



EARLY COLLEGE  
EXPERIENCE

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UConn Early College Experience

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### UConn ECE Names it's 2022 Professional Recognition Award Winners

Recognizing outstanding high school instructors and administration supporting access to and preparation for higher education.

UConn Early College Experience, Connecticut's largest concurrent enrollment program offering high school students the opportunity for both high school and college credit, announced today that 10 awards will be given in 6 categories to outstanding high school instructors and administrators across the state. These awards recognize the impact these educators have had on just some of the 13,889 UConn ECE Students throughout Connecticut this year.

"UConn ECE is a model program across the country," said Peter Diplock, Associate Vice Provost of UConn's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. "One of the reasons it is so admired and respected is because of all of our instructors and administrators and all they work they do every day and their commitment – commitment to students and their growth and learning, and commitment to the program and to excellence."

This year's UConn Early College Experience Professional Recognition Award winners are:

- "Rookie of the Year" Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction
  - Kristina Schule, Human Development and Family Sciences, from Greenwich High School
- Instructor Award for Excellence in Course Instruction
  - Elizabeth Capobianco, Mathematics, Trumbull High School
  - Daniel Cote, Philosophy, Christian Heritage School
  - Laura Francis, Marine Sciences, Coginchaug Regional High School
  - Christine Higgins, German, Wilton High School
  - Karon McGovern, American Studies, New Fairfield High School
- Principal Award for Program Support & Advocacy
  - Sean Tomany, University High School of Science and Engineering
- Site Representative Award for Excellence in Program Administration
  - Karen Risley, Portland High School
- Library Media Specialist Award for Excellence in Enrichment and Collaboration
  - Maureen Vint, Nonnewaug High School
- Thomas E. Recchio Faculty Coordinator Award for Academic Leadership
  - Anne Gebelein, Latin American Studies, UConn

“Each year, selection committees, made up of individuals from our ECE staff and community, are created to review nominations for each award.,” said Nella Quasnitschka, Associate Director of the Office of Early College Programs. “The educator, administrator, school counselor, librarian, and Faculty Coordinator nominations truly exemplify the excellence of the program, making decisions very difficult.”

UConn Early College Experience is committed to providing access to, and preparation for, post-secondary education programs through its ability to offer University of Connecticut courses to high school students. This year UConn ECE is offering 84 unique courses from 35 departments to 189 partner schools. UConn Early College Experience is committed to excellence in education by fostering a relationship between higher education and partner high schools to create an effective transition for students who have made college a goal, or students who are thinking about college for the first time.

“There is more than knowledge sharing and research and writing. There is a real human connection and growth,” said Thomas E. Recchio, UConn English Professor Emeritus, former English Faculty Coordinator, and namesake of the Faculty Coordinator Award for Academic Leadership.

This year the UConn Early College Experience Professional Recognition Award winners will be recognized at a small, private ceremony on the Waterbury campus at the end of April and publicly recognized via a YouTube private screening Awards Show, premiering on May 19. The show will be available for public viewing on UConn ECE YouTube after the premiere.

### **About UConn Early College Experience**

UConn Early College Experience (UConn ECE) is a concurrent enrollment program that allows motivated high school students to take UConn courses at their high schools for both high school and college credit. Every course taken through UConn ECE is equivalent to the same course at the University of Connecticut. Students benefit by taking college courses in a setting that is both familiar and conducive to learning. The University of Connecticut certifies high school teachers to serve as UConn ECE Instructors and teach UConn courses. Established in 1955, UConn Early College Experience is the nation's longest running concurrent enrollment program and is accredited by The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.

### **Media Contact:**

Office of Early College Programs

Jessica Dunn

Assistant Director

[jessica.dunn@uconn.edu](mailto:jessica.dunn@uconn.edu)

860.486.4650