

## College Students and Staff Honored for Community Service

HARTFORD, April 15 – The Connecticut Commission on Community Service and the Office of Higher Education have announced the recipients of the 2015 Community Service Awards.

This year's award winners, drawn from college students, campus programs and faculty and staff, were honored at a State Capitol ceremony on April 14 led by William R. Dyson, chair of the Connecticut Commission on Community Service, and Jane A. Ciarleglio, Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education.

A total of six awards were announced: two in each of three categories of Student, Student Group, and Faculty and Staff. The awards were selected from nominations by colleges and universities based on the quality and inventiveness of their projects, and success in elevating student participation. The six recipients are as follows:

### Student Awards

- ★ **Hunter McGinty, Norwalk Community College** – served as President of the Medical Assistant Club and led the Team in Day of Thanks: Hunger Games Edition, a college-wide competition to collect non-perishable food items to start a food pantry for students.
- ★ **Faustino De La Cruz, University of Bridgeport** – founded the UB "BuildOn" Chapter and facilitates other community service projects, including cleaning up streets, helping seniors around their homes, and cooking meals for homeless veterans. He serves as a Resident Advisor and volunteers several times a week at the Bridgeport YMCA.

### Student Group

- ★ **Hunger and Homelessness Action Project, Yale University** – serves New Haven's homeless through fundraising, education and advocacy. YHHAP's projects range from weekly soup kitchens to assistance with housing and employment, and protecting city shelters.
- ★ **High Chase Weekly Program – People Helping People, Eastern Connecticut State University** – serves rural Willington through weekly visits to High Chase, a home for adult residents who would otherwise be homeless. Student volunteers provide decorations and snacks, socialize with residents, and conduct field trips and an annual lunch at Eastern.

### Faculty/Staff

- ★ **Douglas Goodstein, University of Connecticut** – supports the Give n' Go program which provides an alternate choice to disposing of unwanted things when students move off campus. Items that would normally be discarded were collected, sorted by student and staff volunteers, and donated to local non-profits. Doug's work raised the total items collected to over 7 tons of re-purposed items.
- ★ **Cathy Lechowicz, Wesleyan University** – supported the continuation of the Green Street Teaching and Learning Center during a time of scarce resources. The number of visitors and student involvement has more than doubled, and faculty involvement has tripled. Led by Cathy, the Center secured funding and donations to support prison education programs at the York and Cheshire Correction Institutions.