

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:



Kathryn Gaffney
Director of Marketing & Communications
Mitchell College
860.701.5068/203.500.0181
gaffney_k@mitchell.edu

Maeve Ryan
Director of Marketing
New England Science & Sailing
860.535.9362
mryan@nessf.org

**Mitchell College and NESS (New England Science & Sailing Foundation)
Announce Partnership to Expand Sailing and Waterfront Offerings in New London**

New London. June 22, 2015 — Mitchell College and the New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS) are delighted to announce a joint partnership that will enable both to expand their sailing and water sports offerings for the greater New London area and Mitchell College students.

The partnership will kick off with the development and operation of a top-notch sailing program at Mitchell College that will include a varsity sailing team and the launch of a robust water sports program.

Says Mitchell College President, Janet Steinmayer, "Mitchell and NESS bring tremendous strengths to this partnership. Mitchell College has a rich history in sailing and waterfront sports – many alumni have fond memories of their student experiences – while NESS is highly regarded in the field. We look forward to providing our students and athletes with a stronger connection to both recreational watersports and competitive varsity sailing. We also expect to expand the partnership to include offerings for the New London community as well."

According to NESS President, Spike Lobdell, "This partnership comes at the right time for NESS. We have been looking for a way to continue to become more involved with the New London community. With the first part of the program, Mitchell and NESS will draw on resources from both institutions, allowing us to offer programs year-round." The program will use Mitchell College's boathouse, dock and six sail boats.

Says Dana Fulmer Garfield, Associate Director of Athletics at Mitchell College, soon to be acting Director of Athletics, "Mitchell is located on one of the top sailing venues in the Northeast. Now, we will have access to some of the top sailing staff in New England. We look forward to building a more competitive team and to reintroducing courses such as sailing and waterfront sports."

This partnership builds on an existing joint venture in which NESS uses Mitchell's docks and NESS boats for their newly formed varsity sailing team from New London High School and the Science and Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut. NESS currently operates year-round out of The Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School and offers educational ocean adventure programming in two New London partner locations (Ocean Beach Park, Greens Harbor Beach). NESS also works with a variety of New London non-profits such as Camp Rotary, Jennings Family Resource Center, Covenant Shelter, Drop-in Learning Center, New London Youth Affairs, and the New London Recreation Department. Their partnership with Mitchell College is an affirmation of their commitment to serve a wider audience in the New London community.

###

Mitchell College is a small, private college that has been an invaluable resource for southeastern Connecticut for over 75 years. Mitchell's personal, mentoring approach activates strengths in our students that allows them to achieve levels of success and leadership they may not yet have imagined for themselves. Mitchell has a strong tradition of celebrating and supporting diverse ways of learning, and is committed to the broader community through partnerships and internships. Located on a beautiful waterfront campus in historic New London, it is also home to championship NCAA Division III athletics and the Duquès Academic Success Center which includes the renowned Bentsen Learning Center.

New England Science & Sailing Foundation, Inc. (NESS), a nonprofit 501(c)(3), provides year-round ocean adventure educational programs that engage students in experiential learning that builds confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. Marine sciences (biology, oceanography, meteorology), adventure sports, and sailing are catalysts for teaching life skills, academic discipline, and respect and responsibility for the sea. NESS was named Outstanding Community Sailing Program in the nation for 2013. For more information, visit www.nessf.org.