



State of Connecticut
Department of Higher Education

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News

College Students & Staff Honored for Community Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford, April 8 – Higher Education Commissioner Michael P. Meotti will present five 2009 Higher Education Community Service Awards to Connecticut college students and staff this morning (Wednesday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.) at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Commissioner Meotti will present the annual awards with William R. Dyson, chair of the Connecticut Commission on Community Service which co-sponsors this event with the Connecticut Department of Higher Education to honor student and campus service to communities.

This year, 23 Connecticut colleges submitted 52 nominations for the three award categories of Student, Student Group and Special Award for projects led by faculty and staff. Recipients are selected based on their ability to create projects which distinctly help individuals or community groups; incorporate originality and unique approaches to community service; substantially raise student participation; and address community problems.

This year's *Student Award Recipients* are:

- **Khadijah Abdullah**, a student at **Southern Connecticut State University**, for her work with the campus community on the dangers and reality of AIDS/HIV. Ms. Abdullah worked with students and administrative offices to develop an AIDS Awareness Week which featured a formal "AIDS Awareness Ball" that was filled to capacity.
- **Jennifer DeBrincat**, a senior accounting major at **Fairfield University**, for her leadership in recruiting students to provide community service at local non-profits. She inspired students to donate what they would have been paid to "work an event" to the St. Charles Food Pantry.

The *Student Group Award Recipients* are:

- **Collegiate Health Service Corps, University of Connecticut, Storrs** for delivering preventive health education and screening to disadvantaged populations in the Willimantic area.
- The **"Do It Day"** supported by **Trinity College** students which had a record year in attracting more than 600 volunteers to work with 45 Hartford area community organizations in projects such as running health education games with the Central Area Health Education Council and beautifying Hartford's Pope Park.

The *Special Award Recipient* is:

- **Jocelyn Collen**, administrative coordinator of the Center for Faith and Public Life at **Fairfield University**, for mentoring of students in their community service work in Jamaica, West Indies.

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