

A Capitol Education

By U.S. Representative John B. Larson, CCSU, Class of 1972

What I fondly remember about my four years at Central Connecticut State University was the dedicated faculty that I had the privilege of knowing. I will forever be grateful to Dr. Tolis, Dr. Winter, Dr. Moyers, and Dr. Mezvinsky, to name a few in the History and Political Science Departments, for their ability to bring history to life with enthusiasm and candor. CCSU provided me with a first rate education, and the friendships and camaraderie that have endured for a lifetime. The experience I gained at CCSU through the interactive human dynamic of academic pursuit and socializing have served me well, though I think my professors and peers would acknowledge I was better at socializing than academics!

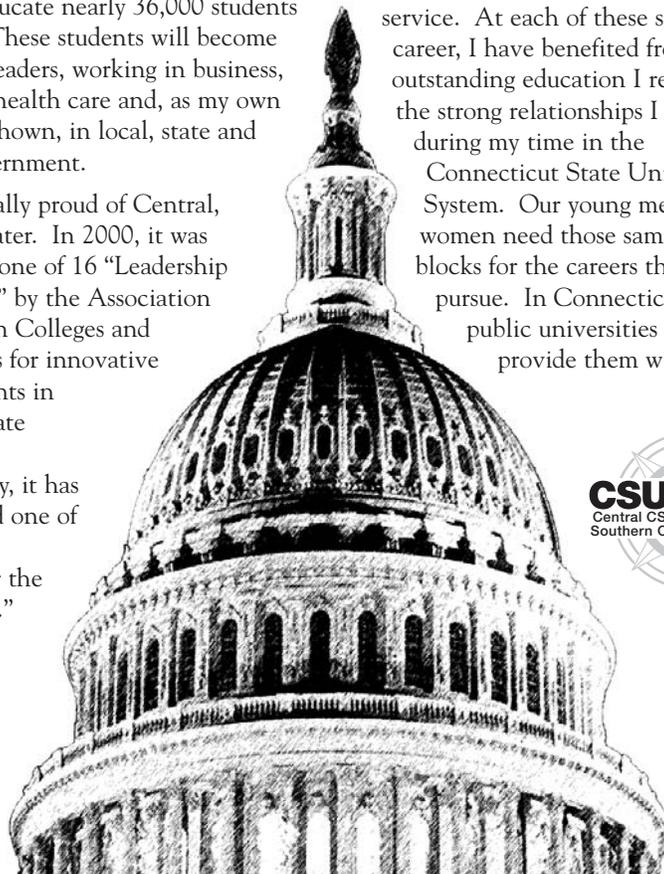
The benefits from an education provided by the Connecticut State University System are extensive. Central in New Britain, Eastern in Willimantic, Southern in New Haven, and Western in Danbury educate nearly 36,000 students each year. These students will become our future leaders, working in business, education, health care and, as my own career has shown, in local, state and federal government.

I am especially proud of Central, my alma mater. In 2000, it was honored as one of 16 "Leadership Institutions" by the Association of American Colleges and Universities for innovative improvements in undergraduate education. Additionally, it has been named one of the "Great Colleges for the Real World."

In this age of globalization where Connecticut's workforce is competing with not only other states, but other nations, what is better than a great university for the real world? Connecticut residents comprise 93 percent of the students in the Connecticut State University System and 86 percent of their graduates stay in the state to start their careers and their futures. That bodes well for Connecticut.

I believe that the future will demand even more of our educational system. We live in a knowledge-based society where the world shrinks at the speed of technological changes and innovation. Higher education remains the key to our nation's successful transition. Government must support our public universities so that the next generation is prepared to face these new challenges.

Throughout my working career, I have been fortunate to enjoy jobs in education, insurance, and public service. At each of these stages in my career, I have benefited from the outstanding education I received and the strong relationships I built during my time in the Connecticut State University System. Our young men and women need those same building blocks for the careers they wish to pursue. In Connecticut, all our public universities can provide them with that.



One system, four public universities— Central Connecticut State University. Eastern Connecticut State University. Southern Connecticut State University. Western Connecticut State University.