Plainville High School, who achieved an incredible back-to-back win after earning MVP last year as well!

This event continues to celebrate the richness of Italian language and culture while fostering collaboration and academic excellence among our ECE partner schools. Grazie to all who participated. We can't wait to see you next year!

- Bristol Central High School
- Holy Cross High School
- Newington High School
- Plainville High School
- Torrington High School ■





2025 UConn ECE French *Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl*

By Jessica Dunn | Photos by Gordon Daigle and Michael Illuzzi

On November 20th, eight high schools joined UConn for the annual French Immersion Day and Quiz Bowl, bringing together about 100 student participants from across Connecticut. The day was filled with interactive language activities, cultural experiences, and spirited competition during the afternoon Quiz Bowl.

This year's winners were:

First Place: Wilton High School

Second Place: Lewis S. Mills High School

Third Place: Bristol Eastern High School

One UConn French Instructor summed up the spirit of the event: *“Merci, everyone, for another fun, memorable, and experience-packed day for our students. I always look forward to this event because I love hearing my students talk afterward about their immersive learning experiences and getting a ‘taste’ of what lies beyond high school.”*

The UConn Faculty Coordinator praised the Teaching Assistants for their creativity and dedication, noting that they planned and delivered outstanding lesson plans that made the day engaging and educational for all.



- Bristol Eastern High School
- Cheshire High School
- Coventry High School
- Daniel Hand High School
- Granby Memorial High School

- Lewis S. Mills High School
- RHAM High School
- Wilton High School ■

Anthropology Class Visit

By Jessica Dunn

On November 14th, Jeremy Pilver from Farmington High School along with 16 enthusiastic UConn ECE ANTH1500: Great Discoveries in Archaeology students, visited the UConn Storrs Campus for an unforgettable day of hands-on discovery.

The group explored archaeology and ancient lifeways through three dynamic workshops. Under the guidance of Dr. Daniel Adler, students experimented with stone tool technology, learning how early humans shaped tools for survival. They then delved into ancient plant use and food practices with UConn ECE Anthropology Faculty Coordinator Alexia Smith, uncovering how agriculture transformed societies. Finally, with Sophia De Schiffart, they examined ancient animal use, gaining insight into the critical role animals played in past cultures.



From shaping stone tools to exploring ancient diets and animal lifeways, the experience gave students a rare chance to step into the shoes of archaeologists and uncover the

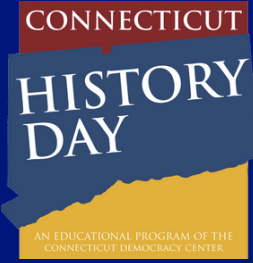
secrets of the past. Guided by UConn experts, they didn't just learn, they experienced archaeology in action! ■

U.S. History Class Visit

By Rachel Riendeau,
UConn U.S. History ECE Instructor

On November 20th, sixteen UConn ECE U.S. History students from Windham Technical High School visited the UConn Storrs campus to carry out historical research at the Dodd Archives and Babbidge Library. They were also able to attend a campus tour and meet with a current UConn student/ alumna from their school to discuss the transition to college. ■





CT History Day Judges Needed

Judges review student projects, provide constructive feedback and meet with students at the contests. Newer judges are paired with experienced judges.

What are the benefits of serving as a History Day judge?

- Meeting hardworking middle and high school students.
- Learning about fascinating local, national, and world history topics.
- Networking with professionals in the history and educational fields.
- Great opportunity for pre-service teacher!
- Complimentary lunch.



Five Regional contests in February and March and the State Contest in early May.



SCAN ME

You can find more information and sign up at:

<https://www.historydayct.org/where-to-begin/judges/>

UConn ECE Instructors serving as a CT History Day Judge will receive a UConn ECE swag bag.

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

January 19 – March 9, 2026

UConn ECE Student Scholarship Applications Open

January 26 - March 9, 2026

Nominations for Professional Recognition Awards

February 2 - 6, 2026

Spring Course Adjustment Period

February 2 - 6, 2026

National School Counseling Week

February 7 - May 1, 2026

Spring course withdrawals

February 15, 2026

Fall Semester Grades Due

March 4, 2026

Faculty Coordinator Meeting

March 7, 2026

CT History Day

March 26, 2026

LMS Workshop

March 26, 2026

Trumbull ECE Economics Student Event - Stamford Campus

April 4, 2026

National School Librarian Day

April 23, 2026

2026 UConn ECE Professional Recognition Awards

April 25, 2026

CT Science Olympiad

April 30, 2026

Student Chem Lab Day #1

May 1, 2026

School Principal's Day

May 1- May 31, 2026

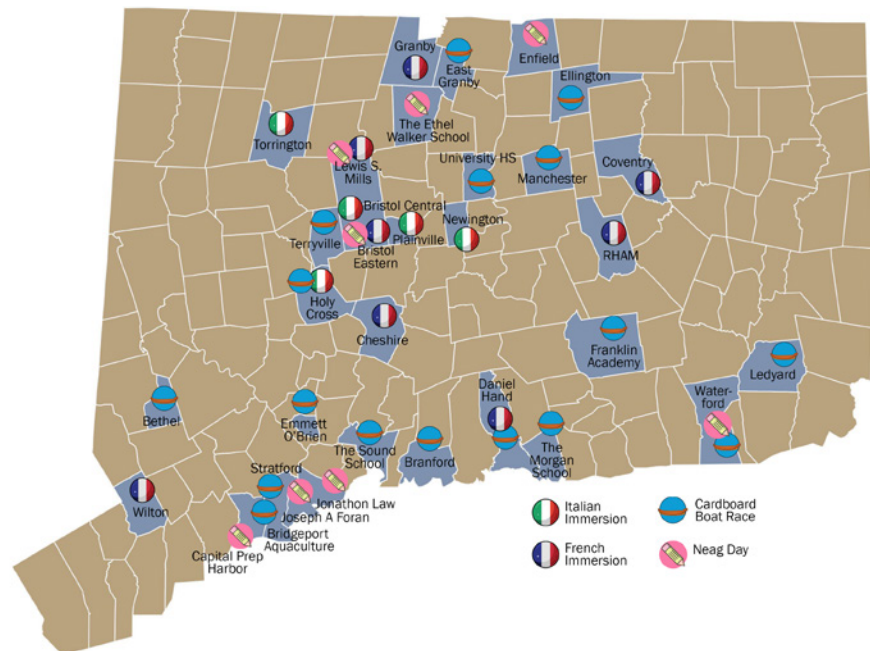
Spring 2026 and Full-year UConn ECE Course Evaluation Period

May 4-8, 2026

Teacher Appreciation Week

UConn ECE Student Events during the Fall 2025 Semester

This map of Connecticut highlights the high schools that participated in UConn ECE student events during the Fall 2025 semester. Each marker represents a school that sent students to a specific event, providing a visual representation of regional participation across the state. The map also reflects the diverse range of schools involved, from urban centers to rural areas, illustrating the broad engagement in these student events offered so far this year. The widespread participation is a testament to the dedication of UConn ECE Instructors and Students and their commitment to excellence and growth. We look forward to expanding our reach and encourage all high schools to take advantage of the valuable opportunities available to students across various disciplines. ■



May 15, 2026

Student Chem Lab Day #2

May 18, 2026

New Instructor Orientation

May 19, 2026

Plant Science and Landscape Architecture Expo

May 22, 2026

Spanish Film Festival

May 27, 2026

UConn Site Representative Conference- Storrs

May 29, 2026

MARN Symposium

June 25, 2026

LMS Retreat

July 1, 2026

Spring 2026 and Full-year Semester Grades Due

Italian Multimedia Contest

CONCORSO MULTIMEDIA PER
STUDENTI DI ECE ITALIANO
2026

Scelgi due dei tre componenti per creare un
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IL LINGUAGGIO DEL... VERO IO

Composizione Scritta:
poesia, racconto, saggio,
o brano di prosa

Composizione Audio:
musica, canto, soundscape,
video (con narrazione e/o
dialogo), o recitazione

Composizione Visiva:
fotografia, collage, pittura,
video reel, o composizione
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venerdì, 27 febbraio 2026

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Help us recognize the UConn ECE Partners

UConn ECE Partners make a difference in UConn ECE Student's lives and have supported the UConn ECE experience.

Share a few kind words and nominate your favorite School Counselor, Library Media Specialist, Principal, or UConn ECE Instructor for the opportunity for them to win UConn ECE merch. Let's give them the recognition they deserve.

Those with multiple nominations (1) will receive some special UConn ECE merch, (2) will receive a letter-sized poster of the nomination comments, and (3) be recognized on UConn ECE social media and (4) be recognized in the Summer edition of the UConn ECE Magazine.

- **National School Counseling Week:**
Feb. 2-6, 2026
 - nominations open through Sunday, Jan 25
 - s.uconn.edu/school_counseling_nominations
- **National School Librarian Day:**
April 4, 2026
 - nominations open through Sunday, March 29
 - s.uconn.edu/Librarian_Nominations
- **School Principal's Day: May 1, 2026**
 - nominations open through Sunday, Apr 26
 - s.uconn.edu/principal_nominations
- **Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8, 2026**
 - nominations open through Sunday, Apr 26
 - s.uconn.edu/teacher_nominations



ece.uconn.edu/courses

We're gonna need a bigger — *Registration System* —

108 Courses, 48 Disciplines, 1 Expanded Legacy

By Christopher Todd

Partnering with school districts, to meet the needs of educators and students across the state, continues to be a founding tenant of all programming within the Office of Early College Programs. The UConn Early College Experience (ECE) program continues to broaden access to rigorous, college coursework, strengthening pathways into meaningful careers and expanding opportunities in key academic and professional fields.



New offerings such as **ARE 1110E: Population, Food, and the Environment** introduces students to real-world economic and environmental challenges related to food systems and resource use, supporting career interests in sustainability, agribusiness, and public policy. In the sciences, **CHEM 1124Q & CHEM 1125Q: Fundamentals of General Chemistry I & II** provide foundational chemistry knowledge essential for advanced study in health sciences, engineering, and research-based careers. These courses



support students preparing for majors in chemistry, pharmacy, biology, and related STEM areas by delivering college-level laboratory and quantitative experience while still in high school.

The arts, engineering, and professional skill development are further enriched through courses like **DRAM 1101: Introduction to Theatre and DRAM 3141: Playwriting and Workshop**, which nurture creativity, communication, and critical thinking—skills valuable across creative industries and collaborative work environments. On the engineering front, **ENGR 1195: Special Topics in Engineering: AI Literacy (AI for All)** immerses students in contemporary technological literacy, preparing them for careers at the intersection of computing, design, and innovation, while **ME 2140: Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing** offers hands-on ex-



perience with SolidWorks/CAD and design tools relevant to manufacturing and product development. In the health professions, **PHAR 1002: Fundamentals of Pharmacology** and **PHRX 3057: Discovering the Leader Within** build foundational scientific understanding and professional leadership skills, supporting future pathways in pharmacy, medicine, and allied health.



Complementing these discipline-specific offerings, **UNIV 1820: First Year Seminar - Intro to Making** engages students in creative problem solving foundational to maker and design thinking, supporting a successful transition to college-level learning while encouraging innovation across academic and career interests. Together, these courses reflect UConn ECE's continued commitment to broadening access, expanding opportunity, and preparing students for future success in high-demand fields.



As a result, the program continues to expand access to high-quality, college coursework that strengthens career pathways and supports student exploration across multiple career pathways including but not limited to education, health sciences, engineering, and STEM fields. ■



As a result, the program continues to expand access to high-quality, college coursework that strengthens career pathways and supports student exploration across multiple career pathways including but not limited to education, health sciences, engineering, and STEM fields. ■

— We're gonna need a bigger Voice —

By Todd Blodgett

The UConn ECE Student Ambassador Program plays a crucial role within the UConn Early College Experience Program, where ambassadors actively assist with ECE marketing and administration, support fellow students, and collaborate with Site Representatives at their high schools. In recent years, we've expanded their responsibilities to make them more interactive and present on the front lines of our social media and publications, allowing them to share experiences and projects within their UConn ECE courses.

Some of the initiatives that ambassadors have contributed to recently—and will continue to participate in this year—include the ECE Student Advice Column, where ambassadors share tips and insights for success in the program. They also participate in Ambassador Spotlights, allowing each ambassador to highlight their personal achievements and goals, and showcase their experiences with ECE. As UConn

ECE continues to expand its Academic Planning Portal, we will take the advice and insights from our Student Ambassadors to help build our resources.

Ambassadors are also involved in semester reports, providing updates on what's happening in their classrooms and ECE courses. During the fall term, they assist teachers with student registration, supporting a smooth enrollment process. We encourage and help support our Student Ambassadors to take a leadership role within their UConn ECE courses and amongst their peers.

The ECE Ambassador Program is an excellent leadership opportunity, and it's rewarding to see the impact on our students' futures. This program not only cultivates leadership skills but also serves as an inspiring pathway for other students who share similar values and aspirations to get involved in their schools and the UConn ECE Program. ■



Student Scholarship Applications Open

UConn Early College Experience recognizes outstanding UConn ECE Students each year with twelve \$1000 scholarships, which can be used at any institution. Students are not eligible to receive more than one UConn ECE Student Scholarship.

- Applications for the 2025-2026 academic year open **January 19, 2026 and close March 9, 2026.**
- Applicants for this award must be a high school senior and have taken or be currently taking at least one UConn Early College Experience course.

- 1. Excellence in Humanities, Social Sciences, or Interdisciplinary Studies** demonstrate academic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in a field focusing on Humanities, Social Sciences, or Interdisciplinary Studies.
- 2. Excellence in Visual, Performing, or Digital Arts** demonstrate artistic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in a field related to the visual, performing, or digital arts. Eligible areas may include—but are not limited to—drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, graphic design, digital media, film, music, theater, and dance
- 3. Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics** demonstrate academic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics.

- 4. Excellence in Professional Careers, Public Service, or Applied Studies** demonstrates ambition and self-drive evidenced by outstanding achievement in both school and their community.
- 5. Excellence in Languages, Literatures, or Cultures** to celebrate the academic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in a field that involves the study or use of world languages—including spoken and sign languages—world literatures, and/or global cultures.
- 6. Excellence in Agriculture, Health, or Natural Resources** to celebrate the academic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in a field related to agriculture, health, or natural resources. ■

We're gonna need a bigger *Bulletin Board*

By Carissa Rutkauskas

NACEP 2025 Conference, Los Angeles, CA

The 2025 NACEP National Conference—Lights, Camera, Access!—brought more than 20 years of national dual enrollment leadership to center stage in Los Angeles from October 26–28, with UConn playing a consistent and visible role through two decades of sponsorship, volunteering, and presenting. Representing UConn Early College Experience this year were Christopher Todd, Office of Early College Programs Executive Director, and Carissa Rutkauskas,



UConn ECE Outreach and Evaluation Specialist, who also participated in the pre-conference affiliated chapters meeting as NEACEP secretary alongside colleagues from Maine and Rhode Island to share best practices and strengthen regional connections. Throughout the conference, Carissa attended sessions on AI-supported advising and instruction, redefining student success, evaluating credit transferability, strengthening counselor and coordinator support, and understanding the first-year experience of students entering college with dual enrollment credit—gathering insights on responsible AI use, emotional in-

telligence development, equity-minded program design, and collaborative K–12/postsecondary strategies.

In April 2025, Chris accepted an appointment as the Member-At-Large representative on the NACEP Accreditation Commission and was excited to meet in-person with fellow commissioners for the first time. Chris participated in several Accreditation Commission meetings and served as a representative on best-practices panels throughout the conference. As NACEP celebrated 20 years, it was inspirational to see UConn's role in the inception and growth of NACEP over the years, as the program continues to serve on the national stage as a leading example of best practices.

CABE/CAPSS Convention

The CABE/CAPSS Convention—hosted annually by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents—was held November 21–22, 2025, in Mystic, CT, under the theme “Lighting the Way for Student Success.” Representing the Office of Early College Programs, Christopher Todd (OECPE Executive Director), Bobbi-Jo Wathan (UConn Pre-College Summer Director), Carissa Rutkauskas (ECE Outreach & Evaluation Specialist), and Erin Blanchette (OECPE Billing & Operations Specialist) engaged with attendees, including board of education members, superintendents, ed-



ucators, and administrators, to share OECPE opportunities and strengthen statewide partnerships. OECPE is in their 4th year of partnering with CABE/CAPSS. A highlight of the event was the Friday morning keynote by Dr. Miguel Cardona, 12th U.S. Secretary of Education, whose deep Connecticut roots—from his early career as a Meriden teacher and principal to serving as Connecticut's Education Commissioner and as a proud UConn graduate—resonated strongly with the convention's focus on advancing student success across the state.



Katie Boland Constitution

UConn ECE Political Science Instructor Katie Boland, who teaches POLS 1202 – Introduction to Comparative Politics, POLS 1402: Introduction to International Relations, and POLS 1602: Introduction to American Politics, continues to inspire civic learning through her dynamic Constitution Day programming, which she shares annually through her popular YouTube channel to educate not only her own students at Trumbull High School but classrooms across the state. Constitution Day—recognized nationally each September 17 to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787—has become a signature event for Boland's AP/UConn American Government classes, who celebrate the day by creating schoolwide ed-



educational activities and promoting #ConstitutionDay2025. Renowned for her passionate and award-winning approach to civics education, Boland leads Trumbull's acclaimed "We the People" team, guiding students to multiple state and national honors through simulated constitutional hearings, while her creative teaching methods—including her well-known George Washington persona—bring historical concepts to life. A recipient of the American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year award, Boland exemplifies the impact of exceptional UConn ECE instructors by cultivating informed, engaged future citizens through both classroom innovation and her expanding digital constitutional-education outreach.

UConn ECE Scholarships Expanded

UConn Early College Experience is excited to unveil a significant expansion of its student scholarship program, increasing the number of categories from three to six and fully revamping two of the original categories to better reflect the breadth of UConn ECE coursework. All 108 ECE courses now align with one of the six scholarship areas— Humanities, Social Sciences, or Interdisciplinary Studies; Visual, Performing, or Digital Arts; Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics; Professional Careers, Public Service, or Applied Studies; Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; and Agriculture, Health, or Natural Resources—with two scholarships offered in each category, for a total of twelve awards. Each award provides \$1,000 to a high-achieving senior whose academic interests and accomplishments exemplify excellence within their subject area. This redesigned structure not only broadens opportunities for students but also ensures recognition

across the full range of disciplines represented in UConn ECE. Applications for the 2025-2026 academic year open January 19, 2026 and close March 9, 2026. For more information, visit ece.uconn.edu/students-parents/student-scholarships/



UConn Early College Experience Data Now Included in 2023-24 IPEDs

For the first time in its 70-year history, UConn Early College Experience (ECE) data was included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) with the 2023-24 reporting cycle—a landmark moment for concurrent enrollment nationwide. IPEDS, the federal government's primary source for higher education data, only recently began capturing dual enrollment in a consistent way, following its major 2022-23 shift to collect a direct national headcount of dual enrollment students. This evolution in federal reporting brings long-needed visibility to high school students taking college courses—such as UConn ECE students, who are not matriculated—and recognizes the impact of long-standing, high-quality programs like UConn ECE, the nation's oldest concurrent enrollment program. The inclusion of UConn ECE data in IPEDS also aligns with Connecticut's advancement in statewide reporting through the newly launched CSDE Dual Credit Dashboard, ensuring that, for the first time, systems outside the university are documenting the full scope of dual credit participation across the state. Together, these tools now capture UConn course-taking across multiple contexts, each in slightly different ways. For



data specific solely to the UConn ECE program, the UConn ECE Data Dashboard remains the authoritative source; for exploring the new IPEDS dual enrollment figures, the Community College Research Center (CCRC) Dual Enrollment Dashboard by John Fink offers an excellent resource for examining national trends.

Faculty Coordinator Morty Ortega featured in UConn Magazine

Congratulations to Morty Ortega on his incredible accomplishments featured in the UConn Magazine! His



dedication to innovation and excellence continues to make an impact across our community.

We're proud to have Morty serving as a UConn ECE Faculty Coordinator for Natural Resources & the Environment, where he helps ensure the integrity of UConn courses offered in partner high schools and supports the professional development of UConn ECE Instructors.



Concurrent Enrollment Review, volume 3

The latest edition of Concurrent Enrollment Review is now available.

- *Supporting Faculty Liaisons in Concurrent Enrollment Programs* | Nicole A. Diederich

continued on page 26

News To Know

continued from page 25

- *Navigating Dual Worlds: The Complex Experiences of Concurrent Enrollment Instructors* | Teri St. Pierre
- *Cross-Pollination of Ideas: Exploring the Mental Health Implications of Academic Pressure in Dual Enrollment Programs for Students* | Lorenzo Rene
- *Early College Program Implementation and Growth: A Collaborative Initiative by a State University* | Olcay Yavuz and Trudy Milburn



Concurrent Enrollment Review (CER) is the first independent, open access, peer reviewed journal dedicated to research in the field of dual/concurrent enrollment.
surface.syr.edu/cer/

2025 Welcome back packages

UConn Early College Experience kicked off the 2025–26 academic year by sending “Welcome” and “Welcome Back” packages to more than 200 partner high schools, filled with requested program materials, brochures, marketing items, UConn ECE polo shirts for new instructors and site representatives, and new



“School of Distinction” banners. This year’s packages also included special celebratory items: each partner instructor, site representative, principal, and superintendent received a commemorative UConn ECE 70th Anniversary Challenge Coin, featuring our 70-year milestone on one side and an “Established in 1955” emblem on the other—recognizing UConn as the nation’s oldest concurrent enrollment program. Included with the coin was a message of gratitude reflecting the spirit of our 70th year: that the program’s longevity and impact are



made possible by the dedication of ECE instructors, counselors, administrators, and university faculty who, since 1955, have worked together to expand access and preparation for post-secondary success.

UConn ECE also launched a new annual tradition of presenting Top 10 School Banners to schools that ranked highest in one of three categories: (1) Highest Number of Students Enrolled in UConn Courses, (2) Largest

Percent Enrollment Increase from the Previous Year, and (3) Highest Percentage of the High School Enrolled in UConn Courses. The 2024–25 Top 10 schools can be found in the “By the Numbers” feature of our Summer 2025 magazine. We are also pleased to welcome several new partner schools for 2025–26, including ACES at Chase, the American School for the Deaf, Arts at the Capitol Theater Performing Arts Magnet High School, New Milford High School, and Upper School Madina Academy.

OECP Welcomes Jessica Lynch

Jessica Lynch joined Pre-College summer in July of this year. She serves as the Program Coordinator for UConn’s Pre-College Summer Program. Jessica holds a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration from Southern New Hampshire University and a



Bachelor’s Degree in General Studies from Eastern Connecticut State University. She brings experience in higher education, with a focus on academic advising, student development, and college and career readiness. In addition to her advising roles, she also teaches courses in Public Speaking and College and Career Success, further reinforcing her commitment to early college awareness, access, and student empowerment. Jessica is dedicated to creating inclusive, supportive environments that encourage exploration, growth, and readiness for life beyond high school.

News To Know

ECE Welcomes/ Welcomes Back 5 New Faculty Coordinators



Dramatic Arts:
Adrienne Macki, Ph.D.



Educational Curriculum and Instruction:
Michele Back, Ph.D.



Engineering:
Arash Zaghi, Ph.D.



Human Development & Family Sciences:
Brian Chapman, Ph.D.



Music:
Louis Hanzlik, PhD

70 Years, 70 Faces, One UConn ECE Legacy

In 2025–26, UConn Early College Experience celebrates 70 years of offering UConn credits to high school students. Now, we want to celebrate you.

Were you part of UConn ECE or the High School Co-op Program as a student?

We're collecting stories for a special anniversary campaign—and we'd love to hear yours!

- We're especially looking for:
- Multi-generational ECE families
 - “Full-circle” journeys (former students who became instructors or administrators)
 - Notable alumni doing amazing things
 - First generation college students
 - Students who were greatly impacted taking UConn courses in high school

Selected contributors will be featured on UConn ECE social media and in the UConn ECE Magazine as part of our 70 Years, 70 Faces campaign.

Be one of the 70 Faces who help us honor this legacy.



**Share your story and
submit here: ece.uconn.edu/about/history/**

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

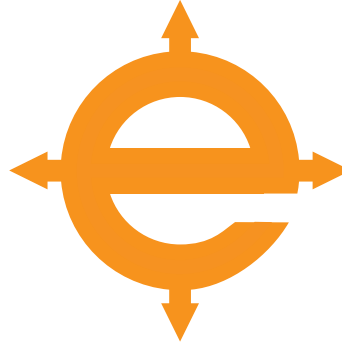


Each year, UConn PCS is dedicated to helping students discover their passions and reach their full potential. By immersing students in UConn's campus and academic community, we've created a supportive environment for students to grow, explore and discover the possibilities of tomorrow.



We're Gonna Need a Bigger Classroom

By
Briana Ried-Maloney



UConn PCS Graduate
Assistant, HESA Master's
Student

UConn Pre-College Summer 2026 Applications Now Open with Expanded Opportunities

UConn Pre-College Summer (PCS) is a summer academic program for high school students that provides an early introduction to college-level learning and life. Through immersive coursework and structured programming, students explore academic interests, engage with UConn faculty, and gain firsthand experience navigating college academics and campus life, leaving with greater confidence and a clearer understanding of the transition to college.

Expanding to the Hartford Campus!

Aligned with UConn's "One UConn" vision, the Pre-College Summer program has expanded its presence in Hartford. The Hartford site will highlight the great academic programs in Hartford by offering courses in:

- Social Work
- Public Policy: Public Service for the Greater Good
- Nursing: Early Introduction to the Nursing Program

The Hartford session will not be residential and is best suited for students who desire an immersive experience, but don't want to be away from home. The program will support local students with CT Transit bus passes to



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We're gonna need a bigger *Classroom*

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facilitate easier access to campus. In addition, the Hartford program will host a Family Engagement Night to support families. We are partnering with the Hartford Public Library to support workshops designed to promote college & career readiness and whole-student growth through collaborative learning in the community.

New Courses @ Storrs

Our programing at the Storrs campus continues to be a residential, immersive learning experience for students age 14-17 years old. Pre-College Summer 2026 also expands its academic offerings at the Storrs campus to include several new courses that reflect diverse interests and emerging fields. New courses for the summer session include:

- Accounting
- Early Introduction to the Nursing Profession
- CHEM 1194: The Science of Chemistry (1 credit)
- 3D Modeling and Printing: Bringing Ideas to Reality
- Design & Hype: Creative Advertising for the Digital Age
- Equine Science: Health, Management & Rehabilitation
- The Calling to Teach
- Exploring a Career in Sport Management

Updated Workshops

In addition to academics, the program has redeveloped its workshop model to emphasize structured learning experiences to support postsecondary goals and transitions. Students will participate in workshops focused on college and career development, leadership and personal development, and academic skills development, equipping them with tools that extend beyond the classroom. This portion

of our program mimics the university's First Year Seminar course, preparing them for the soft skills needed for success in college.

Scholarships!

Applications for UConn Pre-College Summer 2026 are now open for high school students! Centering accessibility for a broader range of participants, we are offering 2 different scholarships:

LIFETIME TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION ACCESS

There are two levels of this scholarship, Blue and Gray, 10 scholarships available at each level. Scholarships are competitive and require an additional essay and recommendation from a school counselor, teacher, or mentor. Students who qualify are encouraged to apply within the application.

Grey Scholarship:

- Discounted tuition rate: \$1175 (50% discount)
- Families making less than \$100k/annually

Blue Scholarship:

- Discounted tuition rate: \$300 (87% discount)
- Families making less than \$80k/annually

CLIMATE SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship offers full tuition coverage for 5 participants who are taking the Climate Science course. These scholarships are competitive and require that students apply when they submit their application to our program.

UConn ECE Students qualify for an application fee waiver! Enter code: UCWAIVED to save \$50!

We're gonna need a bigger *Classroom*

continued from page 30




We are always working on new funding options and scholarships, stay updated on any new scholarships on our website, pcs.uconn.edu.

We can't wait to see your students this summer!

With expanded scholarships, new academic pathways, and increased investment in structured student development and community partnerships, UConn Pre-College Summer 2026 offers high school students meaningful preparation for future academic and career pathways.


For more information and to apply, visit the UConn Pre-College Summer website, pcs.uconn.edu! ■









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2026 New England Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships **CONFERENCE** Thursday, May 28, 2026



The New England Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NEACEP) is an affiliated chapter of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP).

Higher education program faculty and staff; secondary administrators and teachers; representatives from state departments of education and state agencies; and education professionals and researchers from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island work together to advance quality college courses in high schools throughout the region.



Manchester Community College, Manchester, New Hampshire

- Theme & Keynote Presenter to be announced soon
- Call for proposals and registration will open soon
- Sponsorship opportunities are available

For more information and the latest updates, follow NEACEP on LinkedIn

To become a member of NEACEP, visit www.nacep.org/neacep/ and click on the membership link on the top right

Additional UConn ECE Benefits

Creating a Community

By Jessica Dunn

DISCOUNT TICKETS

As part of the UConn ECE Community, Students, Instructors, Site Representatives, Library Media Specialists, and Faculty Coordinators have access to attend select UConn athletic events and performances at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts at discounted rates! UConn Early College Experience has partnered with UConn Athletics to offer YOU the opportunity to be in the stands and show your Husky pride with your friends and family. We have also partnered with Jorgensen who offers UConn Early College Experience Students and high school partners, with a valid UConn NetID, FREE tickets to a selection of their annual performances.

Available athletic event tickets and Jorgensen performance offers are announced throughout the academic year to the UConn ECE Community. Take advantage of these great offers and opportunities to immerse yourself in the UConn culture.

Hundreds of UConn ECE partners did this year! You may not be in Storrs, Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, or Waterbury, but you are a part of UConn wherever you are. Bring your class, your friends, or your family to a game or a show! This is just one of the many benefits of being part of the UConn ECE family, and we hope to see you on campus.



UConn Athletics Listings

UConn Early College Experience has partnered with UConn Athletics to offer UConn ECE Students and Partners the opportunity to be in the stands showing their Husky pride. New athletics events will be added soon!

- **Jan. 24 Women's Ice Hockey vs. Northeastern**
- **Feb. 7 Women's Basketball vs. Butler**
- **Feb. 11 Women's Basketball vs. Creighton**
- **Feb. 21 Women's Ice Hockey vs. Merrimack**
- **Feb. 26 Women's Basketball vs. Georgetown**

Find your tickets here:

s.uconn.edu/ece-discount-tix

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts Listings

Also celebrating 70 years, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is offering UConn ECE Students and Partners with a valid NetID a free ticket to each of the performances listed below.

- **Feb. 8 Chicka Chicka Boom**
- **Feb. 14 The Seven Wonders - Fleetwood Mac Tribute**
- **Feb. 17 Bodytraffic**
- **Feb. 20 Ruckus**
- **Feb. 22 Curious George**
- **March 3 Ulysses Quartet**
- **March 6 MacMasters and Leahy**
- **March 14 Sheku Kanneh Mason**
- **March 28 Ladysmith Black Mambazo**
- **April 11 Women of Americana**

Don't forget, show your Husky Pride and tag us in your photos from the games and shows you attend!

Facebook @uconnece Twitter @uconnece Instagram @uconn_ece TikTok @uconnece

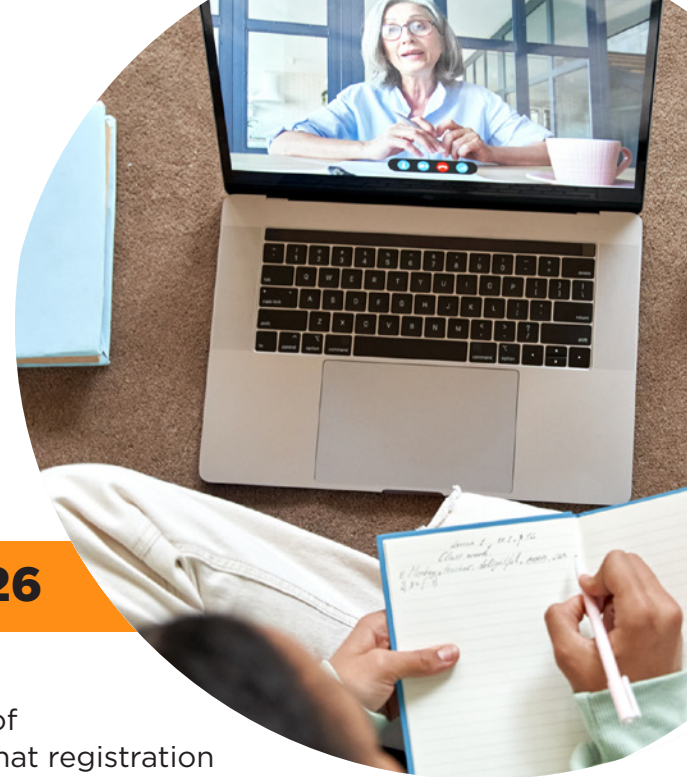
UConn Recreation Center Access - just for our partners

UConn ECE Instructors, Site Representatives, and Library Media Specialists are eligible for affiliate membership to the UConn Recreation Center. UConn ECE administrative partners must provide a UConn One Card for purchase of membership. ■

New Instructor Pathways:

Graduate Coursework to Support ECE Instructor Certification

Available Online - Summer 2026



The Office of Early College Programs and the Office of Summer/Winter Programs are pleased to announce that registration for summer graduate coursework specifically designed to support ECE Instructor certification pathways is now open for the following courses:

- ▶ **Economics Pathway** - ECON 5495: Topics in Economics: *The Theory & Teaching of Economics*
- ▶ **English Pathway** - ENGL 5100: *The Theory and Teaching of Writing*
- ▶ **History/American Studies Pathway** - HIST 5198: *Variable Topics in History: U.S. Foreign Policy*

Potential instructors may be eligible for Graduate Course Scholarships through the Office of Early College Programs. To learn more about **Graduate Scholarships** and **summer course offerings** visit ece.uconn.edu.



Summer Sessions 1 & 2

June 2 - July 3
July - August 14



Online

Asynchronous



Graduate Credits

3 UConn Graduate Credits



To Apply & Register by May 23rd visit:
summersession.uconn.edu/visiting-students
Contact UConn Office of Early College Programs
with questions at ece@uconn.edu

APPLY NOW

2025

Congratulations to the following UConn ECE Instructors who were selected as their district's teacher

Recognizing Excellence

Teacher of the Year

Victoria Climie
Branford High School

Sarah Lindstrom
Bristol Central High School

Hunter Sigona - Finalist
Derby High School

Joseph Meyer - Semifinalist
Glastonbury High School

Katherine Avcollie
Terryville High School

Regan Rowley
E. O. Smith High School

Richard Genua
Watertown High School



The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and is sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Talent Office and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council.

Professional Recognition Award Nominations are Open

The Office of Early College Programs sponsors eight awards recognizing outstanding professional achievement in the UConn ECE community.

- Thomas E. Recchio Faculty Coordinator Award for Academic Leadership (formerly the Faculty Coordinator Award for Excellence in Curriculum and Adjunct Faculty Development) (one awarded)
- Site Representative Award for Excellence in Program Administration (one awarded)
- Instructor Award for Excellence in Course Instruction (three - five awarded)
- “Rookie of the Year” Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction (two awarded)
- Principal Award for Program Support and Advocacy (one awarded)
- Award for Outstanding Research in the Field of Concurrent Enrollment (one awarded)
- Library Media Specialist Award for Excellence in Enrichment and Collaboration (one awarded)
- Additionally, an eighth award is given out by the discretion of the selection committee to a UConn ECE Instructor who has shown continued excellence over and over again: The Jan Pikul Award for Continued Excellence in Instruction (one awarded).

Nominations for awards may be made by UConn ECE Instructors, Site Representatives, Library Media Specialists, principals, Faculty Coordinators, and UConn ECE Students in February each year. Awards are determined by a selection committee made up of the Office of Early College Program Staff and former award winners. Awards are presented at a reception hosted by UConn Early College Experience in April each year. *Nominations for the 2025-2026 academic year open January 26, 2026 and close March 9, 2026. For more details visit ece.uconn.edu/professional-recognition-awards.* ■

Join the Group



To facilitate learning, knowledge, and opportunities by connecting UConn ECE Students with UConn ECE Alumni.



Join the UConn ECE Alumni Group on LinkedIn at bit.ly/UConnECEAlumni

UConn

EARLY COLLEGE
PROGRAMS

University of Connecticut
UConn Early College Experience
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Storrs, CT 06269-4171

KFS: 4176350

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UConn ECE

70 YEARS STRONG



**ECE is celebrating 70 years this
2025-2026 academic year!**

UConn Early College Experience was founded in 1955 and is proud to have offered hundreds of thousands of Connecticut high school students the opportunity to take college courses in high school over the past 70 years. UConn ECE is the nation's longest running concurrent enrollment program.

ECE.UCONN.EDU