

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

(Section 46a-68-93)

March 2021

This section was in compliance in the previous filing, and there were no proposals/recommendations.

The University makes every effort to support affirmative action in employment and to satisfy all affirmative action regulations. The University has reviewed this section of the regulations and drafted this section accordingly.

Subsections (a) and (b)

The University acknowledges that the development and implementation of programs not covered elsewhere in sections 46a-68-75 through 46a-68-114, inclusive, is an important part of the road to achieving a truly diverse workforce. Accordingly, the University accepts the invitation to structure innovative, comprehensive programs to create opportunities not otherwise available to achieve full and fair participation of all protected group members, such programs shall include:

- Utilization of noncompetitive programs
- Summer employment programs
- Youth programs
- Apprenticeship or internship programs
- Work-Study programs
- Job sharing arrangements
- Internships
- Day care programs
- Creation of new positions
- Reassignments
- Other positive, result-oriented program designed to achieve affirmative action

Programs planned or operated pursuant to this section and the results achieved are discussed below:

Work/Life Flexibility

The University has continued to develop its Work/Life Flexibility program and the OHR continues to be an active partner in promoting the University's programs. The Work/Life Flexibility Committee continues to enhance its website (<http://worklife.uconn.edu/index.html>)

which features not only childcare providers, seniors/eldercare information, wellness and parenting information but also information about professional development opportunities, flextime and leaves, cultural and community events, and other helpful information and services available to the University community.

The OHR sponsored the annual Work/Life Exposition. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Exposition was held virtually. It included exhibitors in the areas of benefits, health, wellness and service, providing resources and information to employees demonstrating the University's commitment to work/life balance.

Something's Happening Program

OHR continues to work closely with the Women's Center, OIE, Office of Audit, Compliance and Ethics as well as members of the AFSCME, CEUI and UCPEA unions to promote and sponsor the Something's Happening Program which was developed to heighten sensitivity to gender, cultural differences, other diversities, and to educate staff on how these factors impact interactions between co-workers and/or supervisors.

Career Paths

Human Resources developed an entirely new job classification system for positions covered by University of Connecticut Professional Employee Association (UCPEA). This new job classification system, Career Paths, was designed to be responsive to the changing needs of the University and the complex work environment in which we function. Career Paths aims to be a consistent, clearly defined, and more efficient and effective classification framework for managing our workforce and providing a better understanding of advancement opportunity for employees. Compared to the previous classification system, Career Paths more accurately describes individual positions by providing flexibility for leadership on how to describe and title position work, while using contemporary metrics to rank the work.

The Career Paths reduces the number of classification levels from 12 to 9 and introduces new "categories" for employees, including Professional and Manager. It does not have a negative impact to annual base pay, maintains job duties; and fulfills Article 31 of the [UCPEA collective bargaining agreement.pdf](#).

Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program is a confidential worksite-based service available to all University faculty, staff and eligible family members. The Program provides professional assessment, brief counseling and/or timely referrals to community resources for multiple issues and concerns including, but not limited to:

- Provides a monthly newsletter, Frontline, to supervisors to educate and inform on using Management Referrals to help employees succeed and improve in their positions and to establish a foundation for future growth

- Hosts workshops to all staff on improving communication skills and building professional networking
- Job Stress, Relationship Problems, Anxiety / Worry / Depression
- Parenting and Family Concerns, Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Eldercare / Caregiver Stress, Financial / Debt Counseling, and/or
- Communication Issues, Legal Questions

Platinum HUSKY Service

Platinum HUSKY service, a professional development program focused on providing outstanding service to students, parents, community and one another, is offered each year. Content included Exceeding Expectations, Turnaround Experience and the Internal Customer.

Supervisory Essentials Program (SEP)

The Supervisory Essentials Program (SEP) is designed to help the University of Connecticut's front-line and mid-level supervisors improve their supervisory skills so they can have an immediate and positive impact on the people they lead. SEP is a multi-track program offering supervisors the option of choosing which track of courses best meets their needs. Built into SEP are opportunities for participants to develop peer networks, utilize online learning, practice skills through job applications, and walk away with a tool kit of new resources. Topics include:

- Level Communication
- DISC
- Delivery Feedback
- Coaching Through Conflict
- Developing Your Staff
- Goal Setting and Gaining Commitment, and
- Delivering Feedback and Conducting Difficult Discussions

Participating supervisors are organized into cohort groups for the entire program; they engage in practical, interactive, skills-based workshops facilitated by a leadership consultant with over 5 years of experience teaching similar workshops at UConn. Through networking among their cohort group and via online job-aids, participants have mechanisms in place to access on-the-job help after they complete the program, further aiding in the transfer of program learning to the job.

Other Human Resources Offered Programs

These programs were created with the recognition that employees may need information to support them with events of daily life. The goal of the program is to connect employees with others in the University community who can help them be productive at work, stay healthy and

stay safe, and successfully participate in the new job classification system---Career Paths. Programs have included the following seminar topics:

- Choosing a Financial Planner
- Identity Theft
- Credit Repair/Debt
- UConn Prudential Five Steps to Retirement
- Financial Fitness
- Social Security and Retirement
- Retirement Readiness

Recruitment Efforts

The OHR continues to maintain annual contracts with three recruitment sources where all faculty and unclassified job openings are posted. The three sources, Inside Higher Education, Diverse, and the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium are broad-based recruitment sources used in higher education.

The OHR established a relationship with the Department of Labor and now all staff positions are posted on CT.Jobs, Connecticut's Employment Exchange web site.

During the 2018 Plan year, the OHR also initiated an agreement with Broadbean, a job board aggregator. In addition to the basic diversity postings, the University also arranged to purchase the premium diversity package. Broadbean will go live in early 2019.

In addition, the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Institutional Equity, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, continue to promote the new program aimed at improving the search and hiring process for candidates, the Recruitment Ambassadors Program. The Program is designed to connect candidates with a trained UConn faculty or staff member to learn more about working and living in Connecticut, social and cultural activities, religious communities, family resources, educational opportunities, and community information. The Recruitment Ambassador website continues to be enhanced to provide both ambassadors and candidates with a variety of information about working and living in Connecticut. OHR identified the top 15-20 towns in which Storrs based employees live in Connecticut, and developed a web page for each town identifying childcare services, animal care services, arts and entertainment, restaurants, sports and recreation, places of worship, school systems, and transportation services to name a few. The site includes additional resources for multicultural services and veterans' services, as well as a developing list of nearby attractions.

Veterans Affairs and Military Programs

The Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs provides a full range of benefits and services to Students, Faculty and Staff that have served in the Armed Forces. The services include benefits processing, event programming and community outreach. The Veterans Advisory Council, comprising of Faculty, Staff and Students continue to provide guidance and

support to the university and its goals to increase support and services to veterans. In 2015, the board established the definition of Veteran Community to include family members and dependents of any current or prior member of the uniformed services. They also established a Diversity Subcommittee to increase support and outreach to veteran minorities on campus.

Learning @ Work

This University-wide online system is used to aid employees in tracking and managing their training and professional development opportunities. Employees can utilize this Cloud-based system for several different functions including:

- Enrolling in courses
- Tracking completion of learning experiences, and
- Fulfilling regulatory compliance requirements

Management Support & Development Program

The Management Support & Development Program provides UConn's managing level employees with the necessary tools to foster a clear understanding of the University's management philosophy. This includes the core institutional values, policies and procedures, conduct expectations, rules and regulations. This program is held mandatorily every fall for managers with supervisory responsibilities. The purpose of the program beyond providing a clearer understanding of University policy is to give managing employees insight into the available University resources that can aid in their workplace. Some other topics that will be covered during the program include but are not limited to:

- Compensation & Classification of University Employees
- Promoting Workplace Civility
- Discrimination and Harassment Prevention
- Collective Bargaining and Labor Relations Issues, and
- Strategies for Correcting Problematic Performance or Behavior

UConn is proud of its team members who contribute to the overall diversity and equity of the student body, workforce, or national diversity and inclusion issues. The following are examples of dedicated professionals that help achieve affirmative action, justice, and racial inclusion.

Center for Excellence in Teaching in Learning

The Center for Excellence in Teaching in Learning is to support faculty and student success, through evidence based and research informed programming. The Center promotes a culture of inclusive excellence in teaching and learning. Some of the opportunities provided to faculty and student success include but not limited to:

- The President's Series on Teaching Excellence

- Faculty and Instructor News Site (FINS)
- Crafting the syllabus
- Managing Anxiety – Yours and Theirs
- Developing and Building Online Assessments in HuskyCT
- Strengthening Scholarly Community and Research Networks

State of CT In Service Training Program

The State In-Service Training Program provides high-quality, diverse training opportunities to all Connecticut state employees through a partnership of the Department of Administrative Services and the Community College System. UConn Human Resources serves as a “Training Approval Office” for university employees; facilitating participant registration and collecting fees from departments for courses.

Interaction & Leadership Program (ILP)

The ILP aims to improve interpersonal skills in all University employees through seminars held throughout the academic year. The goal of this program is to build relationships between peers and customers; ensuring employee success at work. This program, designed for all UConn employees both faculty and staff, is noted to be especially valuable for any employee experiencing interpersonal conflict. The upcoming seminars for this year are:

- DiSC Workplace - Discovering Your Work Style
- Communicating with Impact, and
- Navigating Beyond Conflict

Thriving @Work Series

Programs that teach graduate students, post docs, staff, and faculty how to professionally navigate and communicate their concerns with workplace issues. This allows employees to work through toxic workplaces and cultivate a more diverse, inclusive and welcoming environment for all social groups.

The Major Experience (TME)

Through the ACES department, TME combines professional staff members to help students navigate their major exploration journey. UConn professionals in the role of exploratory advisors and career coaches assist students in the major exploratory journey and the connection between majors and careers. Both programs assist undergraduate students to develop their skills in relation to their potential career path.

Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

The Latin American Student Organization (LASO) was established in the School of Social Work as an effort to identify the needs of Latino students, influence the policies of the school, and provide a link between the school and the Latino community. LASO provides Puerto Rican and other Latino students in the School with a vehicle to share ideas, enhance identification with Latino culture, and express sensitivity and responsiveness to the needs and issues affecting Puerto Rican and other Latino communities. For the past several years, LASO has worked directly with the faculty of the Puerto Rican Studies Project in the recruitment and retention of Latino students. In addition to numerous conferences, workshops, seminars, and cultural events, LASO and the Puerto Rican and Latin@ Studies Project faculty continue to co-sponsor Hispanic Youth Conferences, special workshops, and other activities aimed at enhancing and strengthening Puerto Rican and Latino social work students, service providers, and the larger society. This program will also develop pipelines for potential employment in the School of Social Work.

The Organization of Black Social Work Students

The University of Connecticut School of Social Work's Organization of Black Social Work Students (OBSWS) provides support for the black students in the school as well as in the community. Its goal is to sensitize the school and the larger community to the culture, the experiences, and the needs of black people of African descent through a variety of forums, workshops, symposia, and artistic displays. In addition, "Black Studies for Social Work Practice" is available as a focused area of study. With the aid of faculty and administration, OBSWS hopes to continue to develop the black perspective in course content. OBSWS feels that this is critical in light of increased negative racial attitudes in this society. Additionally, participants in this program may consider future employment at the School of Social Work.

PRIDE

PRIDE is to serve the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Allied communities at the UConn School of Social Work, including students, faculty and staff.

We work to ensure that our school's environment, classrooms, curricula, policies and events are accessible, safe, open, and affirming to all individuals regardless of sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

As a social justice organization, we support all efforts to further equality and empowerment for all marginalized populations. We are committed to educating social work students to be better equipped to provide safe and affirming services once they become professionals.

The Writing Internship Program

The English department's Writing Internship Program puts students in a professional environment, working with professional writers on real-life problems. Current placements include positions in a museum, a newspaper, a publishing house, an advertising agency, a

software company, a technical magazine and a variety of other businesses and organizations that employ writers and editors. Internship positions are available either on or off campus throughout the academic year. Departments on campus are also exposed to promising students to consider as part of future employment applicant pipelines.

Sustainable Community Outreach and Public Engagement (SCOPE) Accelerator

Founded by the School of Business, SCOPE promotes social entrepreneurship and social innovation by working with non-profit organizations and for-profit companies that have social outreach and community impact as a significant part of their strategic missions. It applies a business-centric lens to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of these organizations. As the school's other learning accelerators, SCOPE is student-focused and project-focused, but stakeholders are defined as they go; depending upon the goals of university and school, interests of faculty, students, staff involved, sponsorships, and advisory board oversight. Unlike many other programs, SCOPE's vision is not to train non-profit managers, rather to create business leaders who pursue either careers in the private or public sectors or who strive to make a difference. SCOPE views for-profit and social-mission goals as complementary at many levels, and takes an experiential approach to understanding this complementarity. Students who participate in this program are also exposed to various employment options at the University and may consider those options when planning their future career goals.

4-H Youth Development

Through the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, this program prepares youths to meet the needs of a global economy, while learning new skills, meeting new friends and discovering new things about themselves and their world through UConn's Extension's research-

driven programs. It provides fun, hands-on learning activities that foster skills and character development in science, citizenship, and healthy living.

Jorgensen Outreach for Youth (JOY!)

The Jorgensen Outreach for Youth program (JOY!) invites low-income children and adults to attend a range of art events. The program offers free tickets for economically disadvantaged children of all ages; public school programs with transportation assistance; in-school outreach and residency programs; and support for the JOY! Conservatory Program. These services come with the help of private contributors and corporate partners. Students who participate in this program are exposed to a wide variety of employment and career options within the field of Fine Arts.

UConn BRIDGE Program

The University of Connecticut's School of Engineering continues its BRIDGE program—a five-week, study-intensive program that provides hands-on experience, professional instruction, and scholarship opportunities. Participants attend approximately 120 hours of course work in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Programming. A component of the School of Engineering's Diversity Program, the residential BRIDGE program targets admitted freshmen

who are members of groups traditionally underrepresented among the nation's engineers, including:

- Women
- African Americans
- Hispanics
- Puerto Ricans, and
- Native Americans

Campus Connections

Campus Connections provides adults with physical and intellectual disabilities an opportunity to engage in social and recreational activities in the most inclusive setting with maximum possible participation with non-disabled peers. The program matches clients from Horizons Inc. with student volunteers who aid them in making simple arts and crafts, playing games, and performing other activities, such as indoor bowling and golf, bingo, and trips to the Dairy Bar. This program works in conjunction with:

- Horizons Inc.: a program that provides transportation and includes socializing, cooking, playing in the park and just having fun

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The American Language Program at the University of Connecticut in Stamford serves men and women from more than fifty countries around the world. English as a Second Language (ESL) Family Literacy Program matches students with non-English speaking individuals in the local area within a classroom setting in Willimantic. Volunteers assist in the classroom by helping ESL students develop proficient communication skills in the English Language.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Big Brothers, Big Sisters serves youth ages 5-18 in 5,000 communities in the US, through 4,700 agencies and matches 1-on-1 mentoring to help at risk youths. At the University of Connecticut, the BBBS program continues to serve several local public schools including:

- the Natchaug School
- the Sweeney School
- North Windham School
- Windham Center School
- Putnam, and
- Windham Middle School

University students and employees go to these locations both during and after school to mentor and supervise both their academics and recreational activities. Children involved in the program also have the chance to come to the University to shadow their mentor.

Preparing African American Students to Sustain Success (P.A2.S.S)

The School of Business Office of Diversity Initiatives offers Preparing African American Students to Sustain Success (P.A2.S.S.). The goal of P.A2.S.S is to assist first year African American Students in making a healthy, productive and successful transition to college life. The P.A2.S.S Program is a one-credit course facilitated through the H. Fred Simon's African American Cultural Center. Through the P.A2.S.S program first year students will be matched up with an African American upperclassman mentor. Mentors will serve as liaisons to campus resources, services, organizations events and opportunities. It is a program open to all majors who can make a weekly commitment, are full-time students, and have strong leadership, academic, and communication skills. Good University standing (both academic & judicial) is necessary. Through this program, incoming students have better opportunities to learn of the resources available to them, be encouraged to participate in both AAC and on-campus events, and interact with students with similar experiences.

Engineering Diversity and Outreach Center

The Engineering Diversity Program (EDP) provides academic support services for underrepresented populations in the engineering fields such as female, African American, Hispanic, and Native American engineering students. In the past, the EDP has sponsored events such as:

- Multiply Your Options: A one-day seminar for eighth grade girls aimed at exposing them to role models in math, engineering, and technology.
- Engineering Your Future:
- A similar program for eighth grade boys; and
- Spark! Igniting the Next Generation of Women Engineers: A four-week program for middle school and high school females to have a mentorship experience by outstanding female undergraduate engineering students and engineering faculty members.
- BRIDGE: A five-week intensive summer readiness program designed to prepare students for their first-year experience in engineering fields.
- The Pre-Engineering Program: An enrichment program for seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students that includes hands-on math and science exploratory activities aimed at increasing interest in careers involving science, mathematics, engineering, and technology;
- The da Vinci Project: A program designed to help post-elementary schools integrate elemental engineering into the classroom; and
- The Joule Fellows Program: Another program that aids teachers in incorporating engineering into the classroom.

The EDP continues to provide academic retention programs and outreach activities designed to increase the numbers of under-represented students pursuing careers in engineering.

Kids in Developmental Science (KIDS)

A group of researchers from more than 20 child development and behavior labs across UConn have developed this program in order to conduct scientific research pertaining to the development and behavior of children. Their conduct database collects information of families interested in participating in research. This research ranges from creative differences between children with or without dyslexia to language development of preschoolers.

Work-Study Research Assistant Program (WSRAP)

The Office of Undergraduate Research provides the WSRAP opportunity to students both interested in assisting faculty researchers and who have been granted a federal work-study award. Undergraduate students can collect data, attend conferences and more through their researcher while receiving finances through their work-study award.

America Reads

America Reads is a tutoring program provided by Student Activities Community Outreach that provides one-on-one tutoring or small group style tutoring on all academic subjects, placing an emphasis on literacy and math, for grades pre-K through 8th in local preschools and elementary schools such as:

R.J. Kinsella Magnet School
Southeast Elementary School
North Windham Elementary School
Windham Center School
Willington Center Elementary School

Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD)

This Common Fund award is designed to attract minority students to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields through the development of interventions and initiatives for underrepresented groups.

M1 Mentorship Program

The M1 Mentorship Program was launched by CICATS in order to fund chosen faculty to recruit and mentor underrepresented minority students.

Young Innovative Investigator Program (YIIP)

The Young Innovative Investigator Program (YIIP) is another of CICATS's sponsored programs. Its goal is to provide underrepresented minority UConn graduate students with support for research and academic achievement. The program also aims to provide mentorship and career guidance so the students may be prepared and qualified to enter Master's and doctoral programs.

UConn College Access and Preparation Program (UCAP)

The University's Center for Academic Achievement continues its high school outreach program called UConn College Access and Preparation Program (<https://cap.uconn.edu/hsi/ccap/>). First generation and low-income high school students who demonstrate academic need are provided assistance completing high school and preparing for post-secondary education. The program offers summer classes in addition to services provided during the school year. Some of these programs include:

- Weekly meetings
- Tutoring services and academic advising
- Assistance with career or college and scholarship searching
- Cultural and social activities, and
- Community service participation

Cross Cultural Connections

UConn Community Outreach runs the Cross Cultural Connections program with the goal to help international students improve their English and ease their transition into American culture. UConn students engage in one-on-one mentoring sessions with UCAELI students (UConn American English Learning Institute) in an effort to bridge cultural gaps and foster diversity at the University. This program can also enhance the success of employees for whom English is a second language and wish to develop their English skills further.

Diversity Month: UConn Law

Diversity Week, the annual celebration of diversity and inclusion at the UConn School of Law, will expand this year into [Diversity Month](#). The expansion of Diversity Week into Diversity Month allows more time to develop meaningful conversations which mean a greater impact. The campus-wide series of events, first organized in 2011, showcases the law school's commitment to offering a safe and diverse environment. All of the events are aimed at either solving a problem, creating a network, or highlighting differences. It is organized by the student-run Diversity Alliance and supported by several area law firms.

Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

UConn's School of Nursing is continuing its collaboration with the Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to provide service-learning opportunities to students pursuing careers in healthcare. AHEC emphasizes service in diverse communities through leadership and educational programs.

Entrepreneurship Boot camp for Veterans with Disabilities

UConn's School of Business was recognized by the Paul Newman Foundation for positive and innovative community impact for its program, Entrepreneurship Boot camp for Veterans with Disabilities. The program works on training veterans with disabilities in business management and entrepreneurship and has become important for the reintegration of U.S. military service members to civilian society. This program has also served as an excellent recruitment source for departments on campus considering veterans for employment.

Rising Scholars Program

The First Star Academy now known as the Rising Scholars Program continues its partnership with UConn to improve the education of high-school foster children. The program begins as a 4-week residential experience in Storrs, during which students are immersed in academics and other activities of the University. The program extends to a 4-year college immersion program that provides the students support, tutoring, and mentorship. This program helps the foster children realize the possibilities of higher education are not closed to them.

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program (GAANN)

The School of Engineering has been awarded fellowships from the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program, which comes from the US Department of Higher Education. The fellowship is designed for graduate students who are pursuing doctoral degrees in fields designated by the Federal Register as "areas of national need," such as area studies, biology sciences/life sciences, chemistry, computer and information sciences, engineering, foreign languages and literature, mathematics, nursing, physics, and educational evaluation, research, and statistics. The School of Engineering encourages women and students from minority backgrounds to apply for this fellowship.

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

In conjunction with the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative, the UConn School of Medicine is offering a research fellowship for UConn an undergraduate that focuses on health disparities, cross-cultural issues, and the intricacies of working with diverse communities as a healthcare provider. Applicants are required to be from traditionally underrepresented groups, such as African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, or other disadvantaged groups.

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars Program (LSAMP)

UConn's LSAMP program continues in 2014 in its mission to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented minority groups in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. LSAMP students collaborate with faculty and their peers in research, community service, fostering leadership, and mentorship programs.

McNair Scholars Program

Relatively new to UConn, the McNair Scholars Program continues its mission to provide low-income, first-generation, and other underrepresented students research opportunities at the main Storrs campus during the summer. The undergraduates selected are mainly from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields and are pursuing doctoral degrees. The program allows the students to conduct research as well as attend classes to encourage admission and success in graduate school.

Next Generation Connecticut

President Susan Herbst and Governor Dannel Malloy launched Next Generation Connecticut in January 2013; this transformative initiative is still ongoing with the goal to expand educational opportunities to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) students. In addition to creating jobs for the update of infrastructure, the Next Generation CT plan will create jobs for new STEM faculty. The program hopes to increase STEM enrollment at UConn while providing opportunity for the whole state's economy to prosper.

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program

UConn's Chemistry Department hosts a program open mainly to students in non-Ph.D. granting institutions in order to expose them to research opportunities. Students in the REU Program receive a variety of academic support pertaining to future graduate-level research. The REU Program strongly encourages female students and student from underrepresented groups.

Urban Service Track (UST)

UConn's Urban Service Track (UST) students continue to receive accolades for their work organizing medical workshops for the community in Hartford. The UST participants are educated on health issues to the community, such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes, smoking cessation, immunization, and an affordable medicine program. An exclusive 50 UST scholars are selected based on their commitment to service in the inner cities of Connecticut as aspiring health care professionals. The School of Dental Medicine was awarded with the American Dental Association Foundation's "Bud" Tarrson Dental School Student Community Leadership Award for its Urban Service Track program.

Academic Achievement Center

The Academic Achievement Center is focused on assisting students in reaching their personal and academic goals. The Center provides a number of programs and services to aid in skill development, decision-making, and to help students better navigate the University. Professional staff specialized for the Center are available by appointment and Student coaches are available for walk-in hours. These coaches are paired with a student for one-on-one tutoring. This on-campus tutoring center provides both an opportunity for students to seek academic and personal advisement, and creates jobs for specialized faculty and staff.

UConn Learning Community Program

The UConn Learning Communities provide students with a guided program based on their area of interest – either academic or personal. The communities range from structured course-loads aimed to give students the best possible head-start on their career path, to more community-centered programs, where students live together their first and second years at the University. The communities are divided between interdisciplinary and major-based, where the former allows students of any major to apply²², as long as they meet the academic or structural requirements of the program, and the latter admits only students of a certain major or discipline. The goal of these communities is to provide the students with the best possible educational setting their first years at University based on their area of interest. Some of UConn’s Living and Learning Communities include but are not limited to:

- **Global House:** This Living, Learning Community is open to any student interested in global affairs and aims to strengthen students’ global awareness and cultural identities through active, peer-led collaborative learning. Students in Global House travel abroad with UConn faculty to explore their international community.
- **Human Rights & Action:** All undergraduates interested in enhancing their understanding of social justice, diversity, and civic responsibility are welcome to apply to this Living, Learning Community. Students in the Human Rights & Action House are engaged through academic, experiential, and residential activities designed to make them stronger and more socially aware members of the UConn community. This House is partnered with *Community Outreach* and the *Human Rights Institute* to provide its students with a more enriching experience.
- **La Comunidad Intellectual (LCI):** Although this Living, Learning Community is about examining Caribbean and Latin American cultures, customs, and traditions, all students are welcome to apply regardless of race, heritage, or any other defining factor. This Community collaborates with *El Instituto* and *PRLACC* to provide students with an intellectually diverse, inclusive, and socially active community.
- **Leadership House:** This Living, Learning Community provides students with an environment focused on furthering leadership skills in all aspects of their University lives: academics, personal, and future careers. With a supportive, inclusive environment, students are allowed to explore leadership opportunities across campus and outside the University; bettering themselves and their community.
- **ScHOLA²RS House:** This Living, Learning Community is only open to male undergraduates, and is focused on engaging in topics related to the experience of black males in higher education. The program is designed to support students who identify as African American/Black in their academic and social life at the University.
- **Business Connections House:** The Business Connections House provides incoming freshman, sophomores, and juniors who have been accepted into UConn’s School of Business with the opportunity to network with alumni, faculty, staff, and other business school students.

- **WiMSE House:** The Women in Math, Science, and Engineering Learning Community provides support for female students at UConn as they navigate the University's challenges, both academic and social. WiMSE offers residents a support system of faculty members, academic support, research opportunities, and access to a community of women driven to excel in the STEM field.
- **Gender Inclusive Housing:** The University of Connecticut seeks to provide a living environment welcoming to all gender identities; one not limited to the traditional gender binary. Gender Inclusive Housing allows for students of any gender to live together regardless of biological sex. Students living in Gender Inclusive Housing are assigned to the first and second floors of Brock Hall in Alumni Quadrangle with primarily two people in each room.
- **Veterans Community:** The primary mission of the Veterans Community is to help veterans transition from military to student life in a supportive environment. This community is located within South Campus, with four students assigned to each suite (two students in each bedroom of the suite). Within the community, veterans can participate in programs and events that allow for peer learning and connection with other veterans. This community is dedicated to helping veterans navigate the complexities of the college experience and making a successful transition from military life to civilian life.

Creating Caring Communities

An organization at UConn that helps students in foster care, had been in foster care, or identify as independent by providing academic assistance and socializes them with other members of the community.

Student Support Services

Helps students who are either first-generation to college, from low-income families, and/or from underrepresented populations by providing services that assist in their academic and professional growth at UConn. Includes summer programs, counseling, peer tutoring, workshops, and other opportunities made specifically for SSS Students.

One Summer Employment Program

The One Summer Employment program at UConn provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to work on campus to ensure the needs of summer school residents and conference guests are met. The One Summer Employees are usually a first impression and representative for UConn to newcomers during the summer.

UConn Writing Center

The writing center at UConn is located in two centers on campus to maximize the ease of use for both faculty and students. Both the Homer Babbidge and the Phillip E. Austin building locations offer tutoring from designated faculty and graduate students for undergraduate students seeking help in their writing. Undergraduates can also apply to work in the Writing Center. Faculty who work in the writing center or who teach a “W” course at the University (a course with a writing intensive curriculum) are required to attend a W Teaching Orientation every January to insure students are being provided with the best possible help in their writing and classwork. The Writing Center also offers individual consultations for faculty members to go over any aspect of teaching writing or designing courses. Tutor Talks are also available through the Writing Center for faculty members who would like to provide students with a more in-depth presentation about the writing center.

Association for Latina/o Faculty/Staff (ALFAS)

This association is devoted to representing and raising awareness about issues concerning UConn’s Latina/o faculty and/or staff. ALFAS seeks to advance educational and work opportunities within the University community. Some, but not all, of the objectives of this association are as follows:

- To work closely with the University administration to promote the upper-mobility of Latinas/os at all levels
- To provide an environment for the discussion of issues concerning the overall well-being of the Latina/o community
- To represent and be a voice for the Latina/o community on all UConn campuses, and
- To create a support system within the University

Accounting Career Awareness Program

The Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP) was created to provide underrepresented high school students with early exposure to career opportunities within the business and accounting professions. The primary objective of ACAP is to increase the number of those students pursuing careers in accounting and related business areas. ACAP began in 1980 when the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) recognized the need for a program that would direct African-Americans and other underrepresented groups towards the accounting profession. Recognizing that preparation for a professional career begins in the junior and senior years of high school, NABA designed a one-week residency program where students have the opportunity to attend classes on careers in accounting and business, personal development and college preparation.

Diversity in Business Lecture Series

The Diversity in Business Lectures are offered during the fall and spring semesters and consist of a series of presentations by School of Business Alumni or industry professionals. The purpose of the lecture series is to provide students with an opportunity to learn about diversity, leadership

and effective communication from industry executives or UConn Alumni. Students who attend three of the four lectures will be awarded a certificate in Diversity Leadership in April.

Mentoring, Educating, and Training for Academic Success (M.E.T.A.S)

The M.E.T.A.S. program is a one-credit course facilitated through the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center. This program is designed to assist Latino first-year and transfer students with their college transition by pairing them with a peer mentor who will provide guidance and support throughout their first year.

Asiantation Mentoring Program (AMP)

The Asiantation Mentoring Program (AMP) is an award-winning peer education program that assists incoming Asian American students adapt to their new college environment. New students are paired with continuing students who serve as a resource and assist them through their first year. Throughout the year, AMP hosts various workshops- academic success, career preparation, and outreach opportunities-with each catering specifically to the incoming UConn student. The Asiantation Mentoring Program also provides new students the opportunity to connect with other students, faculty, and staff and to learn how to get involved with the Asian American Cultural Center and its affiliated student organizations.

Asiantation Mentoring Program Mentor and Mentee of the Year Scholarships

The Asiantation Mentoring Program offers yearly scholarships to honor the AMP mentor and mentee of the year. Scholarship winners are chosen by a committee and honored at the year-end Senior Banquet and Awards Night.

Reaching Inclusive Excellence (RISE)

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs, introduced RISE (Reaching Inclusive Excellence), a diversity education program, to all first-year students in August 2018. The program consists of 1.5-hour interactive workshop led by a co-facilitator team (Faculty/Staff/Graduate Student and Undergraduate Student). In addition to the first-year student training, these workshops continue to be available for scheduling throughout the academic year.

Fostering Academics, Maturity, Independence, Leadership, Empowerment & Excellence (F.A.M.I.L.E.E.)

F.A.M.I.L.E.E pairs new students with continuing students during their first or transfer year. Mentor and mentee pairs will meet twice a month, at a minimum, to check in and grow together. Additionally, all mentors and mentees meet in a large group once per month for a FAMILLEE Reunion. There will also be one social event per month, planned by mentors. Finally, all participants have the opportunity to take on leadership positions in the organization to help plan events and programs for FAMILLEE participants.

Out to Lunch Lecture Series

The Out to Lunch Gender, Sexuality and Community Lecture Series (OTL Lecture Series) is a weekly queer studies academic lecture and discussion series with guest scholars and community activists from various disciplines examining a variety of topics related to gender identity, gender expression and sexuality. Each semester offers a broad sampling of the existing research and current activism on topics that may include public health, religion, spirituality, business, military, science, K-12 education, families, immigration, literature, politics, law, community organizing, history, violence, race & ethnicity, age, counseling, therapy, sports, romance, policy and many other areas. Undergraduate students have an option to take the lecture series as a credit-bearing class UNIV 2500, “Gender, Sexuality and Community: Queer Studies in an Interdisciplinary Approach.”

Leadership in Diversity

Leadership in Diversity (LID) is a mentoring program that aims to maintain and encourage confidence and success in Students of Color as they pursue careers in the fields of Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education. This program intends on providing minority students with the necessary tools, networks and information to be competitive, well-rounded future educators.

Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center Scholarship

The PRLACC Scholarship Award was established to honor UConn students who have advanced the role and contributions of Latinos in society. Award recipients must demonstrate involvement with and commitment to Latino issues through academic excellence, leadership, and service to the community. The award amount is up to \$1,000.

100 Years of Women Scholarship Award

The 100 Years of Women Scholarship Fund was established in 1992 by the University of Connecticut’s Women’s Center to honor a high school senior planning to enroll in the University of Connecticut, or current UConn students who, as a role model or advocate, has advanced the role and contributions of women in society. The scholarship award ranges from \$750 – \$1,000.

UConn School of Fine Arts and Charter Oak Cultural Center Partnership

The Charter Oak Cultural Center is a non-profit, multi-cultural arts center committed to offering performances, exhibits, classes, lectures and cultural programming, and after school programs for inner city youth. The UConn School of Fine Arts is piloting a service-learning project in which music and art students act as mentors and lesson assistants – supervising homework, hosting dinner, and assisting in the jazz band class.

Jorgenson Outreach for Youth (JOY!)

JOY! is designed to bring the arts to eastern Connecticut's underprivileged children and their families by enabling them to attend Jorgensen performances free. In addition to the ticketing program, JOY! funds public school programs with transportation, in-school outreach and residency programs, and the JOY! Conservatory Program.

Graduate Students of Color Association (GSCA)

GSCA is a cultural and advocacy based organization seeks to support graduate students of different ethnicities and races in their progression through graduate school as well as the promotion of individual and collective cultural identities by group support. GSCA offers an open forum to discuss issues, concerns, topics, and information that are relevant to the experiences of students of color. While all graduate students at UConn are invited to attend and participate, the focus of events and activities are directed toward outreach, recruitment, retention, and support of historically underrepresented members of the UConn community.

Kids & UConn Bridging Education (KUBE)

KUBE is a one-on-one mentoring program that pairs UConn students with middle school students from Killingly and Windham, Connecticut. The aim of the program is to create a multicultural mentoring program that builds literacy, educational aspirations, and social skills development. Monthly gatherings consist of cultural events, field trips, science programs, and journal writing.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative

Consistent with the University of Connecticut's overriding commitment to diversity as a core value and basic tenet, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences launched a connected initiative intended to facilitate, engender, and feature productive exchanges, dialogues, and programs.

UConn's Chapter of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS)

MAPS strive to ultimately diversify the health field by supporting and preparing pre-health students of color for health related professional schools during their undergraduate careers. Regular meetings consist of panels, webinars, trainings, lectures, and field trips.

David Daniel Berdon Memorial Scholarship

The David Daniel Berdon Memorial Scholarship fund is administered by the University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. and provides scholarship support for students enrolled full-time at the University of Connecticut. Candidates must have attended events or programs focused on gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexuality at the University of Connecticut. These can include those sponsored or co-sponsored by the Rainbow Center for/on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and allied communities. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate an interest in issues of concern to these communities through relevant academic coursework.

UConn Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research on Women and Girls of Color

In 2015, Anna Julia Cooper Center at Wake Forest University and the White House Council on Women and Girls announced an initiative to promote scholarship and research on women and girls of color. As a partnering university, the University of Connecticut committed to this cause by designating focus to research, teaching, and programming to promote the advancement of knowledge about women and girls of color.

The Drs. Barbara and Carlton Molette Scholarship

The Drs. Barbara and Carlton Molette Scholarship Fund provides support for continuing undergraduate student enrolled full-time in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Demonstrate academic achievement and be majoring in African American Studies.

Hira Jain Scholarship

Dr. Hira C. Jain and Mrs. Sunita Jain of Glastonbury, Connecticut established a permanent endowment fund to provide scholarships for academically outstanding incoming or continuing undergraduate or graduate students enrolled full time at UConn. Candidates for the scholarship may but are not required to demonstrate financial need. The amount of the biennial scholarship is at least \$500.

Fred Ho Prize in Asian American History and Culture

Awarded every other year by the Asian American Studies Institute since 1999, the Fred Ho Prize encourages all University of Connecticut undergraduates, regardless of major, semester standing or enrollment in Asian American Studies courses, to submit a project based on primary research conducted in the Fred Ho Special Collection at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. The total amount of the biennial prize is usually \$500.

Elizabeth Mahan Fund for Graduate Studies in Latin American and Latino Studies

This fund aims to support El Instituto in making programmatic enhancements and providing crucial resources for UConn graduate students who study issues that shape the Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American experience.

Caribbean Interdisciplinary Research and Outreach Initiative

Working with more than 30 UConn faculty members already committed to Caribbean Studies, this project aims to promote long-term, structured, working and research groups across disciplines, schools, campuses, and communities. The Caribbean Initiative aims to strengthen and increase standing partnerships between our faculty and specific community-based organizations that serve Connecticut's Caribbean population.

El Foco on Latina/os in Education

The Latinos in Education Foco is a research community within El Instituto that aims to support junior tenure-track faculty through the tenure process by providing opportunities for mentorship, networking, professional development, and financial support for research endeavors.

Excellence in Graduate Teaching in Women's Studies Award:

This award recognizes excellence in teaching by graduate students in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. It is awarded annually to a graduate student who exemplifies feminist pedagogy in the classroom and brings a passion and commitment to women's issues to teaching.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon Award

This award is presented to an undergraduate student who's academic and/or community work reflects a dedication to the understanding and advancement of women of color in the U.S. This award is named in honor of the Mohegan Indian medicine woman, anthropologist and community educator, Gladys Tantaquidgeon. She expanded her Mohegan pharmacopeia by researching herbal medicine among related east coast tribes. She co-founded Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in 1931 in Uncasville, Connecticut along with her brother Harold and father John. She shared her brother's philosophy that education was the best cure for prejudice. "You can't hate someone that you know a lot about." Her leadership and scholarship highlighted the significance of Native American women's culture.

Kristie Ann Wood Endowment Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in recognition of academic achievement and demonstrated financial need. This endowment named after Kristie Ann Wood, the first Women's Studies major at UConn, honors her passion for social justice. Preference is given to students with senior standing who have been involved in activities to promote social justice.

Office for Diversity and Inclusion's Social Media Internship

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion advocates for access and equity across all university units. This internship is open to undergraduate students who are interested in creating and implementing social media campaigns and content related to diversity and inclusion programming and events on campus.

The Center for Career Development's Diversity and Inclusion Career Resource Webpage

The Center for Career Development is committed to providing services to people with diverse backgrounds and experiences by offering one-one-one career coaching meetings, career development programming, and on-campus recruiting. In an effort to uphold this commitment, the Center for Career Development launched a webpage that includes identity specific resources to aid students in their career preparation and job search.

Entrepreneurship Boot camp for Veterans

The Entrepreneurship Boot camp for Veterans, or EBV, is a nationally recognized educational program to support business initiatives for veterans through experiential and small business management training. The University of Connecticut is proud to house these programs at the Stamford campus and at the Graduate Business Learning Center in Hartford. EBV demonstrates the power of entrepreneurship in our communities by fostering an essential route for job creation and economic vitality. EBV also serves a critical function in helping our disabled vets work through their physical limitations, psychological challenges, and social obstacles. EBV brings together a dedicated UConn community of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and others to rally around this special class of exceptional individuals.

Veterans Student Organization

The Veteran Student Organization (VSO) is a Tier II student organization of UConn undergraduate and graduate students that support veterans at the University. The VSO regularly hosts social events, holds care package drives, and works to ensure incoming veteran students are as welcome as possible.

Native American Cultural Programs

The Native American Cultural Programs aim to provide support, advocacy, and resources to both Native American students and students interested in the Native American culture through partnerships with UConn faculty, staff, and cultural centers, as well as with the local community and local tribes.

Rainbow Graduate Students & Young Professionals

The Rainbow Center Grads and Young Professionals Group seeks to connect and empower LGBTQIA+ graduate students, non-traditional students, faculty, and staff at UConn through social, community service, and professional development events.

Beyond Access

The Center for Students with Disabilities' Beyond Access program offers students an opportunity to work one-on-one with a trained Strategy instructor to create a customized program based on learning style, personal and academic goals.

CSDTech

The Center for Students with Disabilities' CSDTech program provides students with disabilities the opportunity to access learning technologies such as software, apps, and other resources that aim to enhance overall success and independence.

Husky GPS

Husky GPS provides first year and transfer students with disabilities an opportunity to learn what it takes to be a successful student at UConn. Students who participate in this program are invited to move onto campus early for three days of workshops and activities that provide holistic preparation with focus on academic success, knowledge of campus resources, health and wellness, and social involvement and skills

REACHing Peers

Resources in Education and Advocacy for Current Huskies is a three-fold peer mentoring program that provides: opportunities for prospective UConn students with disabilities to connect with current UConn students that are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities, mentor-mentee relationships amongst current UConn students registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities, and connections between current UConn students with the Center for Students with Disabilities alumni network.