



**CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CCSU Accounting Professors Train Student Volunteers**

*CCSU and New Britain High School students train together to become VITA volunteers*

NEW BRITAIN — Just in time for tax season, Central Connecticut State University Accounting Faculty are training hundreds of student and community volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a nationally known free tax return service for low income families and individuals.

After training, these volunteers are equipped with tax knowledge to help low-income families and individuals to get the most from their tax return. And because the VITA program is free, more money stays in the pockets of those who need it most.

VITA helps combat the phenomenon of predatory tax filing services that charge large fees for filing tax returns. This often means struggling families will see little or no money from their tax returns as the tax filer takes most of it in fees for services.

**Media is invited to interview students and faculty involved in VITA training and what it means to them:**

**WHERE: Vance Academic Center, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT**

**WHEN: Friday, Jan. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**WHAT: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Training (VITA) session for CCSU students, New Britain High School Students and members of the community.**

CCSU has been training student volunteers for nine years as a way to teach students tax law but, more importantly, to build a bridge between the university faculty and students and the community. Volunteers will help families throughout the New Britain and Hartford areas.

“The program is a win-win for everyone,” said Cheryl Crospi, CCSU accounting professor and VITA training coordinator. “Students use critical thinking, learn to answer important tax questions for their clients and develop relationships that will help them greatly once they graduate and are working in the accounting field. Our volunteers come back year after year because they have such great satisfaction from this.”

No amount of online learning could match the relationships that are built and the interpersonal skills that are learned with such programs. Not only are students’ lives enriched through in-person teaching and training, but the greater community reaps the benefits as well.

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