

Board of Governors for Higher Education
Department of Higher Education
State of Connecticut



Community Service Celebrated this Thursday

HARTFORD, April 22 — Higher Education Commissioner Valerie F. Lewis will present the 2003 Higher Education Community Service Awards to eight Connecticut college students and faculty members this **Thursday, April 24 at 6:00 pm.** in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol. Joining Commissioner Lewis will be State Representative William R. Dyson and David Garnes, contributing author of *“Chicken Soup for the Volunteer’s Soul.”*

The annual awards ceremony is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education and the Connecticut Commission on National and Community Service, chaired by Representative Dyson.

This year, 16 Connecticut colleges submitted 38 applications for the three award categories of *Students*, *Student Groups* and *Special Awards* for faculty and staff. Individual and group recipients receive cash awards of \$500 each.

This year’s *Student Winners* are Elizabeth Bull of **Northwestern Connecticut Community College**, Sabine Auguste of **Sacred Heart University** and Catherine Servant of **Connecticut College**.

In the *Student Group* category, winners are Best Buddies at **Saint Joseph College**, the Richard Gillman Group at **Northwestern Connecticut Community College**, and Students to Unite Science and Humanitarian Interests at **Trinity College**.

Recipients are selected based on their ability to create projects which distinctly help individuals, community groups or environmental causes; incorporate originality and unique approaches to community service; substantially increase student participation; promote diversity; and address urban problems.

The *Special Awards* category recognizes college faculty and staff, non-profit agencies and others considered leaders in community service by their personal contributions and institutional commitment. Those honored in this category this year are nursing professors Terry Bosworth and Marylou Welsh of **Saint Joseph College**.

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Brief descriptions of each winner are attached.

2003 Higher Education Community Service Awards

Student Winners

Elizabeth Bull is a double major in Interpreting for the Deaf and General Studies with a focus in criminal justice at **Northwestern Connecticut Community College**. A sophomore, Elizabeth is secretary of the Northwest Deaf Club has been active in “Captioning Now” which lobbies movie theaters to provide closed-captioning. She also volunteers to make theater and other community events accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing, and serves as a student government senator.

Sabine Auguste, a junior at **Sacred Heart University**, has headed the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity and helped to coordinate a 4-day Habitat Weekend Challenge in South Philadelphia as well as alternative spring break trips to Boston and Wilmington. She initiated Sacred Heart’s Habifest, part of a national effort to dramatize the issue of poverty housing. She was a student leader for CURTIS Week, a program that explores diversity in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other activists. She also mentors two 6th grade boys in the Zimmerman Academic Mentoring Program at Winthrop School.

A senior at **Connecticut College**, **Catherine Servant** has worked to integrate community service into the College’s academic curriculum. “Cat” has been the program coordinator for the college’s Office of Volunteers for Community Service After School Art Program where she has organized projects, volunteers and partnerships with local elementary schools. As a result of her efforts, the number of children involved in the program has jumped from 20 to more than 250. As a Resident Director, she organized dorm students to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for local families, and created a holiday “Giving Tree” decorated with ornaments representing over 300 gifts of clothing, food, toys and books.

Student Group Award Winners

The **Saint Joseph College** chapter of **Best Buddies** pairs 20 college students with individuals who have intellectual disabilities, and helps educate the campus community about persons with intellectual and physical disabilities. They have conducted campus-wide events such as “Button-Up Connecticut,” and a “Book Blowout” to support local literacy foundations. Members meet weekly with their buddies and host monthly group outings such as pumpkin painting and bowling.

Spurred by their ethics professor to create a community service project, the **Richard Gilman Group** of **Northwestern Connecticut Community College** works with students from Torrington Middle School to collect and distribute school supplies and clothes for poor children in Africa. The group was created in honor of Richard Gilman who, prior to his death, worked with his brother to educate and feed children in Zimbabwe.

Students to Unite Science and Humanitarian Interests (SUSHI) is a new project at **Trinity College** which works on issues of mutual concern to humanities and science students. SUSHI has focused on global AIDS advocacy, coordinating an advocacy campaign with the American Medical School Association and Physicians for Human Rights. On International Human Rights Day, SUSHI led the Human Rights at Home campaign, helping 10 campus groups define their community service issues (e.g.. hunger, homelessness, childrens’ rights, HIV/AIDS) in a human rights context, and advocate for them.

Special Award Winners

Professors Terry Bosworth and Marylou Welsh of Saint Joseph College have become campus role models in creating relationships and sharing health-related resources for the people of Guyana. Training future nurses in the health care needs of a developing country, they have built relationships with hospitals, community agencies and a nursing school in Georgetown, Guyana. Both have worked to donate resources such as text books, children's medicine, blood glucose monitors, eye glasses, and clothes to the Guyanese community, and are now promoting the creation of a charitable foundation called "Restore Guyana" through the College.