

theindependentvoice

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges... Educators, Employers, Community Partners

Poverty on the Rise in Connecticut



Judith B. Greiman, President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

Recent census data shows that the number of Connecticut residents in extreme poverty grew by 38% between 1989 and 1999. Not confined to the bigger cities, this increase was seen in 120 of our 169 towns. What happened in Connecticut during this timeframe is contrary to what happened across the United States where poverty levels actually decreased. In fact, only five states had poverty growth rates greater than Connecticut's during this time period. Additionally, more recent layoffs and state budget cuts to social service programs may have resulted in an even greater increase in poverty.

Studies on children in poverty are replete with information showing that growing up in extreme poverty results in significant health and developmental issues. These in turn have a negative impact on educational performance, which affects employment opportunities. Connecticut residents should not have to cope with such problems and our future workforce cannot sustain such a blow. We need all residents to succeed in our education systems and, increasingly, to earn a four-year degree both to meet state

workforce needs and to be able to provide adequately for their families.

Unfortunately, children born into wealthy families are 11 times more likely to have a bachelor's degree by age 24 than those born into poor families (Postsecondary Education Opportunity). Looking back at high school experiences, nationally, for every ten kids that start high school, only seven get a diploma, only five enroll in college and less than three get a bachelor's degree within ten years. Connecticut's high school drop out rate is almost

elements of success include early pre-college outreach programs for all learners at every level, consistent curriculum and assessment systems geared towards requiring college prep courses, and high quality teaching that embraces mastery of content and the ability to teach a group while meeting the needs of the individuals within the group. It also calls for data and accountability systems that focus on performance and the obstacles to high performance and for student financial assistance that is funded appropriately, is

basic skills. We Cannot sit back and hope that things will get better for low-income residents. We must, instead, join together in driving the necessary changes in our P-16 system to allow for success for low-income students and our future labor supply.

Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level in 1999:2000



equal to the national average.

So, what do we do to change these statistics? According to a recent report by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), we must focus on a broad range of systemic changes that done together will change the dynamics for low-income students to one of success.

The SHEEO report, *Student Success: Statewide P-16 Systems*, calls for a five-pronged approach. The

predictable and consistent and reflects the demographics and target goals. In other words, families of low-income students must know by 8th or 9th grade that financial aid is available and how it can be accessed.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, by 2008, the total number of jobs requiring advanced skills is predicted to grow twice as fast as those requiring only

1st Annual COLLEGE CAREER EXPO

Here's an exciting opportunity for college students and recent graduates to meet with many great local companies in the CT and Western MA area.

More than 80 recruiters will be there to hire or provide information on internships available at their companies. Insurance, financial service, engineering, marketing, high technology, health companies and organizations will be present.

In addition, those attending will have the opportunity to attend job search workshops or have their resume critiqued by nationally certified professionals. This is a unique event students and recent graduates can't afford to miss!

Visit us on the Web at:
www.ctiobfairs.com
for more information.

January 27th
CT Expo Center
Hartford, CT

Snow date: January 28

GE Foundation Brings Good Things to Sacred Heart University

The old adage has it that the best way to learn is to teach. For a couple dozen Sacred Heart University students each year, this truism is an important element of their participation in a productive nine-year-old effort called the GE Foundation Scholars Program.

Six students from each undergraduate class are selected annually for this coveted award. These men and women are full-

time undergraduates with a demonstrated interest in mathematics, information technology and/or one of the quantitative business disciplines. Designed for minority students with a demonstrated financial need, this program has assisted more than 100 students since its creation during the 1994-95 semester.

Recently, the second annual installment on a four-year commitment of \$588,000 was received by the University. Totaling \$147,000, the funds are divided almost evenly between the scholarship component that supports University students and an innovative outreach to inner-city school children in Bridgeport. Youngsters at the nearby Winthrop School benefit from the regular involvement by GE Scholars in their academic and extracurricular lives. As part of

the Winthrop Mathematics Collaborative, University students tutor young people in math skills and serve as active and visible role models to the culturally and racially diverse student body.



GE Foundation Scholars receive \$3,000 per year for each year of their college experience, without the need to reapply every year. Over its history, the Scholars have achieved an impressive 80 percent graduation rate,

remarkable when one considers the numerous pressures under which they often operate.

Virginia

Stephens, the University's program director, notes that an important element of this effort is its "enrichment" component. Scholars team with mentors from GE, whose world headquarters is just a mile from the University's main campus. They also meet monthly to socialize and to benefit from instruction in such areas as resume writing, career planning and the like.

Cultural opportunities are built into the schedule as well as the commitment of at least 20 hours per student of volunteer service in the community each semester.

As Ms. Stephens points out, "These young students are not only learning to excel academically, they are growing personally and culturally. And, at least as important, they are being encouraged, in the best Sacred Heart tradition, to share their gifts with the larger community. This program has changed the lives of dozens of young people, and through them, countless others."

Yale Attracts 71 Retailers and Restaurants to New Haven

Yale's commercial properties in New Haven are now home to 71 thriving retailers and restaurants. Two of the newer business residents epitomize



Sandra's Restaurant

the University's goal of attracting independently owned and family-operated ventures.

Sound Runner, a specialty running store with footwear, apparel and accessories, is scheduled to open this fall in the revitalized Broadway Retail District. Sandra's soul food

(Yale continued)

restaurant opened last year on Whitney Avenue near the bustling Audubon Arts District.

Sound Runner and Sandra's are two of the 66 locally owned enterprises among Yale's commercial tenants.

David Newton, the director of University Properties, noted that the two new businesses "are the ideal independent entrepreneurs we want to open businesses in New Haven. They share Yale's vision and commitment to New Haven, and we are delighted to welcome them to the business community." Over the last decade, Yale has worked closely with the City of New Haven to attract retail businesses and restaurants to its properties that will bring more visitors to the city. A handful of Yale's new retail tenants, such as J.Crew and Urban Outfitters, are well-known national enterprises that complement the independent local businesses and help increase overall visitation for their neighboring establishments. Many of Yale's business tenants, like the busy Yale Bookstore on Broadway, remain open in the evening, adding significantly to New Haven's nightlife.

One group served by New Haven's merchants, whether or not they lease space from Yale, is the 500,000 visitors that Yale attracts to

the city each year. Yale also has a program whereby it gives all its new employees a tour of the City of New Haven including lunch at one of the many popular restaurants. This helpful introduction encourages Yale's staff, wherever they may live,

(Yale cont. on page 3)

Saint Joseph College Opens the Academic Year with Celebration of Latin American Culture

Highlights of Latin American culture have arrived on the Saint Joseph College campus in the form of a new art



Francisco Toledo Mexico, b. 1940, *Rabbit, Iguana, and Toad (Conejo, Iguana y Sapo)*, 1976, etching with roulette

exhibition and a film series. *Latin American Graphics: The Evolution of Identity from the Mythical to the Personal* opened in the Saint Joseph College Art Gallery on September 26 and continues through November 15, 2003. A film series complementing the exhibition opened September 29 with a showing of *Frida; Strawberry and Chocolate* will premiere at 7:00 p.m. in The Hoffman Auditorium on October 20th,



Raul Recio, Dominican Republic, b. 1965. *City Dream*, from the series *Que Suerte!*, 1991, woodcut, 4/50. Collection of the Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC.

and *De Eso No Se Habla* will follow at 7:00 p.m. on November 3rd. Guest lecturers will introduce each film in the series, and attendees are welcome to attend the receptions held after the showings.

The Gallery exhibition

chronicles the evolution of Latin American printing from the mid-20th century to the present. It features 44 works of art representing a wide range of printmaking techniques including aquatint, engraving, etching, lithography, monotype, silkscreen, and woodcut. Among the 39 artists featured are Rufino Tamayo (Mexico), Raul Recio (Dominican Republic), Wilfredo Lam (Cuba), Liliana



Guillermo Silva Santamaria, Colombia, b. 1922. *A-20 the War (La Guerra)* 1964, color etching A/24. Collection of the Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach.

Porter (Argentina), Francisco Toledo (Mexico), Fernando de Szszlo (Peru), Antonio Martorell (Puerto Rico), Armando Morales (Nicaragua), Omar Rayo (Colombia), Luis Camnitzer (Uruguay), and Estuardo Maldonado (Ecuador).

Award-winning Colombian artist, curator, architect and printmaker Felix Angel is the curator of this exhibition, which was organized by the

Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California and



Raul Recio, Dominican Republic, b. 1965. *(The Dinner) La Cena*, from the series *Que Suerte!*, 1991, woodcut, 4/50. Collection of the Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC.

circulated by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions (CATE), Los Angeles. Support for its presentation at Saint Joseph College is provided in part by the Karen L. Chase '97 Fund.

The film series is co-sponsored by the Humanities Division of Saint Joseph College, The Carol Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities, and the Saint Joseph College Art Gallery, and is funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Humanities Division of the College.

The Saint Joseph Art Gallery is open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (closed Sunday and Monday). Admission is always free of charge. Audio tours will be available in both English and Spanish.

(Yale continued from page 2)

to take advantage of the many retail and dining opportunities surrounding the campus during lunchtime and after work.

The success of Yale's business tenants means hundreds of jobs and other economic benefits for Yale's host city. Furthermore, because of its investments in New Haven through its commercial properties, including underutilized properties that the City encouraged Yale to purchase, Yale has become the city's largest real property taxpayer.



Did you Know?

- Households headed by persons with any college constituted 53.4 percent of all households, earned 68.1 percent of all household income and paid 74.9 percent of federal income taxes.

Between 1970 and 2000:

- The proportion of households with any college increased from 24.4 to 53.4 percent. The proportion of households with a bachelor's degree or more increased from 13.6 to 27 percent.
- The proportion of federal income taxes paid by households with any college increased from 41.6 to 74.9 percent; with bachelor's degree or more from 26.7 to 51.1 percent.

Source: Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY Aug. 03

Happy Holidays
from CCIC



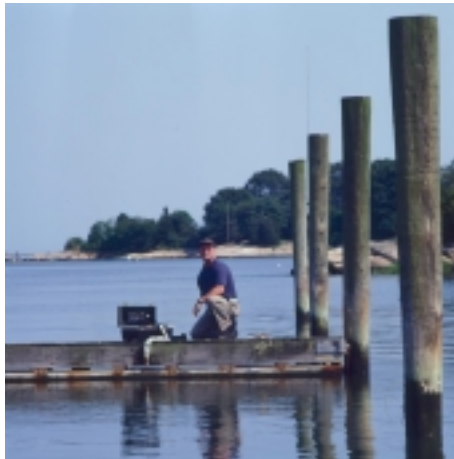
Quinnipiac University Manages Farm River State Park in East Haven

Quinnipiac University is managing Farm River State Park in East Haven under an agreement signed with the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Quinnipiac is expected to invest up to \$100,000 in the 61-acre park over the next five years. The money will be used to manage the park and renovate five buildings on the property, according to Pamela Adams, director of state parks. The park includes two properties, Mansfield Landing and the Lippincott property that is accessible from Route 142 and Mansfield Grove Road.

Adams said, "This is a wonderful partnership. It will allow us to further the programs of the Department of Environmental Protection and allow Quinnipiac to provide

programs that are in accordance with its mission. In this day and age when budgets are tight, this kind of partnership benefits everyone."



Allan Smits, chairman of the Biology Department in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac, said Quinnipiac has been searching for a site along the Long Island Sound to perform research and offer marine and coastal courses to students. "This is a very precious

piece of coastal habitat," he said. "And it clearly has an equal role of recreation and education in preservation."

Quinnipiac also plans to collaborate with Schooner Sound Learning, a New Haven environmental education organization, and the Sound School, a New Haven magnet high school that specializes in marine education.

The Sound School is expected to develop a shellfish hatchery on the site and the Schooner School will use the park to offer the community educational and sailing programs.

"I think this agreement has the potential to be a model program for other parks in the state," Adams said.



The Independent Voice is a publication of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, a public policy association representing Connecticut's nonprofit independent higher education institutions.

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