

***"I have to say how proud I am to have been part of this project, from the beginning; when the tasks seemed insurmountable and the scope of the problem of underage age drinking so widespread. But through working together with so many different professionals lending their expertise to the issue I really see the progress we made and more importantly where we can get to if we continue in this collaboration. I am encouraged and will continue with the efforts we have begun because I know we have made a difference."***

Walter Bernstein, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Western Connecticut State University

### **Stay Involved**

Connecticut's Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative meets quarterly and sponsors an on-going array of activities to support it's vision of a healthy campus-community culture.

Please contact our co-chairs for more information.

**Mary Kate Mason**

Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
mary.mason@po.state.ct.us  
(860) 418-6839

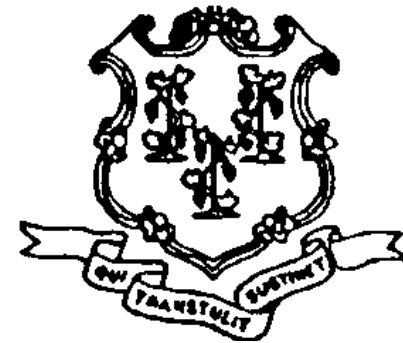
**Aliza Makuch**

Eastern Connecticut State University  
makucha@easternct.edu  
(860) 465-5700

***"We have to be proactive and visibly associated with new values and strategies, but we also must look for ways to involve students, faculty, staff and the larger community in solving this problem."***

Susan Resneck Pierce, President, University of Puget Sound

## ***The Connecticut Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative***



Connecticut's Institutions of Higher Education  
The Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
The Department of Higher Education  
The Governor's Prevention Partnership



STATEWIDE  
HEALTHY  
CAMPUS  
INITIATIVE



***"Decisions about alcohol consumption are not just individual; they can affect the common life of the university."***

Edward A. Malloy, President, University of Notre Dame

## ***What is the Connecticut Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative?***

The Connecticut Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative was established in 2004 when representatives from nearly twenty-five institutions of higher education began meeting to discuss strategies to prevent high-risk alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and reduce related consequences among students. This work-group began brainstorming to identify ways Connecticut could support and expand campus level prevention efforts and developed a **statewide action plan** that was finalized in June 2005.

In January 2006 Presidents and Senior Administrators from over forty colleges and universities gathered to sign an **unprecedented letter of commitment** pledging to empower their organizations and institutions to move forward in fostering a campus-community culture that reduces occurrences of high-risk alcohol and other drug use among college students.

***“Colleges should be safe places where students can thrive academically, grow personally, and mature socially without pressure to use alcohol.”***

The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to  
Prevent & Reduce Underage Drinking

With strong Presidential support, statewide coalitions are better able to **leverage the considerable resources & influence** that institutions of higher education can bring to bear on state policy initiatives. Connecticut’s Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative advocated for and continues to champion Public Act No. 06-112, An Act Concerning Underage Drinking, commonly referred to as the social host law, which passed in June and took effect in October 2006.

## **Action Plan**

Connecticut’s institutions of higher learning shall engage in a collaborative and coordinated effort to:

- Create campuses, communities and a state that actively engages in prevention efforts to reduce high-risk alcohol and other drug use and its negative consequences
- Implement science-based prevention and intervention initiatives on Connecticut campuses
- Facilitate a support network for information sharing and action planning on statewide issues related to high-risk alcohol and other drug use and its negative consequences among Connecticut’s college students

***Presidential leadership is key to the success of statewide initiatives.***

## **Accomplishments**

Connecticut’s Statewide Healthy Campus Initiative has:

- Expanded use of the Core Alcohol and Other Drug Survey to assess the nature, scope and consequences of alcohol and other drug use on campuses across the state
- Trained a network of counseling professionals in administration and training of Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) an evidence-based harm reduction strategy
- Implemented a key leadership campaign that recognizes University Administrators effectively addressing high-risk behavior among students
- Launched a media campaign to raise public awareness about the risks and realities of underage and high-risk drinking