

National Council of The Society of
Sigma Gamma Epsilon



NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY in the EARTH SCIENCES

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RE: Site visit to **Central Connecticut State University**, New Britain, CT

In response to a petition (dated 8 August, 2013) from students interested in forming a new chapter of *Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE)*, I visited the Department of Earth Science at Central Connecticut on 15 November 2013. Mr. Johnathan Feldman, representing the student petitioners, gave me a tour of the facilities within the Science Center. The facilities are in good condition and are being upgraded over the next few years. I also met Drs. Piatek (chapter advisor), Evans (chair), Larsen, Wizevich and Oyewumi (a new hire this year). Several students showed me results of research that they are working on with faculty, and discussed some of the public outreach efforts underway in the department with regional schools.

I met with Dr. Susan Pease, Dean of the Carol A. Ammon School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Pease is very excited about the application to form a new chapter, and commented that she thought it would bring recognition to the department that was justly deserved. She is very supportive of the department, especially their efforts to engage students in research and other activities outside the classroom such as regular attendance at professional meetings.

The geology program currently exists in a joint department with Physics, but as the program is expanding, a new structure will see the creation of a stand-alone department. Within the Connecticut State University system, Central Connecticut has been designated as a primary institution for science and technology, and resources are being applied to increase capacity in these disciplines. The students petitioning for a new chapter of *SGE* are very enthusiastic, academically oriented and fully engaged in research and professional activities. I hope that you will enthusiastically approve their petition.

Cordially,

Mark R. Noll, PhD

SGE Vice President, Northeastern Province