



## Stamford's UConn to Add Housing Office

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STAMFORD - An off-campus housing office will open at the University of Connecticut at Stamford, possibly by January, as the branch seeks to create options for students who want to live nearby, the school's top official said yesterday.

The effort is in response to one of the students' most frequent questions: "When are you going to give us residence halls?" said Michael Ego, associate vice provost of UConn-Stamford campus.

Residence halls are not an option, but a network of private homes where students could rent space would help many of them cope with the high cost of housing while cutting down on their commutes, Ego said.

That was one new initiative at UConn-Stamford that Ego spoke about in an interview yesterday. The campus also is developing a master's degree programs in social work global economics, as well as a nursing program in conjunction with area hospitals. The campus also is hosting a faculty colloquium series, running through December, in which academic experts give public talks about their disciplines.

The accelerated nursing program would prepare students to take the exam to become registered nurses, and would put them within nine credits of a master's degree. Applicants would need a four-year degree to be eligible for the intensive 11-month program to be done with Stamford, Norwalk and Greenwich hospitals. The trustees of the UConn system and the state Department of Higher Education still must approve the program.

To set up the office-campus housing office, Ego said he's talking to area real estate agents about connecting students with homes that could be rented. He envisions a Web-based listing of rooms and houses for rent.

To gauge the community's reaction to these initiatives and get other ideas for programs, Ego set up a community forum at the campus yesterday. It drew no participants, but Ego said he plans to schedule another one, possibly before the end of the semester.

"I think it's an obligation of a land grant public university to listen and do outreach," he said.

