NEW BRITAIN - Central Connecticut State University's Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program, more popularly known as ConnCAP, will celebrate 20 years of success at Wednesday's "Anniversary Party."

The party, on the lawn of the Robert C. Vance Academic Center, is scheduled to get under way at 11:30 a.m. The event is open to all ConnCAP "alumni" and their families without charge.

The program partners with educational and youth service organizations, work force and career development groups, businesses, parents, and other civic organizations.

"Its purpose is to help New Britain middle and high school students progress through college preparatory courses and to qualify for entrance to a post-secondary educational institution," said Awilda Reasco, director of the program.

For information, call (860) 832-1902.

The program, which shares in a four-year, $875,000 state grant to the Connecticut State University system, was founded in 1987. In-kind and other matching university contributions total $680,280.

For the first time, eighth grade students will be eligible to participate in the six-week summer program. Starting this year and continuing through 2011 there will be expanded academic and cultural enrichment services offered in collaboration with the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, the New Britain YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain, Inc., and the New Britain Public Schools.

Suzanne Bielinski, mayor pro-tempore of the New Britain Common Council, will present a proclamation honoring ConnCAP's two decades of success and Peter Rosa, a former CCSU administrator and current member of the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees, will discuss the history of the program.

ConnCAP is administered through CCSU's Student Affairs Division headed by Margaret Y. Toston.