

# CENTER FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

# Update

April 2010

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Maria D. Martinez, Director,  
Center for Academic Programs**

Greetings from the Center for Academic Programs. I'd like to welcome you to our annual publication *Update* which highlights exciting programs and activities involving the Center's staff and students. This year has proved to be one of the most fiscally challenging in our history. Like other departments at the University, we had the need to re-examine the way in which we conduct our business. In response to the fiscal crisis and in an effort to maximize our resources, we implemented an Enhanced Call Processing (ECP) phone system. If a person is not available to answer your call, you will hear a greeting with menu options directing you to the appropriate program or person(s) at the Center. The implementation of this system allowed us to allocate funds for student services.

This past summer, two of our most experienced staff members decided to take advantage of the University's Retirement Incentive Program and retired effective July 1, 2009. After many years of excellent work performance, Bob Brown, Program Manager at the Hartford campus and Marie McCain, Storrs SSS Counselor, decided to retire under this program. It is difficult to put into words the impact these retirements will have in our programs. We were fortunate that both Bob and Marie agreed to put their retirements on hold, accepting our offer to rehire them as temporary employees. This provided much needed continuity in servicing our students. This spring, we will have the opportunity to thank them for their numerous contributions by celebrating their retirements.

This year the Center continued implementing the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) evaluation project described in previous newsletters. Despite the increase in our workload, we have been able to move forward with discussions about the implementation some of the recommendations outlined in the Self Evaluation Report. As a result of the present fiscal crisis we will not be able to follow up on some of the findings. However we decided to start with those that don't require money, like the revision of our mission and departmental manual.

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Individual programs submitted their annual performance and financial reports to their respective funding sources. I'm pleased to report that in spite of the difficult fiscal situation at the state and federal level, all of our programs received funding for another year from the U.S. Department of Education and the Connecticut Department of Higher Education. This will allow us to continue recruiting and servicing low income and first generation students throughout the state.

Our students and staff were very busy this year by actively participating in a number of events. UB seniors visited colleges such as Temple, Villanova, and the University of Pennsylvania. They also collaborated with the School of Business and the UConn Health Center and participated in the CT Environmental Action Day sponsored by the School of Agriculture.

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During the month of July, the Educational Talent Search Program (ETS) held two very successful summer programs, one in New Haven and the other in Windham. Parent participation in the ETS program in Windham has increased significantly. The concept of the ETS Leadership Academy in New Haven has evolved to include mentoring activities and a class specifically designed for young girls.

The Student Support Services (SSS) program continues to solidify their relationship with the University of Liverpool (UL), England. Two SSS students interned at UL and 10 participated in the Liverpool Study Abroad Program. Our SSS Regional Coordinators are also witnessing an increase in the participation of regional campus students in study abroad experiences. We are extremely excited about this development and will continue to promote our students' participation.

SSS students in Storrs and at the regional campuses continue to excel. Last fall an SSS Waterbury graduate participated in a Panel Discussion for English Majors, "What Can You Do with an English Degree?" This alumnus studied abroad in London, and graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1999 with a degree in English. He received a Master of Arts Degree from Southampton University. He is completing a Ph.D. this year in history at the University of Delaware and is currently employed at Princeton University's School of Architecture. Another SSS student was awarded the Multicultural Scholars Scholarship from the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. Additionally, four SSS students received the Travelers EDGE Scholarship. We at the Center celebrate all of the achievements of our students this year.

The Center staff continues to seek professional development opportunities to enhance their skills and acquire new ones. The Director of the GEAR UP (GU) program completed the Greater New Haven Leadership Academy

sponsored by the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. The academy offers aspiring leaders training and education in community issues and opportunities to serve as agents of change in the Greater New Haven region. Also, GU had the distinct honor of receiving the 2009 Provost's Award for Excellence in Outreach and Public Engagement for their work over the past ten years. GU has provided academic and enrichment services to over 3,700 students in the New Haven School district.

I invite you to read about the new developments in study abroad experiences for students in our Student Support Services program (SSS). In the 2009-2010 academic year, 44 SSS students took part in study abroad experiences. Also, an additional six students received scholarships to study in London. This year for the first time with the support of Dr. Ross Lewin, the Office of Study Abroad extended opportunities to students at UConn's SSS regional campus program. Also, this past November, Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound/ConnCAP participated in the Connecticut Environmental Action Day (CEAD) hosted by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UConn (CANR). CANR wants to encourage young people to be part of the solution in addressing environmental and natural resource issues in their local communities. This conference provided students with the opportunity to coordinate a service learning project in their schools and communities. These are some of the stories you'll read about in this edition of our newsletter.

I hope that my letter has inspired you to read the entire newsletter. The various articles inside will offer more details about our students, staff and program activities.

We are very proud of our staff and students' accomplishments.

Enjoy it!!

## **SSS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, SSS students Monica Daniels and Eunice Omega volunteered for the Special Olympics. They worked through UConn's Community Outreach to help at the Eastern Region Special Olympics bowling qualifiers held at the Silver Lanes Bowling Center in East Hartford. Volunteers like Monica and Eunice assisted by helping to keep score and functioning as athlete escorts. Approximately 750 bowlers in total took part in the East-

ern Special Olympics qualifier, which included individual athletes, conventional teams, and unified teams. The Special Olympics are an international event and it is only by the work of volunteers that this life-changing competition can take place. Both Eunice and Monica say they gained a lot from this experience, and are looking forward to more community service opportunities in the future.

## LATINO AND PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION'S 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA AWARDS BANQUET – 2009 PROMESA YOUTH AWARD

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Rosaly Rosario and Armando Jimenez of the SSS program received the 2009 Promesa Youth Award. The selection process for award recipients occurred through a peer nomination, where students voted for individuals who are dedicated leaders in campus and community activities. Rosaly and Armando were recognized for their accomplishments at the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC)'s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Awards Banquet.

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernandez of LPRAC spoke highly of the students as active role models and leaders on campus. "These students are just phenomenal. They get straight A's and are also volunteering in the community." In addition to the award, the two students also received a \$1,500 academic scholarship. Congratulations to Rosaly and Armando!



## TO PENNSYLVANIA WE GO! UB SENIOR COLLEGE TRIP 2009



Twenty seven Upward Bound/ConnCAP Seniors participated in the annual Senior College Trip. This year's trip explored universities in Pennsylvania, including Villanova, Temple, and the University of Pennsylvania. During the tour at Villanova University, students were able to meet and hear from Terrell Harts, who is a Class of 2007 Upward Bound/ConnCap alumnus and current student at Villanova. He briefly spoke to the students about his experiences in the UB program and how it helped him today as an engineering student at Villanova.

Students enjoyed the urban environment of Temple University and explored Philadelphia's South Street, where they treated themselves to Philly cheese steaks. They were intrigued by the history and geography of the University of Pennsylvania and were also able to visit the National Constitutional Center, a museum that showcases important aspects of American history.

## PROUD TO BE AN SSS STUDENT

By Julia West

Life is full of trials and tribulations that we must overcome and I have learned that college isn't any different. As a senior at the University of Connecticut-Waterbury campus, I have experienced many adversities and have even felt like I'd lost my way. At my proudest and most accomplished moment and at my worst, Mrs. Lillie Wright, SSS Coordinator at Waterbury, and Student Support Services have been there to help me make my next step.

Coming out of high school well accomplished, I entered the University of Connecticut with the idea that high school and college would take the same amount of effort, but the SSS summer program opened my eyes. The summer program prepared me for the road that was ahead. My first semester in college, I maintained a GPA of 4.0 but thereafter is when I faced a couple of obstacles. For a couple of semesters, I was very uncertain as to what my goals and aspirations were because I hit a brick wall academically. Before college I had never failed anything; my academic excellence defined me. When I felt like I

failed in college I did not know how to handle it. Mrs. Wright never lost faith in me. Every semester that I performed below my potential, she was there trying to find a way for me to get back on track. Let's just say a couple semesters later, with her help, here I am with a semester GPA of 3.8, more confident, determined, and focused than I have ever been in my life.

I never really thought about what the SSS program meant but now I know exactly what it stands for. This program provides a strong foundation and college family for students. It is a support system that guides and equips students with all the tools necessary to achieve success academically as well as socially. It has been a privilege and a great honor to be a part of such a program and I am proud to be an SSS student. In all of my life endeavors, I will represent the SSS program to the best of my ability. I want to thank Mrs. Wright and the whole SSS program for all that they have done!

## SSS AND UPALS

By Aiesha McLean

Throughout my life I have always been involved in programs that have helped me to become the person I am today. When I was in elementary school I was a member of the Boys and Girls Club, and during both middle and high school I was a part of the Learn, Experience, Act, Develop (L.E.A.D.) program at the YMCA and the Yerwood Center. Being in these programs helped me stay focused in school and I always had someone around to help me.

When I was accepted into UConn I gained the opportunity to join the SSS program which has been a large part of my college success. Being a part of SSS provided me with mentors who were a few years older than me who had already experienced college life and were able to help me shed my nervousness about the course work and gave me the confidence to excel in school. I have always wanted to give back to others and help them in the same way that I was helped, but I wasn't sure how to accomplish this.

Fortunately, SSS was there to provide me with information about the UPals program, where I would be able to help middle-school-aged students experience college, and become an older friend they could rely on. All the students came in with enthusiasm, lots of questions and were eager

to experience college life. Using the knowledge I gained from being in SSS I was able to connect with the students because, when I was their age I also didn't have a lot of information about college or guidance on how to pursue higher education. I knew how they felt and the struggles they faced, and I was able to communicate with them. It is rewarding to be able to use what I've learned in SSS, and to continue to help others.



*Aiesha McLean with her mentees*

## WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE HILLS OF RWANDA

By Sharielle Applewhite



No matter where I turned in this small East African country I was surrounded by intense beauty. It was the type of beauty that held you captive with its awe, a type of beauty that provoked thought, a type of beauty that you wish you could bottle and take with you and spread to the world. When I looked around this African paradise, my thoughts often went to a place that left me speechless. How could a country as magnificent as the one that I was dwelling in could have endured such a horrible time period? That was the time period when 800,000 people were brutally murdered on the same green lush hills during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. If the hills could talk, I wonder what tales of despair and pain they would tell. I wonder how many frantic prayers they heard as women, children and men frantically prayed for their lives to be spared.



*UNESCO conference participants with President of Rwanda Paul Kagame*

As many horror stories as those hills may be able to tell, I wonder how many stories of hope and reconciliation they could tell now. Those hills are a sign that there is a better tomorrow. Many times when people think about Africa they think of a continent of dark despair, but what I learned in January was that out of great misery and pain can come hope. This hope is manifested in the progress that Rwanda has made in education and female participation in government.

One of the most important lessons that I learned in Rwanda is that there is a more important reconciliation and that is the reconciliation of self. I learned that the world is only as hopeless as we make it. Being at the conference was an amazing experience, because not only were we supposed to learn about Rwanda, but I inevitably learned about myself. Going to Rwanda planted the seed for me to do community work in disadvantaged communities in America. Often times, I tried to dodge the thought of having to spend long stressful years working with disadvantaged communities. However, Rwanda served as a model of progress, a model that reassured me that no matter how difficult the situation that perpetuated the genocide - or in this case marginalization of minorities in America - I can do it. Yes, it will be a long and hard road, but I can do it with the help of others. At the end of the day, like the Rwandan hills, I can still stand through adversity.

Rwanda was one of the best experiences in my life, and changed my view on hope and community work. I would like to thank God for Student Support Services as this program invests not only in the students, but in their futures. Their investment in me not only affects me, but it affects the same marginalized people I will be working with. It equipped me to be a better, more effective leader by learning from others' situations and applying it to my community.

*Sharielle Applewhite and Pamela Abraham both participated in the UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda International Leadership Programme: A Global Intergenerational Forum. They were awarded scholarships for travel from Student Support Services, while UNESCO covered costs such as registration and room and board within Rwanda.*

## ETS STUDENTS TAKE INITIATIVE



*ETS FYI Mentors*

A new program called Female Youth Inspired (FYI) is a mentor program founded by two dynamic ETS seniors, Amber Moye and Shereen Moore. Shereen and Amber are seniors at James Hillhouse High school who sought to make a difference in the lives of eighth grade girls by preparing them for high school. Amber and Shereen have recruited other high school students to act as mentors who will address topics such as creating goals, cultural awareness, self-esteem, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, time management and career exploration. The transition from middle school to high school is often difficult for young girls, and FYI mentors hope to impart lessons learned from personal experiences to these students as well as prepare them for balancing their social lives and commitment to academics.

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

Desi Nesmith, an alumnus of the University of Connecticut SSS program, recently spoke at the October NEAG School of Education conference *Celebrating Diversity in Education*. Nesmith received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the UConn NEAG School of Education. While presenting on campus, Nesmith spoke of the importance of diversity and education, while reminiscing about his early aspirations to become an educator. Nesmith also talked about the importance of the SSS program, how he took advantage of the services the program offers students, and how SSS helped him succeed. Since college, Nesmith has continued to excel in his field. He began as an elementary school teacher, which ultimately led to his current position as the principal of SAND Elementary School in Hartford.



*Desi Nesmith with counselor Leo Lachut*

Nesmith understands the difficulty many youths experience by not having a minority role model in the school system. In 2002, Nesmith established a program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, exposing them to the college experience. His desire to help students is evident in the amount of work he has put toward youth-oriented programming in the greater Hartford County. Nesmith is also a recipient of the 2009 Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (CAEOP) TRiO achiever award, which recognizes and honors people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the educational field.

## UCONN AVERY POINT STUDENTS HELPING IN THE COMMUNITY



Eltwaun Lawrence is a dedicated student and has recently “branchferred” to the Storrs campus from Avery Point. While at Avery Point, he led Student Support Services study groups and involved himself with many activities on campus. His commitment to helping others included mentoring a West Side Middle School student for two years, playing on a basketball team, leading peer study groups, and representing UConn at the Martin Luther King dinner.

Eltwaun also volunteered his time to work with UConn Avery Point’s EcoHusky club. His work with the EcoHusky club was beneficial to Eltwaun because it helped him plan a career path and refine his interests. “The Ecohusky club definitely gave me an insight about what I want to do with my career in the environmental field.” The SSS staff is excited to have him join the Storrs campus.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR

In December 2009, Paula McFarlane received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and African American Studies. She is the first graduate of the new African American Studies major. A student from Bridgeport, McFarlane gained an interest in this new major after returning from a 2007 study abroad semester aboard the *Freedom Schooner Amistad*. The *Schooner* sailed to London, Liverpool, Bristol, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Caribbean, and finally the US. McFarlane was part of this historical journey for the leg of the trip including England and Portugal, and she disembarked in Lisbon.

After exploring the history of the *Amistad*, McFarlane was inspired to learn more about African American history. “I wanted to learn about a history that has affected my experience in this country. It seems important in this day and age with Obama as president,” she says. We wish her the best of luck in her pursuit of an advanced degree and her career.



## UPWARD BOUND & EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DAY (CEAD) 2009

By Lisa Brasile

This past November, the University of Connecticut hosted the Connecticut Environmental Action Day (CEAD). The one-day conference was attended by approximately 70 high school students from across the state. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UConn hopes to inspire students to take an active role in addressing environmental and natural resource issues in their schools and local communities. CEAD provides students with an opportunity to plan a service learning project based on their experience at the conference, and eventually to carry out the project in their community.

Keynote Speaker Debra Rowe, Senior Fellow in Education for Sustainability of ULSF (Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future), opened the day with a discussion about playing our part in keeping ourselves and others aware of environmental issues, and how to “go green.”



Some of the workshops offered this year by UConn faculty and researchers consisted of “Environmental Impact of Biofuels: They Are Not All the Same,” “Pictures, Points, and Places—An Introduction to GPS,” “Public Health: Vampire Folk Belief in Historic New England,” “Energy for a Sustainable Future,” and “EEB Greenhouse Biodiversity Tours.” The day closed with



the high school attendees, including our own group of Upward Bound/ConnCAP students, presenting the service learning projects that they intend to implement in their communities. Students who implement an environment project in their communities will receive an award for \$250 to cover the cost of the project.

## UPWARD BOUND ACADEMIC DAY

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Upward Bound/ConnCAP Program held the first of five University of Connecticut Academic Days held annually at the Storrs campus. Students participated in academic workshops, which introduced them to various life skills. Upward Bound Staff members facilitated a “Decision Making” discussion where students were broken into small groups and given scenarios that involved making everyday decisions about drugs, alcohol, and high school attendance. They were assigned different problem scenarios and were asked to present the different options high school students have and the best solutions to the problems they are faced with.



A Financial Literacy workshop was offered by Elijah Oliver of G.O. Financial Group, helping students understand how learning to manage money now will assist them in the future. Oliver taught students the importance of a budget and handling bank accounts through fun-filled activities. As younger Upward Bound students were engaged in workshops, UB Seniors were able to meet with Interim Associate Director Larry Williams to fill out undergraduate admissions applications to the University of Connecticut.

## COLLEGE ACADEMIC DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This past spring, two SSS students, Danique Williams and David Solis, were selected for recognition at the annual College Academic Day at the Capitol. Both received a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly and were recognized before both House and Senate chambers. The student nomination process is open to all state Universities and Colleges, and schools select students for recognition based on merit and scholastic involvement. “Academic Day Honorees represent the best and the brightest in all of Connecticut’s colleges and Universities. Each year we take the time to shine a light on the message that student honorees of Academic Day will be Connecticut’s future leaders,” said State Representative Richard Roy. Danique Williams recently graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and minors in both African American Studies and Diversity Studies in American Culture. David Solis is majoring in Political Science and will be graduating in 2011.

Marie McCain, an SSS student counselor, was present at the event. “It was very exciting,” she says. “There was a large meeting with Representative Roy and all the students, followed by the presentation before the chambers and the awarding of the citations for academic excellence.” Familiar with both award recipients, Marie talks about their achievements with enthusiasm. “Danique is a student from Hartford, CT, and is in a teacher prep program right now and working as a substitute teacher. While at UConn, she distinguished herself with her activities on campus, especially with SSS. She also participated in study abroad in Liverpool in 2007, and went back as an intern in 2008 to teach classes to elementary students.”

(The two award recipients are pictured with Rep. Roy)



## **SSS STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD**

Participants in the Student Support Services Program have always been encouraged by SSS counselors and staff members to take advantage of study abroad opportunities during their undergraduate years at the University of Connecticut. With the arrival of the new Study Abroad Director, Dr. Ross Lewin, the SSS Program has gained an enthusiastic and supportive partner in its efforts to increase study abroad experiences for students. Dr. Lewin has developed a comprehensive strategy to assist SSS students in every step toward their study abroad experience.

Recognizing that obtaining a passport can pose the first deterrent to travel, Dr. Lewin has allocated funds to offset the passport application fees. In addition to the obvious financial assistance, SSS students can immediately realize the deep commitment of Study Abroad Programs to their academic and personal growth through this tangible benefit. Additional financial assistance is made available to SSS students through grants and scholarships, aid which brings the cost of studying abroad within reach of program participants.

As a result of the implementation of these measures, SSS has experienced a remarkable increase in the number of students participating in study abroad. In the 2009-2010 academic year, a total of 44 SSS students had study abroad

experiences. Six students received scholarships to study in London. SSS students also studied in Greece, Italy and Spain as well as Australia and Singapore. Nursing students took advantage of specially designed programs in South Africa and Puerto Rico.

Another initiative which is being supported by Dr. Lewin is to create opportunities for SSS students at UConn's regional campuses. Carlos Rodriguez and Marcel Arnold were the first students from the Greater Hartford Campus to take advantage of this new endeavor. Pamela Malval from the Avery Point campus jumped at the chance to continue her volunteer work of mentoring children through study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa. These experiences provide SSS students with opportunities to expand international awareness and to build personal and academic strengths, fulfilling the Study Abroad Programs' goal of global citizenship for University of Connecticut undergraduates.

The opportunity to study abroad, which has historically been out of reach for SSS students, is becoming an attainable undergraduate goal - indeed, an essential component of SSS students' college career. Dr. Lewin asks SSS students, "Where are YOU studying next semester?"

## **UCONN SSS STUDENT DAVID SOLIS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS KEITH SHERIN GLOBAL LEADERS SEMESTER**

"I never imagined I would be here," UConn junior and SSS student David Solis said after receiving the Council for Opportunity in Education's Keith Sherin Global Leaders Scholarship Fund. David was hosted by Marquette University's Les Aspin Center for Government this past fall semester while working and studying in Washington, DC. David interned for U.S. Representative Thomas Petri, from Wisconsin's 6<sup>th</sup> District. He also participated in an intensive academic component at Les Aspin, taking political science courses to further his understanding of government. Solis was selected from a national applicant pool for the one position available each semester.

Most of David's work concerned constituent issues, but he also had plenty of time to attend committee hearings, where representatives and aides listen to testimony on proposed legislation on education, defense, and health care. "You're hearing from the top experts in each field," Solis said. He was able to select sessions he wanted to attend or would represent a staff member who needed to be briefed on an issue. A political science major, David has always been interested in politics and would also like to run for public office someday, but "right now," he said, "...I'm just at one point in the road."

## ETS EXPANDS PROGRAMMING TO JAMES HILLHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL

UConn ETS has hosted a successful Leadership Academy program at the Connecticut Scholars Academy in New Haven, CT for the past three years. The Leadership Academy started at CT Scholars as a 12-week session taught one day a week during the spring semester. The first six weeks of the program's curriculum focuses on college preparation, and the remaining six weeks are focused on career preparation. The ETS Leadership Academy model used at CT Scholars has been such a success that it has caught the interest of surrounding schools. As a result of the monthly Service Providers meeting organized by Mrs. Shirley Joyner, head of guidance, the Leadership Academy has now expanded to James Hillhouse High School.

This model was launched in February 2010 in collaboration with the Pride Development class at James Hill-

house High School run by Ms. Carol E. Brown, President of the West Haven Black Coalition. Pride Development evolved into an official class from an afterschool mentoring program called, "Young DIVAS (Developing Intelligent Vivacious Aspiring Sisters) on the Move".

Hillhouse students who participate in the Pride Development class attend weekly workshops on maintaining a positive attitude, a respectful appearance and other life skills. Those topics, along with college preparation and career exploration which ETS integrates, will empower a group of young African American ladies to be well rounded women of intelligence, excellence, integrity, pride, poise, and professionalism.

## SSS LEADERSHIP LEGACY

We are happy once again to announce that two SSS students, Arben Mustafa and Stephan Darden, have been selected for the Leadership Legacy Experience. Arben and Stephan are both heavily involved in campus organizations which helped them to receive this honor. In addition, Arben is a Peer Advisor at SSS and Stephan is a Senior Peer Advisor.

The Connecticut Leadership Legacy Experience was established to recognize and invite the University's most exceptional student leaders to participate in a year-long leadership enhancement experience. It is a highly selective program recognizing students with demonstrated personal accomplishment, academic commitment, integrity and a history of community service.

Arben and Stephan will be able to work closely with alumni and faculty networks and participate in workshops, lectures, and mentoring activities. Each year since its inception, SSS students have had the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Legacy Experience, and we are excited to have them in the program once again.

## SSS STUDENT ACCEPTED TO MULTICULTURAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN FOOD & NUTRITION

Juan David Marin is an exemplary Animal Science major in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He has been accepted to the Multicultural Scholars Program in Food and Nutrition at UConn, and is enrolled in the Science and Technology, Reaching Out to New Generations in Connecticut program, or STRONG-CT. As part of the Multicultural Scholars Program, Juan will receive a scholarship of \$6,000 each academic year for four years. STRONG-CT is a life-sciences partnership between UConn and surrounding community colleges, and enrollment in this network gives Juan access to a larger group of science students for networking.

Juan is eager to succeed. "I am very excited to be in the program... my first semester at UConn was great, I learned a lot about myself as a person, new study habits, and what I want to do for the rest of my life," says Juan. "I plan to graduate with an Animal Science degree, and then follow my dreams to vet school and ultimately become a veterinarian."

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### Center for Academic Programs Mission Statement

The Center for Academic Programs (CAP) increases access to higher education for high potential students who come from underrepresented ethnic or economic backgrounds and/or are first generation college students. CAP prepares students for successful entry into, retention in and graduation from a post-secondary institution through its four constituent programs. *Educational Talent Search*, *GEAR UP*, and *Upward Bound/ConnCAP* provide programming to increase middle and high school students' college access and retention; *Student Support Services* provides programming to facilitate students' retention in and graduation from the University of Connecticut. CAP designs and implements these programs in accordance with guidelines set forth by its funding bodies, including the University, the State of Connecticut and the U.S. Department of Education and other programs which promote educational opportunity for all.