

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



FOR RELEASE: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 19, 2003

2nd Year of Record-Breaking College Enrollment But Rate of Growth Slows

HARTFORD, Nov. 19 — For the second year in a row, Connecticut colleges are enrolling a record number of students, although the increase of 0.5 percent to a total of 170,624 is modest compared to recent annual gains, according to fall 2003 headcounts announced today by Valerie F. Lewis, Commissioner of Higher Education at a meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education in Hartford.

As reported by colleges to the Department of Higher Education, final headcounts inched up 0.4 percent to 107,237 students at state-supported institutions, and 0.7 percent to 62,404 students at the state's independent schools. The remaining 983 attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, a federal institution.

A key trend is the continued strong presence of full-time students (up 3.5 percent) who now make up 62 percent of all Connecticut college students, the highest in at least 16 years and reflecting, at least partially, the state's expanding pool of high school graduates. Growth in full-time students bodes well for the state's workforce since these persons tend to be younger and graduate in a timelier manner. Greater full-time counts also signal that campus resources are being used more efficiently. Yet the smaller gain in overall college enrollment is startling given recent accelerating increases in each of the past three years and the projected surge of 13 percent in Connecticut's public high school graduates by 2008.

"This is positive news for Connecticut," stated Higher Education Commissioner Lewis. "Higher college enrollment translates into more graduates needed to fuel our high quality workforce. Campuses are alive with students taking advantage of all our institutions have to offer.

"We are concerned, however, about the surprising slower rate of growth which differs from past trends and from what demographics lead us to expect," Commissioner Lewis noted. "Although one year doesn't make a trend, this 'hitting the brakes' may be a crucial warning that steep hikes in tuition coupled with cutbacks in student aid and fewer course sections could be having a real impact on our market."

(MORE)

Across both public and independent colleges, the number of undergraduates rose 1,097 students or 0.8 percent to 136,308. In contrast, totals for graduate and first-professionals combined slipped 0.6 percent or 221 students to 34,316.

Public Colleges & Universities

Within the public sector, counts climbed 3.0 percent at the University of Connecticut due largely to 626 more students at the Storrs Campus. Counts also were up by 152 students at UConn's Tri-Campus and 37 students at Avery Point but were down 32 students at the Stamford Campus. UConn's freshmen enrollment climbed 2.0 percent. Overall undergraduate enrollment grew 3.3 percent or by 625 students; graduate enrollment rose 1.6 percent or by 95 students to 6,002.

Counts were down by 678 students or 1.9 percent at Connecticut State University with only Western posting a slight gain of 0.5 percent or 29 students. Declines ranged from 0.6 percent at Southern to 4.0 percent at Central. Despite its slight dip, Southern stands as the largest CSU campus for the first time in 17 years. Across all CSU campuses, undergraduate enrollment fell 2.7 percent or by 752 students with the number of freshmen down 8 percent. Graduate enrollment rose 0.9 percent or by 74.

The community colleges gained 291 students for a slight upturn of 0.6 percent. Five of these colleges — Gateway, Housatonic, Manchester, Norwalk and Quinebaug Valley — posted gains while seven showed declines. Although these colleges serve a majority of the state's part-time undergraduates, they continued their 6-year increase in full-time enrollment.

Independent Colleges & Universities

Within the independent sector, enrollment remained steady at the four-year nationals with 25 more students for a 0.1 percent increase over last year. Counts were up slightly at Wesleyan and Yale and down at Trinity and Connecticut College.

Across the 18 four-year regional independents, enrollment dipped 0.9 percent to 40,755 students. By far, the largest numeric gains occurred at the University of Hartford and Quinnipiac University. Six other schools posted gains while 10 showed declines ranging from 430 fewer students at Rensselaer to one less at Paier College of Art.

Counts rose at four of the two-year independents with only one, the International College of Hospitality Management, showing a decline.

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A table displaying fall 2003 Connecticut college and university headcount enrollment is attached. A fuller report also may be downloaded from www.ctdhe.org.

TABLE 1
Fall 2003 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2003 Totals			Fall 2002 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS															
<i>University of Connecticut</i>	16,732	2,555	19,287	3,328	2,674	6,002	1,134	206	1,340	21,194	5,435	26,629	25,842	787	3.0%
Storrs	14,332	852	15,184	3,328	2,674	6,002	668	199	867	18,328	3,725	22,053	21,427	626	2.9%
Avery Point	436	337	773							436	337	773	736	37	5.0%
Tri-Campus*	1,359	837	2,196							1,359	837	2,196	2,044	152	7.4%
Stamford	605	529	1,134							605	529	1,134	1,166	-32	-2.7%
Health Center							466	7	473	466	7	473	469	4	0.9%
<i>Connecticut State University</i>	20,560	6,916	27,476	1,613	6,359	7,972				22,173	13,275	35,448	36,126	-678	-1.9%
Central	6,780	2,621	9,401	504	2,226	2,730				7,284	4,847	12,131	12,642	-511	-4.0%
Eastern	3,619	1,097	4,716	72	307	379				3,691	1,404	5,095	5,215	-120	-2.3%
Southern	6,347	1,776	8,123	944	3,076	4,020				7,291	4,852	12,143	12,219	-76	-0.6%
Western	3,814	1,422	5,236	93	750	843				3,907	2,172	6,079	6,050	29	0.5%
<i>Community Colleges</i>	14,469	30,691	45,160							14,469	30,691	45,160	44,869	291	0.6%
Asnuntuck	456	1,020	1,476							456	1,020	1,476	1,724	-248	-14.4%
Capital	848	2,533	3,381							848	2,533	3,381	3,476	-95	-2.7%
Gateway	1,526	4,061	5,587							1,526	4,061	5,587	5,328	259	4.9%
Housatonic	1,372	3,306	4,678							1,372	3,306	4,678	4,515	163	3.6%
Manchester	2,238	3,479	5,717							2,238	3,479	5,717	5,561	156	2.8%
Middlesex	752	1,648	2,400							752	1,648	2,400	2,440	-40	-1.6%
Naugatuck Valley	1,936	3,219	5,155							1,936	3,219	5,155	5,315	-160	-3.0%
Northwestern CT	510	1,033	1,543							510	1,033	1,543	1,633	-90	-5.5%
Norwalk	1,947	4,100	6,047							1,947	4,100	6,047	5,717	330	5.8%
Quinebaug Valley	510	1,061	1,571							510	1,061	1,571	1,501	70	4.7%
Three Rivers	1,009	2,613	3,622							1,009	2,613	3,622	3,624	-2	-0.1%
Tunxis	1,365	2,618	3,983							1,365	2,618	3,983	4,035	-52	-1.3%
TOTAL, STATE INSTITUTIONS	51,761	40,162	91,923	4,941	9,033	13,974	1,134	206	1,340	57,836	49,401	107,237	106,837	400	0.4%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	983		983							983		983	952	31	3.3%
TOTAL, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	52,744	40,162	92,906	4,941	9,033	13,974	1,134	206	1,340	58,819	49,401	108,220	107,789	431	0.4%

*The Tri-Campus total of 2,196 this year consists of 1,142 students in Hartford (up 45 over last year), 677 in Waterbury (up 114 students), and 377 in Torrington (down 7 students.)

NOTE: Charter Oak State College enrolled 1,578 part-time undergraduate students, many of whom are enrolled elsewhere in CT and are counted above. Those 1,578 represent a 1.1% increase from fall 2002.

TABLE 1, Continued
 Fall 2003 Final Enrollment: Connecticut Colleges and Universities

	Undergraduate			Graduate			First-Professional			Fall 2003 Totals			Fall 2002 Total	Change	Pct. Change
	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	Total	Full- Time	Part- Time	TOTAL			
INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS															
<i>National Independents</i>	11,664	362	12,026	4,921	643	5,564	1,203	37	1,240	17,788	1,042	18,830	18,805	25	0.1%
Connecticut College	1,750	87	1,837	7	5	12				1,757	92	1,849	1,912	-63	-3.3%
Trinity College	1,918	187	2,105	5	179	184				1,923	366	2,289	2,323	-34	-1.5%
Wesleyan University	2,704	26	2,730	197	294	491				2,901	320	3,221	3,192	29	0.9%
Yale University	5,292	62	5,354	4,712	165	4,877	1,203	37	1,240	11,207	264	11,471	11,378	93	0.8%
<i>Regional Independents</i>	23,192	5,365	28,557	4,219	7,092	11,311	694	193	887	28,105	12,650	40,755	41,131	-376	-0.9%
Albertus Magnus College	1,690	100	1,790	372	38	410				2,062	138	2,200	2,325	-125	-5.4%
Fairfield University	3,381	639	4,020	228	805	1,033				3,609	1,444	5,053	5,114	-61	-1.2%
Graduate Institute, The				78		78				78		78	60	18	30.0%
Hartford Seminary				17	131	148				17	131	148	153	-5	-3.3%
Holy Apostles College	5	16	21	11	154	165	55		55	71	170	241	203	38	18.7%
LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts	67	76	143							67	76	143	160	-17	-10.6%
Mitchell College	631	111	742							631	111	742	724	18	2.5%
Paier College of Art	175	116	291							175	116	291	292	-1	-0.3%
Quinnipiac University	5,089	381	5,470	577	446	1,023	440	188	628	6,106	1,015	7,121	6,951	170	2.4%
Rensselaer at Hartford				21	990	1,011				21	990	1,011	1,441	-430	-29.8%
Sacred Heart University	3,040	1,009	4,049	525	1,156	1,681				3,565	2,165	5,730	6,028	-298	-4.9%
St. Basil's College	12	1	13							12	1	13	15	-2	-13.3%
St. Joseph College	847	346	1,193	119	524	643				966	870	1,836	1,778	58	3.3%
St. Thomas Seminary					27	27					27	27	9	18	200.0%
Teikyo Post University	719	606	1,325							719	606	1,325	1,378	-53	-3.8%
University of Bridgeport	1,003	258	1,261	853	847	1,700	199	5	204	2,055	1,110	3,165	3,173	-8	-0.3%
University of Hartford	4,533	1,079	5,612	573	1,060	1,633				5,106	2,139	7,245	6,998	247	3.5%
University of New Haven	2,000	627	2,627	845	914	1,759				2,845	1,541	4,386	4,329	57	1.3%
<i>Two-Year Independents</i>	1,715	1,104	2,819							1,715	1,104	2,819	2,023	796	39.3%
Briarwood College	389	199	588							389	199	588	566	22	3.9%
Gibbs College	951	203	1,154							951	203	1,154	366	788	215.3%
Goodwin College	282	385	667							282	385	667	676	-9	-1.3%
Int'l College of Hospitality Management	45		45							45		45	75	-30	-40.0%
St. Vincent's College	48	317	365							48	317	365	340	25	7.4%
TOTAL, INDEPENDENTS	36,571	6,831	43,402	9,140	7,735	16,875	1,897	230	2,127	47,608	14,796	62,404	61,959	445	0.7%
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	89,315	46,993	136,308	14,081	16,768	30,849	3,031	436	3,467	106,427	64,197	170,624	169,748	876	0.5%