Mission

Founded in 1881, the University of Connecticut serves as the flagship for higher education and the sole doctoral degree granting public institution in the state. The University serves as a center for research, dedicated to excellence in higher education and fulfillment of its land grant status. It is committed to meeting the educational needs of its undergraduate, graduate, professional and continuing education students and providing the faculty with the means to develop their intellectual capacity through teaching, research and interaction with society. Through the integration of teaching, research and service, the University provides an outstanding educational experience for each student.

The University will serve the state and its citizens in a manner that enhances the social and economic well-being of its communities. It will do so by providing leadership in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge to all its constituents, recognizing that the continual transmission of knowledge and
lifelong learning are essential to Connecticut’s future in a global context. It will seek to enhance the quality of life and the economic well-being of Connecticut.

**Statutory Responsibilities**

The General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and the Morrill Act of the U.S. Congress have charged the University of Connecticut with the responsibility for the education of Connecticut youth in scientific and classical studies, agriculture and mechanic arts and liberal and practical education. General Statutes have given it "exclusive authority for programs leading to doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate professional degrees." The University's constitutional mandate, "excellence in higher education," is accomplished in its traditional triad of academic responsibilities: teaching, research and service.

**Public Service**

Central to the University's mission as a land-grant institution, and critical to the establishment of a strong resource base for the enhancement of teaching and research, is the University's relationships with major economic interests of the state. Connecticut Innovations Inc., a quasi-state agency that helps foster technology transfer from universities to commercial applications, awarded $1 million in grants to six University research projects because of their strong potential to yield products or processes that will contribute to long-term economic growth in Connecticut. The projects include animal sciences research with Alexion Pharmaceuticals of New Haven, chemical engineering research with Rogers Corporation of Rogers, biotechnology research with Connecticut Aquaculture Inc. of Willimantic and Sea Free Fish Company of North Grosvenordale, electrical and systems engineering research with E-Lite
Technologies of Stratford, plant science research with Imperial Nurseries Inc. of Granby, and plant science research with Sunny Border Nursery Inc. of Kensington, Clark's Greenhouse and Nursery of Salem, Imperial Nurseries Inc. of Granby and Just for Starters of Eastford.

Rogers Corporation donated $100,000 to the Institute of Materials Science for new laboratory research instrumentation for a planned addition to the Institute. The Corporation and the Institute have had a 25-year partnership in collaborative efforts to improve advanced materials research and education.

The University celebrated its first decade as a Sea Grant College, a designation from the U.S. Department of Commerce earned by significant accomplishments in marine and coastal research, outreach and education. The College is based at the Avery Point Campus and sponsors activities at 12 academic institutions and three aquariums in the state.

The Nonpoint Education for Municipal Education (NEMO) Project received an award from the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation. The foundation identifies programs throughout the nation that provide innovative educational solutions to environmental problems. NEMO is a joint Sea Grant/Cooperative Extension System project that links town halls with computer and satellite-derived technology to analyze water quality.

The U.S. Department of Education renewed funding for the Center for International Business Education and Research in the School of Business Administration, one of only 28 universities in the country and the only New England university to receive the designation. The School of Business Administration also was awarded a $1.4 million grant to provide MBA level courses for the U.S. Department of Defense’s non-military senior managers.

In the Division of Extended and Continuing Education, the Community School of the Arts increased enrollment by 45 percent
to 2,606, and the Center for Economic Education increased enrollment by 11 percent to 3,917. Both of these programs serve the general public as well as the University community.

The Connecticut State Employees’ Campaign for Public Giving raised $94,783 from University employees.

**Improvements/Achievements 1998-99**

The University continued to make great strides in renewing, enhancing and rebuilding the physical infrastructure on its campuses with the state's investment in UCONN 2000. The $1 billion, ten-year program enabled by the General Assembly's Public Act 95-230, included the following accomplishments in 1998-99: a new 199,000-square-foot Chemistry Building with state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratory space, a resource and learning center, and faculty and administrative offices; new South Campus dormitories to house nearly 700 students; a new dining and meeting facility in South Campus to serve meals to 1,500 students and housing an after-hours deli and computer, community, game, meeting and banquet rooms; the Academic Way, the new pedestrian mall that winds through center campus; and a new enclosed Ice Arena with a 200-by-85-foot skating rink, 1,700 seats, locker rooms and offices. A new shuttle bus loop through the center of Storrs campus increased student, faculty and staff access to key University facilities.

The following were being constructed or renovated with UConn 2000 funds: an expanded and renovated Fine Arts Complex; a new Physics/Biology Building; a new Agricultural Biotechnology Building; and conversion of an existing building into a centralized student service center. At the Avery Point Campus, a new Marine Sciences Institute was under construction.

The University's new research vessel, the R/V Connecticut, arrived in Groton for undergraduate and graduate education, for funded research projects, and for regional service to other
educational, research and governmental organizations. The 76-foot vessel is funded through a $1.5 million grant from Connecticut Innovations Inc., with additional support from the University.

The renovated Homer Babbidge Library was rededicated in October. A new exterior was the result of a decade of reconstruction by the state Department of Public Works, and an enhanced and restructured interior was accomplished with UCONN 2000 funds. The library includes a new 24-hour study room with mainframe terminals for e-mail, a Bookworm Café serving coffee and pastry, a Cyber Café with interconnected workstations, and video rooms and conference facilities.

The UConn Health Center dedicated an 11-story Academic Research Building in April. The 167,000 square-foot building is for biomedical research and expands laboratory space at the Health Center by more than 40 percent. Each floor is designated for a specific scientific enterprise and includes 128 state-of-the-art basic science laboratories designed with input from research faculty to ensure efficiency and flexibility. The new Building also houses the John G. Rowland Center for Biosciences.

New role and scope statements were developed and approved for the regional campuses. A Tri-Campus, combining the approximately 2,000 students and 60 full-time faculty at the Hartford, Torrington and Waterbury campuses, was established to streamline administrative operations and to begin offering four-year degree programs. The new programs emphasize the humanities and social sciences, with selected science and technology offerings. Many of the majors, such as the new bachelor's degree program in Urban Studies, are interrelated and with a focus on urban areas and public policy. The Tri-Campus continues to offer lower division core curriculum courses for students who wish to complete their degree at Storrs or another campus.
In Fall 1998, 21,901 students were enrolled in degree credit programs in the 13 Schools and Colleges at the Storrs Campus, the regional campuses (Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, Torrington and Waterbury), the Schools of Law and Social Work in Hartford, and the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine, and graduate programs at the Health Center in Farmington. In 1998-99, the University conferred a total of 4,571 bachelor's, master's, doctoral, law, medicine and dental medicine degrees.

The fifth edition of *Barron’s Best Buys in College Education* listed the University among the 280 best buys in college education. *Barron’s* cited the University's excellent faculty, affordable cost, and campus atmosphere in making the selection.

The Schools of Law and Education ranked among the top 50 graduate schools in the nation and are the best public schools in New England, according to the *U.S. News and World Report*. The School of Law was ranked 40th and the School of Education was ranked 46th in the nation.

The School of Engineering was ranked 26th among engineering schools at public universities in terms of externally-funded research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation.

Students attending the School of Dental Medicine placed second in a national test of all dental students. During the past 10 years, the School has consistently been in the top three schools nationally in students’ scores on Part I of the National Board Dental Examinations.

The School of Social Work celebrated its 50th anniversary with an open house, faculty seminars, a colloquium of former deans, a luncheon marking 30 years of the school's Black Student Organization, and honors and awards to outstanding alumni. The School is the state's largest professional school of social work and has more than 4,000 alumni.
A new doctoral program in natural resources management received state approval. The School of Nursing conferred its first doctoral degree. The doctoral nursing program, one of five in New England, began admitting students in 1994. Three new Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree programs were established in the School of Engineering: Environmental Engineering, Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, and Computer Engineering. The University is the first public university in New England to offer undergraduate degree programs in environmental and metallurgy/materials engineering.

Animal science faculty and researchers became the first in the United States to produce a large animal clone from genetic material extracted from an adult farm animal. Amy, a Holstein heifer, was born in June at the University's Transgenic Animal Facility and represents the first successfully cloned animal from non-reproductive related cells.

The National Institutes of Health awarded two grants to the University Health Center to extend and expand patient-centered research into the 21st century. A $4 million grant to develop "The Virtual Cell" was given to the Center for Biomedical Imaging Technology. It will underwrite development of a computer system allowing scientists to model the inner workings of cells and to more efficiently design experiments on cells. The Center also received the designation National Biomedical Technology Resource in recognition that it is one of 60 such resources in the country, and the only one in Connecticut. A $9 million grant renewed support for the Lowell P. Weicker Jr. General Clinical Research Center for another five years. The Weicker Center has supported clinical research programs investigating alcohol and substance abuse, osteoporosis, bone metabolism, smoking cessation, prostate enlargement and prostate cancer, tick-borne diseases and glaucoma.
Each year many individuals in the University community receive national recognition for their scholarly and research accomplishments. Illustrative recent examples follow:

Leslie S. Cutler, Chancellor and Provost for Health Affairs at the UConn Health Center, was elected to the board of directors of the Association of Academic Health Centers. The Association is a national, nonprofit organization representing more than 100 health complexes at major universities.

Mark Brand, an associate professor of plant science, introduced six new cold hardy varieties of large-leaf rhododendrons. The new colorful players in the rhododendron arena are part of his "Raise the Roof" series: "Huskymania," "Tip Off," "Buzzer Beater," "March Madness," "Hoopla" and "Slam Dunk."

Frank Costigliola, a professor of history and an expert in U.S. foreign relations, spent a semester as a fellow at the Norwegian Nobel Institute. He was one of nine scholars selected from an international competition of more than 300 applicants.

Bernard Magubane, an emeritus professor of anthropology, received an award for outstanding service from President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Dr. Magubane is internationally acclaimed for his analyses of race and class, the political economy of South Africa, and connections between African Americans and Africa.

Steven C. Maxson, professor of psychology and biobehavioral sciences, was honored with a lifetime achievement award for his work on the Y chromosome and aggression in mice. He received the Dobzhansky Award from the Behavior Genetics Association, an international scientific society.

Edward C. Monahan, director of the Connecticut Sea Grant Program and a professor of marine sciences, was elected as a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, the premier international society in acoustics. Dr. Monahan's research has
focused on the contribution of bubbles to acoustic reverberation beneath the sea surface and to the air-sea transfer of the gases that influence the global climate.

Linda Otis, an assistant professor of oral diagnosis at the School of Dental Medicine, is a member of a team whose invention - an optical ultra-high resolution dental imaging system - is included in an international listing of the 100 most significant technological developments of the year.

Robert A. Weiss, a professor of chemical engineering and an expert in polymers, was elected a Fellow of The American Physical Society, an honor given to only a select number of scientists each year. The election was for his work on viscoelastic and phase equilibria in high polymers, the long chain molecules that comprise plastics, rubber and other materials.

Three faculty members recently completed research in other countries as Fulbright scholars: Judith Kelly, professor of molecular and cell biology, in France; Lucy McNeese, associate professor of modern and classical languages, in Morocco; and Robert Thorson, professor of geology and geophysics, in Chile.

Ninety-five student-athletes from the University were named Big East Academic All Stars. This reflects an approximately 20 percent increase from the previous year. Student-athletes won the NCAA National Championship in men’s basketball and six Big East regular season championships (men’s basketball, women’s basketball, field hockey, men’s soccer, women’s soccer and volleyball).

Reducing Waste

The Health Center's Dempsey Hospital was rated the most cost-efficient hospital in the state, according to the Connecticut Office of Health Care Access. Dempsey Hospital's number one spot this year represents a dramatic jump in its ranking among the 32 hospitals included in the report. Dempsey
was in 12th place in last year's survey, and in 22nd place the year before. The growth in efficiency for Dempsey Hospital was attributed, among other things, to consolidation of departments, elimination of positions through attrition, and better purchasing contract agreements.

In the first four years of the state's investment in UCONN 2000, the University saved more than $4 million in assuming the insurance risk by running an owner-controlled insurance program. Administrative costs for internal project management also were streamlined to total $1.3 million, or one-half of one percent of the total cost of the program in the first four years.

Activities throughout the year ensured that the University's computer systems were Year 2000 compliant. The University's student systems (SAM, SARS, GATEWAY, and Thesis) were identified by the state to be among the state's "top 50 systems" in terms of the most impact on the public. Both the conversion and testing phases for these systems were completed by January of 1999.

Restructured and expanded information technology services were initiated with the creation of an Office of the Vice Chancellor for Information Services. The new Vice Chancellor is responsible for the library, the computer center and the office of telecommunications. The restructuring enables strategic planning and senior management in the broad areas of information systems and services, and information technology.

**Strategic Planning and Initiatives**

The Strategic Plan for the Storrs and Regional Campuses of the University, adopted by the Board of Trustees in 1995, has provided the framework for planning and implementing many strategic initiatives. A variety of initiatives have been derived from eight general strategic goals: (1) provide a challenging and supportive learning environment that fosters achievement and promotes excellence in research, scholarship and artistic creativity; (2) recruit and retain outstanding students,
faculty and staff; (3) create a physical environment that reflects the University’s expectation of excellence and encourages interaction among a diverse population; (4) enhance a sense of community; (5) allocate and develop resources on the basis of mission, value and performance; (6) streamline administrative functions; (7) promote the University’s role in fulfilling the needs of the state, its citizens, and its economic institutions; and (8) foster a sense of partnership with the state.

Specific strategic initiatives in 1998-99 addressed the eight goals. Undergraduate education (goals 1, 2, 3 and 4) was strengthened by: improving the quality of core curriculum offerings; meeting the demands of enrollment increases (numbers of freshmen increased by 17 percent in Fall 1998); restructuring advising; increasing the resources of the Academic Center for Exploratory Students (ACES) for students undecided or in transition between majors; improving the freshmen year educational experience; expanding the Honors Program, including creating an honors residential hall; increasing the role of the Institute for Teaching and Learning in instruction; expanding the peer-tutoring program throughout campus housing; and encouraging student volunteering for community service.

Student access (goals 2, 3 and 4) was increased by: enhancing recruitment materials to provide better information to prospective students, their families and high school counselors; accepting bank credit cards for payment of tuition, room, board and fees; strengthening the role of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; providing financial support for multicultural studies institutes, collaborative activities with the University of Puerto Rico, and Rainbow Center; establishing outreach to the middle and high schools to attract a diversity of individuals to the health professions; and providing the necessary accommodations for students served through the Center for
Students with Disabilities and the University's Program for Students with Learning Disabilities.

Professional schools (goals 1 and 2) were strengthened by: increasing the clinical faculty in the School of Pharmacy to support its doctoral program; and expanding the offerings of the School of Business Administration at the Storrs and Stamford Campuses.

Technology (goals 1, 4, 5 and 6) was advanced by: beginning the implementation of a new student information system; planning the renovation of the Wilbur Cross building around an improved service delivery model and the supporting information system; planning a new library information system; enhancing the touch-tone registration system to support more student service functions; meeting the escalating demands for voice, data and video capability throughout the University; adding and maintaining "high tech" classrooms; and resolving a variety of Year 2000 issues remaining after conversion of the centrally supported programs.

Service, safety and efficiency (goals 2, 5, 6 and 7) were increased by: making physical and managerial improvements to maintain compliance with the Federal Animal Welfare Act; restructuring the parking and transportation system to support the Master Plan commitment to a pedestrian campus; ensuring human and animal safety and protecting the environment in the disposal of hazardous wastes; supporting assessment processes for academic and service units; and improving the human resources functions and personnel information system.

Economic development and business partnerships (goals 7 and 8) were enhanced by: funding four tenured professors in the Critical Technologies (biomedical/biotechnology, information technology, and photonics research); establishing the Connecticut Information Technology Institute (CITI) at the Stamford Campus; supporting the infrastructure and programs of an expanded
Stamford Campus; and forming public-private partnerships that lead to the start-up of new Connecticut-based aquaculture companies.

The University's efforts to increase private support have been very successful. The $20 million in state dollar match to private gifts, as provided for in UConn 2000, was fully committed in only 18 months. The program was extended so that endowment contributions could continue to be matched with state funds. Annual gift receipts have risen from $8.2 million in 1995 to $25 million in 1999. Total endowment assets of the UConn Foundation have grown from $50 million in 1995 to $165 million in 1999.

Raymond Neag, an alumnus, gave the University $23 million, including $21 for the School of Education and $2 million for the Health Center. It is the largest gift ever given to a School of Education in the nation. The gift also is the largest to a public university in New England and the largest in UConn history. The total value, with the state's endowment matching grant program, is approximately $27.4 million.

The gift was commemorated by renaming the School of Education as the Neag School of Education, the first named school at the University. The moneys will be used to: support two nationally recognized centers of excellence (the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development and the five-year teacher education program); build new centers of excellence (early childhood education, urban education, at-risk students, educational technology, and literacy); hire internationally recognized scholars; provide scholarships; recruit high-achieving graduate students; and provide outreach programs in Connecticut schools.

At the Health Center, the Neag gift will be used for a distinguished chair in the School of Medicine to recruit an outstanding new faculty member to develop or enhance major research and clinical programs.
Other gifts to fund new faculty positions include: the Master Artists Institute, to bring master artists and scholars to the School of Fine Arts each year, from Raymond and Beverly Sackler; a visiting professorship in human rights in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, by Gary S. Gladstein; the Northeast Utilities Foundation Chair in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, from Northeast Utilities; and an information technology professorship in the School of Engineering, from SNET.

The two-day retail sale of UCONN 2000 bonds in March resulted in a total of $92 million in orders, with 13 maturities oversold. This was the first time in state history that a State of Connecticut secured bond issue had been sold entirely to retail investors. The 1999 Series A UConn General Obligation Bonds are the fourth issuance in the UCONN 2000 program, which began in 1996.

A new five-year strategic plan for the Health Center called for continued growth in key research areas. Further emphasis will be given to genetic modeling of human disease, molecular genomics, structural biology and biomaterials, biomedical imaging, clinical epidemiology and computational biology.

Diversity Enhancement

The University engages in a variety of activities and efforts to promote and support a diverse and pluralistic environment for students and employees, including: Asian American Heritage Month, Black History Month, Latino History Month, Women’s History Month, Women in the Arts Program, Multicultural Awareness Week, and lecture series sponsored by ethnic studies institutes. Several centers and academic programs promote an understanding of, and respect for, diversity, multiculturalism, and equity: the Institute for African American Studies, the H. Fred Simons African American Cultural Center, the
Asian American Studies Institute, the Asian American Cultural Center, the Institute for Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, the Women’s Studies Program, the Women’s Center, the Center for Students with Disabilities, and the Rainbow Center. The University has maintained a high ranking among large state agencies in annual expenditures and total expenditures to women and minority-owned Connecticut small businesses.

The first permanent Vice Provost for Multicultural Affairs was appointed to assist in the University’s continuing efforts to enhance diversity in curriculum development and academic programs. The first permanent Director of the Rainbow Center also was hired. The American Association for University Professors (AAUP) Award for Teaching Promise was given to Dr. Michelle Williams, who holds a joint appointment in psychology and the Institute of African American Studies.

The University of Connecticut Health Center sponsored a month-long program on diversity awareness, beginning with the Executive Director of Americans for a Fair Chance. University faculty and staff continued their leadership and participation in the Tenth Women’s Health Update and with its annual sponsorship of “Take Your Daughters to Work.” Other activities to enhance diversity included a symposium series on Latino issues, a series of Asian American guest artists and authors, and the 30th Anniversary of the Urban Semester Program.

The University and the African National Congress began an oral history project to help document the lives and political roles of more than 200 anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa. Efforts of a University faculty member brought the papers of Mr. Nelson Mandela to the University’s archives for future study by scholars. The University's Roper Center, with the support of the Center for Global Partnership and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, developed a Web-accessible database of Japanese
public opinion, the first on-line collection of Japanese survey data.

Minority student enrollment at all levels and campus locations, including the professional schools, was 15 percent with undergraduate enrollment at 16 percent and graduate and professional enrollment at 13 percent. The University’s Fall 1998 entering freshman class at all campuses increased 27.3 percent in minority students from Fall 1997. Ninety-one countries were represented among the undergraduate and graduate international students. The 23rd annual Day of Pride Scholarship Awards Banquet again honored outstanding minority high school seniors in the state, with the top 15 students offered early admission and full four-year scholarships. The Law School hosted its 22nd annual Minority Law Day to stimulate interest among minority persons in the study of law. The July 1998 work force for Storrs and the Regional Campuses (as reported in the University’s Affirmative Action Plan) included 14 percent minority faculty and staff. At the Health Center, the Fall 1998 work force included 15 percent minority faculty and staff.

Implementation of recommendations from the President’s Task Force on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) included an institutional self-evaluation to review programmatic access and new University standards for construction, major renovations, and deferred maintenance projects. The University’s Affirmative Action Plan was approved by the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities for the 14th consecutive time. With these and many other programs and initiatives, the University continues to promote and enhance its diversity.