**Talking Points: GNEMSDC AWARD**

**UConn was recently honored by the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council (GNEMSDC), with the GNEMSDC’s first-ever “Institution of Higher Learning of the Year” award.**

·         **The group honors achievements of individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to providing quality service and promoting economic inclusion.** The council advances business opportunities for certified Asian, African-American, Hispanic and Native American business enterprises and connects them to corporate members.

·         This particular award was created to recognize an institution of higher learning that has contributed to the council’s goals of minority business development by having a supplier diversity program with the results of buying goods and services from minority business enterprises.

·         **The nomination of UConn for this award was made in recognition of the commitment and on-going efforts of UConn’s Procurement Services team, which includes the UConn Supplier Diversity Program, to establish key vendor-partner relationships.**

·       **The award was received by Veronica Cook, Program Director for the UConn Supplier Diversity Program, who is in attendance here as well** and has led the University’s supplier diversity mission since 2005.