

News Release

Office of Higher Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five Students and Faculty from Connecticut Colleges to be honored for Community Service

Hartford, April 23 – Five Connecticut college students and staff will be honored at a ceremony tonight at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain for their work in helping others through community service. Governor Dannel P. Malloy will participate as will William R. Dyson, chair of the [Connecticut Commission on Community Service](#), and Jane A. Ciarleglio, Executive Director of the [Office of Higher Education](#).

Each winner will receive a 2013 Community Service Award at the ceremony which will start at 5:00 p.m. in the Constitution Room in the [Memorial Building](#). This year, 15 Connecticut colleges submitted 41 nominations for the three award categories of Individual Student, Student Group and Special Award for projects led by faculty and staff. Recipients are selected based on their ability to design projects which distinctly serve a community, incorporate originality and unique approaches, substantially raise student participation, and address community problems.

This year's Individual Student Award Recipients are:

- **Keshia Ashe**, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering at the **University of Connecticut**. Ashe founded ManyMentors which encourages middle and high school students, especially minorities and girls, to enter STEM fields. A native of Hampton, Virginia, Ashe created a mobile mentoring application and is developing a social media-based platform in which students and professionals can serve as virtual mentors and mentees.
- **Rose D'Amico**, a junior from **Fairfield at Southern Connecticut State University**, for her leadership as chair of the SCSU Service Team and Commissioner on the Student Government Association Service Commission. Under D'Amico's helm, the Service Team participated in over 15 service projects and logged more than 3,000 service hours. The Service Team Executive Board has created an innovative model for coordinating community service events on campus and the surrounding community.

The Student Group Award Recipients are:

- **Jumpstart at UConn, University of Connecticut** – a national AmeriCorps program in which 44 UConn students provide literacy-focused community service at pre-schools. School teachers have reported that children participating in the Jumpstart have out-performed their peers in literacy and social development.
- **Socially Responsible Investment Initiative, Dwight Hall, Yale University** – the nation's first undergraduate-run Socially Responsible Initiative. Twenty student volunteers have contributed over 1,440 hours to raise funds and manage a portfolio of investments with positive environmental and social impact. A portion of the \$80,000 portfolio is directly invested in Connecticut community loan funds that support affordable housing and low-income home ownership loans in New Haven and Bridgeport.

The Special Award Recipient is:

- **Jennifer Turner** of the **University of Bridgeport**. An AmeriCorps VISTA member serving at UB and a **Bridgeport** resident, Turner has strengthened the culture of service on campus by starting several new service opportunities, including a 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, a Challenge Day of Service, a Domestic Violence Vigil and a Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, all of which raised student service hours from 7,800 to 10,000 hours in one year.

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