

**BUMPSPARK\* PROJECT RECEIVES GRANT FROM  
CONNECTICUT UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES FUND**

**"Funding supports learning opportunities that differences create."**

**Danbury, CT** - The Bumpspark\* Project is one of ten 2007 grant recipients of Western Connecticut State University's annual President's Initiatives Fund. *Bumpspark\**, an innovative pilot television and radio series for Connecticut Public Broadcasting, arranges conversations between leading voices from different careers and callings in order to cross-pollinate the world of ideas.

James W. Schmotter, President of WestConn, recently approved this year's cultural awards totaling \$116,000 for projects that "advance the learning opportunities that differences can create." "I was pleased with the quality of the initiatives selected," said Schmotter.

*Bumpspark\** series creator Robert Kalm was also encouraged. "Nothing says more than funding. I thank President Schmotter and his selection committee for their endorsement. Along with the Westport Arts Center and Connecticut Public Television's commitments, we recognize this state has our back."

Poised to turn the talk show format on its couch pillows, *Bumpspark\**'s captivating, expansive dialogues are shot by documentary photographers, on location, in stimulating environments. A day or two's worth of ruminations is edited down into rich, digestible video and audio morsels for PBS and NPR. *Bumpspark\** is inspired by the idea that discoveries often come from unexpected connections.

The pilot episode of *Bumpspark\** is an open discussion between former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and MIT physicist and author Alan Lightman to be shot in the city of Boston on the MIT campus, at the Walden Woods Project's Thoreau Institute, and at the professors' respective homes.

"What does basketball have to say to medicine? Or improvisational jazz to environmental science? Or style to diplomacy?" asked Kalm. "*Bumpspark\** and WestConn both believe that the key to better answers, for all of us, is the creation of more imaginative questions."

Founded in 1903, WestConn is Connecticut's fastest growing state university. WestConn provides for 4,375 full-time undergraduates and nearly 2,000 graduate or part-time students through five academic units: the Ansell School of Business, the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Professional Studies, the Division of Graduate Studies, and the University Center for Adult Education.

Further information, including how to make a tax-deductible contribution, is available at the website, [bumpspark.org](http://bumpspark.org). The Bumpspark\* Digital Press Kit is available by contacting [bumpspark@gmail.com](mailto:bumpspark@gmail.com).

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