

The logo for Western Connecticut State University features a stylized orange shield shape. Inside the shield, the text "WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. The shield is composed of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line at the top, and a curved line at the bottom.

**WESTERN  
CONNECTICUT  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**AY25-26**

# **Accomplishments**

Western Connecticut State University

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May 2026

# **Western Connecticut State University moved from stabilization toward sustainable momentum.**

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Across the university, teams improved enrollment, student success, accreditation standing, fiscal discipline, infrastructure, public visibility, and community partnerships.

# Highlighted Metrics

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**~10%**

**Enrollment Growth**  
Year-over-year increase

**76%**

**Student Retention**  
First-year student retention

**\$4.5M**

**Expense Savings**  
Administrative reorganization  
and cost containment

**\$20M+**

**Capital Funding**  
Secured for priority projects

**702K**

**Public Visibility**  
Active website users

**\$1.982M**

**Fundraising**  
Total dollars raised year-to-date

**6 of 7**

**Athletics Reach**  
New varsity sports programs

**7,200+**

**Student Wellbeing**  
Lbs of food distributed

**\$91K**

**HR Savings**  
Annual savings via  
modernization

# University-Wide Momentum

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**Stabilization and renewal are producing measurable student, fiscal, and reputational momentum. Accomplishments include:**

- Approval of *WestConn Rising Focused Strategy & Financial Resilience Blueprint*
- Five-Year Capital Plan with \$20M+ secured for priorities.
- NECHE Focused Evaluation progress in leadership, governance, and assessment.
- Nearly 10% year-over-year total enrollment growth.
- First-year retention at 76%, exceeding peer averages.
- Expanded governance councils and public reporting.
- \$4.5M admin reorganization and cost containment.
- New and expanded external partnerships (BI, Chamber, Hartford)

**~10%**

**Total Enrollment Growth**

**76%**

**First-Year Retention**

**\$4.5M**

**Expense Savings**

**\$20M+**

**Secured Capital Funding**

# Recognitions & Rankings

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**#1**

**Public Univ in CT for Women**  
Newsweek

**#1**

**In CT for Social Mobility**  
CollegeNet

**#2**

**Public Univ in Connecticut**  
WSJ / College Pulse

**#1**

**National BCBA Master's**  
Intelligent.com

**#30**

**National Moot Court**  
AMCA

**#33**

**Regional Univ. North**  
U.S. News

**330,701**

**kWh/yr Saved**  
Eversource / Cascade

**550**

**Student-Athletes Volunteered**  
Day of Service

# Academic Affairs

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**Academic Affairs expanded high-demand pathways, strengthened academic quality, and institutionalized applied learning.**

- Scaled accelerated nursing, BBA/MBA pathway, and proposed MSW.
- Major NECHE progress and AACSB Continuous Improvement Review.
- Advanced reputation via conferences, scholarship, and STEM initiatives.
- Established Hawkes Center of Excellence for Learning and Teaching.

**85%**

**Sports & Wellness Mgmt  
Growth**

**100%**

**NCLEX Pass Rates**

**200+**

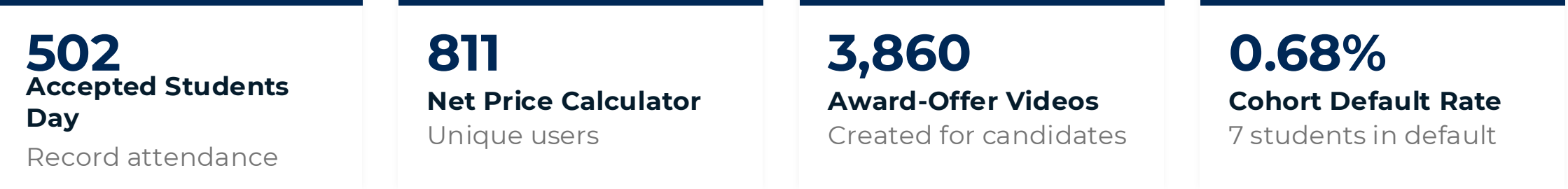
**Arts Educators Served**

**#30**

**National Moot Court Ranking**

# Enrollment Management & Financial Aid

Recruitment, yield, and financial aid are becoming a more data-informed enrollment engine.



# Student Success

## University Advisement Center

- 5,700+ new and continuing student appointments scheduled.
- Selected for 2026 regional conference on equity-minded advising.
- TargetX Engage appointment queue for walk-in traffic.
- Launched First Annual Transfer Student Celebration.

**5,700+**

Advising  
Appointments

**1st**

Annual Transfer  
Event

## Student Affairs

- 25 peer mentors across 30 UNI 101 sections, supporting 850+ first-years.
- 400+ conduct matters with lowest appeal rate in 25+ years.
- 92% academic improvement among JUMP Start participants.
- 121 Student Care Team referrals addressed.
- 7,200+ lbs of food to 220+ students via Wally's Cupboard.
- Housing grew to ~1,100 residents; 35% more residential programming.

**850+**

First-Years  
Supported

**92%**

JUMP Start

**7.2K**

Lbs Food  
Distributed

# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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Western Connecticut State University sustained and expanded inclusive excellence work, anchoring it in belonging and student success.

## Affiliations & Commitments

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- Maintained DEI/InterCultural/Pride offices despite national retrenchment.
- Joined Excelencia in Education + Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.
- Launched the Fifth Commitment.
- Began SSITA institutional transformation assessment.

## Programming & Training

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- Expanded heritage and identity programming across 7+ major areas.
- Know Your Rights workshops, Safe Zone trainings, NEOGOV Microaggressions coursework.
- Expanded Diversity Council student participation + SGA DEI Listening Sessions.
- Second consecutive year of Affirmative Action Plan approval.

**2**

National Affiliations  
Added

**2nd Year**

AAP Approved

**7+**

Programming Areas

**SSITA**

Underway

# Communications & Marketing + Athletics

## Communications & Marketing

- Billboards expanded from 3 to 7 statewide.
- Audio spots grew from 2 to 6 across streaming/radio.
- TV commercials tripled; added bilingual Telemundo.
- NBC spot during Milan Winter Olympics.
- LinkedIn grew to 36K followers.
- Facebook grew to 21K followers.
- Instagram grew to 8.5K followers.

**702K**

Active Website Users

**977K**

Organic Search Sessions

## Athletics

- Launched 6 of 7 new varsity sports programs.
- Earned NADIII AA Community Service Award.
- Day of Giving raised \$230,868 (+\$23K over last year).
- Overall student athlete GPA over 3.0.

**661K**

Athletics Web Users (+226%)

**\$230,868**

Day of Giving Raised

# IT&I + Finance & Administration + HR

## IT & Innovation

- WolvesNet portal established as digital front door.
- Banner SaaS transition launched.
- VR capability deployed for Nursing program.
- Power Apps and OnBase workflow automation.
- Argos, Windows 11, and Blackboard Ultra rollouts.

**BANNER SAAS**

Transition Underway

**VR DEPLOYED**

Nursing Emphasis

## Finance & Admin

- Lowest Accounts Receivable in 10+ years.
- Lowest AR among the four CSUs.
- WebFocus to Argos reporting conversion.
- LeaseQuery implemented for compliance.
- \$50,000 grant via Accelerator auto-admit project.

**10+ YR LOW**

Accounts Receivable

**\$50K**

Grant Secured

## Human Resources

- 55 employees honored for 10+ years of service.
- \$91K annual savings via reorganization.
- JazzHR and OnBase workflow expanded.
- New position-request tracking app launched.

**\$91K**

Annual Savings

**55**

Honorees

# Facilities — Campus Renewal

**30+**

Projects Completed

**19**

Projects In Progress

**\$20M+**

Capital Secured

**4**

Landscape Tech Positions

## Student-Facing

- White Hall student lounges
- Student Center commuter lounge
- Wellbeing Center
- Science Building study/tutoring
- Wolves Den food pantry space

## Infrastructure & HVAC

- Science Building cooling tower replacement
- Litchfield Hall Annex HVAC
- Warner Hall cooling tower/HVAC
- O'Neill Center 3rd floor HVAC
- Westside Campus Center exterior steel repainting

## Capital Renewal & In Progress

- Pinney Hall Phase I & II renovations
- Pinney Fitness Center relocation
- Haas Library CELT
- VPAC lighting
- Warner Innovation Classroom (Aug 2026)
- O'Neill Arena HVAC (Sept 2026)
- WAC turf (July 2026)

# Equipment Investment

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**~\$2M**

**Total Investment**

**426**

**New Computers  
Deployed**

**3**

**New Fleet Vehicles**

**6**

**Units of Specialized  
Lab Gear**

## **Technology**

- 26 Apple iMacs
- 75 Dell Pro 14 Laptops
- 325 Dell Pro 24 All-in-One Desktops

## **Academic & Lab**

- Mama Anne Nursing Simulator
- Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer; Cage Washer (Biology)
- Luminescence Spectrometer (Chemistry)
- Robotic Dog (Computer Science)
- Mini Robots (First Robotics pre-college)
- Musical Instruments (saxophone, tuba, bass, and more)

# Institutional Advancement & Police

## Institutional Advancement

- Raised \$1.982 million YTD from 3,729 donations and 2,630 unique donors.
- Wolves Day of Giving raised \$405,661 from 2,275 donors (+~10.4% over 2025).
- Presidential Inauguration fundraising exceeded \$110,000 (~25% directed to highest institutional priorities).
- Implemented Stelter planned-giving tools and strategies.
- Established a formal on-campus presence for the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board.

**\$1.98M**

Raised YTD

**\$405.6K**

Day of Giving

**2,630**

Unique Donors

## WestConn Police Department

- 90%+ of 500+ surveyed residents feel safe on campus (less than 1% unsafe).
- Achieved highest POSTC Accreditation after three levels in 28 months.
- Expanded training in Mental Health First Aid, QPR, de-escalation, First Aid/CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and Naloxone.
- Advanced Threat Assessment Team development with National Threat Assessment Center forum.
- Janie facility dog program advanced via Cold Springs Healing Paws Foundation.

**90%+**

Feel Safe

**POSTC**

Highest Accred.

**6**

Training Areas

# Advocacy

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**5**

**Positions Taken  
(Amicus Briefs &  
Statements)**

**40+**

**Legislative  
Visits**

**6**

**Priority Bills  
Tracked**

**1**

**Testimony  
Given**

## Key Policy Positions

- Advocate for reduced federal loan guarantees to minimize long-term exposure.
- Promote stricter underwriting standards for high-risk borrower categories.
- Support state-led initiatives for sustainable funding models.
- Encourage data transparency and reporting on loan performance.
- Prioritize fiscal responsibility and taxpayer protection in all legislative proposals.

## Strategic Engagement Plan

- Conduct targeted outreach to Senate Finance and House Ways & Means committees.
- Facilitate meetings with key committee members and staff to present data analysis.
- Develop and distribute concise policy briefs and fact sheets.
- Leverage industry partnerships for coalition-based advocacy.
- Monitor legislative developments and provide timely, data-driven input.

# Looking Ahead

Cross-divisional priorities for the year ahead, synthesized from each unit's stated next-year focus

## **Fiscal Sustainability & Operations**

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Continue FY30 fiscal resilience glidepath  
**Successfully transition to SaaS and adopt zero-zero-based budgeting**  
Deploy predictive market analysis enrollment enrollment tool  
**Secure Western IT Turnaround Plan funding funding**

## **Enrollment, Retention & Success**

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**Strengthen retention and net tuition strategy**  
Grow visitor hospitality and out-of-state recruitment  
**Apply AI and Carnegie analytics**  
Contribute +1pp to retention toward 77%

## **Academic Excellence & Learning**

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Scale 2+2+1 pathways with CT State partners  
**Implement applied learning across all programs**  
Launch new for-credit certificates  
**Advance White Oak Film Festival and 2026 Global Standards alignment**

## **Campus Renewal & Safety**

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**Continue capital execution and shared governance routines**  
Operationalize Threat Assessment Team  
**Launch Janie facility dog**  
Continue mental health and crisis training

## **Workforce, Regional Impact & Brand**

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Strengthen ROI analytics and bilingual materials  
**Redesign Alumni Affairs**  
Add 3-5 Foundation Board members  
**Launch sustained AAPI initiative**



# Western Connecticut State University

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AY25-26 Accomplishments | May 2026