



Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

5/20- [Celebrate New Britain](#),
Downtown Street Festival

5/30- New Britain Memorial Day Parade

6/13, 6/15-6/16, 6/21-6/22, 6/26-6/27, 6/29-6/30, 7/10-7/11- [New Student Orientation](#)

Click on the event titles for more information!



APRIL 2023 EDITION



CCESR Presents: Earth Week at CCSU

During the week of April 17th-22nd, CCESR in collaboration with various departments, CCSU organizations, and Community Partners, held Earth Week at CCSU. The week consisted of service projects, panel and round table discussions, and various activities relating to sustainability and climate change! Events included:

- 4/18: Terrarium Building at Smalley Elementary School
- 4/19: From the Ground Up: Grassroots Movements for Climate Justice Panel Discussion
- 4/20: 'We are still here': A roundtable discussion with local Indigenous communities
- 4/20: Yard Clean-up with UR Community Cares
- 4/20: Succulent Potting & Outdoor Movie Screening of "The Day After Tomorrow"
- 4/21: 2023 CT Youth Advocacy Day with the Sunrise Movement CT
- 4/22: North Oak Neighborhood Clean-Up with the North Oak NRZ

For detailed descriptions of the events and activities, click [here!](#)



Terrarium building at Smalley Elementary School



From the Ground Up: Grassroots Movements for Climate Justice Panel Discussion



Yard Clean-Up with UR Community Cares



'We are still here': A roundtable discussion with local Indigenous communities



Succulent Potting & Outdoor Movie Night



Neighborhood Clean-Up with the North Oak NRZ

CCESR Events & Announcements

CCESR INVOLVEMENT THIS PAST MONTH

On April 3rd, CCESR attended the 16th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium organized by faculty in the Geography Dept. Attendees were able to examine challenges facing society regarding climate change through various guest speaker presentations, panel discussions, and vendors. One segment of the symposium was dedicated to the winners of "Reflect & Preserve: What Climate Change Means to Me", a writing and multimedia contest CCESR and GESAC co-sponsored. CCSU students Michelle Carrasquillo, Samantha Jones, Areesha Waseem, and Sofia Thalheimer all did an excellent job sharing their winning submissions. Learn more about the symposium [here!](#) (First photo)



On April 4th, Executive Director, Beth Merenstein, visited the Junior Achievement (JA) Hall of Fame with Dean Lisa Frank, Dr. Dana Wilkie, and Dr. Cheryl Crespi.



On April 5th, the CCESR team decorated T-shirts for the Clothesline Project. The project was put together by the Office of Victim Advocacy to spread awareness of the impact of interpersonal violence, celebrate strength and resiliency, and provide a means to break the silence and stigma surrounding interpersonal violence. (Second photo)

On April 14th, CCESR co-hosted a Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon with the CCSU Faculty Senate Community Engagement Committee. Guests represented 16 different organizations including a number of CCESR's partners. (Third photo)



On April 15th, CCESR tabled at the annual undergraduate Spring Open House.

On April 18th, CCESR volunteered at the Connecticut FoodShare Mobile Pantry at St. Ann's Church in New Britain. The truck visits the North Oak Neighborhood every other Tuesday. They are looking for additional volunteers, check out the [flyer](#) if interested!



On April 20th, CCESR's Executive Director, Beth Merenstein, joined the YWCA Hartford Region at, "In the Company of Women" Luncheon. She also will be joining the board for the New Britain YWCA in June!

On April 26th, the CCESR team attended the Clothesline Project T-Shirt Unveiling in Willard DiLoreto while participating in Denim Day. Denim Day is a campaign to bring awareness to victim blaming and promote sexual violence prevention/education. (Fourth photo)



From April 27th to May 1st, Christian Reyes, CCESR Program Assistant, joined CCSU Pre Law Society to facilitate the group's West Coast Law School Tour. The group visited and toured UCLA School of Law, USC Gould School of Law, and Loyola Law School. The group also participated in various other educational opportunities including visiting local museums, networking with law students and practicing attorneys, and taking a Civil Lawsuits Basics class at the Los Angeles Law Library. (Last photo)

CCSU RECEIVES A WELLSPRING AWARD

On April 26th, the Gerontology Committee at CCSU attended the "2023 Age Well Academy Sharing and Celebration Summit" at the State Capital. The event was hosted by the Connecticut Age Well Collaborative and the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity to spotlight community excellence across the state. At the event, Dr. Andrea June and Dr. Carrie Andreoletti from CCSU's Psychology Department along with President Toro accepted a Wellspring Award for CCSU's Age Friendly University initiatives. They also received a signed statement of recognition by Governor Lamont.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING STIPEND (CEELS)

CCESR is excited to announce our newest initiative, the Community Engagement Experiential Learning Stipend (CEELS)! Our Center encourages all students to engage in experiential learning opportunities, but understands that not everyone has the financial resources available to take on unpaid roles. As a result, we are offering stipends for students who are in an unpaid internship or doing unpaid work in a research setting this summer. Eligible students can apply and would receive \$18/hour with a maximum of \$3,000 (this averages to 20hrs/week for an 8-week program). The deadline to apply is May 15. To learn more, click [here!](#)

Community Engagement Around Campus

CAROL A. AMMON COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

From Thursday, April 13th to Saturday, April 15th, 2023, the CCSU Department of Communication held a hybrid international conference on “Squid Game and Beyond: Utopia and Dystopia in Contemporary Asian Popular Culture” in the Student Center. Over fifty scholars from South Korea, Vietnam, The Philippines, Mexico, Australia, United Kingdom, Japan, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Germany, Canada and the United States gathered in a hybrid conference format in-person as well as on zoom. Forty-five Central students were actively involved, organizing the conference as well as sharing their research. The conference featured four keynote speakers, research presentations, panel discussions, and started with the film screening of Parasite (2019), the award-winning thriller by South Korean director Bong Joon-ho. The keynote speakers included Dr. Dal Yon Jin, a media studies scholar and Professor from Simon Fraser University in Canada who spoke while being in Seoul, South Korea; Dr. Lisa Dombrowski, Professor of East Asian Studies and Film Studies at Wesleyan University; Dr. Quan Tran from Yale University as well as CSU President Terrence Cheng. To learn more about the event click [HERE](#) or view the website [HERE](#).



The international hybrid conference on “Utopia and Dystopia in Contemporary Asian Popular Culture” at CCSU featured virtual presenters as well as in-person scholars and presenters. From left to right: Keynote speaker Dr. Lisa Dombrowski (Wesleyan), Prof. MJ Moriarty (Communication, CCSU), Dr. Aimee Pozorski (English, CCSU), Dr. Julie Kim (Conference Chair, Communication, CCSU), Donald Collins (UCLA), Keynote speaker Dr. Quan Tran (Yale), Dr. Micky Lee (Suffolk University), Dr. Hiba Aleem (Emmanuel College), Rebekah Brammer (Brisbane, Australia). (Photo: Kelly Fryer)



Freshmen honors students Areesha Waseem and Jake Simoes presented their research on “What can the world learn from Japan?” as part of this year’s conference. Here they are with their honors professors Dr. Mark Jones and Dr. Natsuko Takemae. From left to right: Professors Mark Jones, Karen A. Ritzenhoff, Natsuko Takemae, Julie Kim, MJ Moriarty and honor student Jake Simoes (Photo: Kelly Fryer)



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

On Tuesday, April 4th and Wednesday, April 5th, Professor Cheryl Crespi coordinated with Junior Achievement (JA) to bring CCSU School of Business students to Jefferson Elementary in New Britain and Edgewood Elementary School in Bristol. JA is the world’s largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy. Volunteers from CCSU shared powerful financial literacy and career-readiness content with over 300 students in grades 3-5.

Community Engagement Around Campus

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

On April 18th, Dr. Timothy Scott from the Social Work Department and CCESR co-sponsored, "From the Ground Up: Grassroots Movements for Climate Justice Panel Discussion". Panelists focused on the impacts of the global climate crisis as tied to environmental racism within local communities, how residents are responding, and the necessity of larger environmental and climate justice movements. There were approximately 80 guests in attendance including CCSU students, faculty, and staff. Learn more about the issue [here!](#)

Panelists included:

- Bridgitte Prince & Cynthia R. Jennings, Esq: Hartford North End residents and organizers whose community is plagued by sewage overflows and flooding
- Angel Serrano: Environmental Organizer, Connecticut Citizen Action Group
- Mixashawn: Indigenous Wave artist, author and educator
- Amelia Kearney: Climate Advocate and Activist, Sunrise Movement Connecticut
- Kimmy Reindl: Co-Director, Sunrise Movement Connecticut
- Moderators: Taina Manick and Morgan DeCarlo, CCSU Social Work Club Officers



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY

On April 18th, Prof. Michele Dischino from the Technology and Engineering Education Dept. brought a group of her students to the New Britain Industrial Museum as a field trip for their introductory engineering course. It provided students a great opportunity to learn about the history of manufacturing in the area while also gaining exposure to what downtown New Britain has to offer. After the museum visit, they went to the Assembly Room to support a local business and enjoy a delicious lunch! The trip was a great success with many students stating they had no idea how much manufacturing history there is in New Britain and having never been in the downtown area. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Community Engagement Around Campus & the Community

ATHLETICS

The CCSU Football and Men's Soccer Team hosted a Be The Match drive. Be The Match works to connect patients with life-threatening blood cancers and disorders with a matching donor willing to donate cord blood. The two CCSU teams recruited nearly 400 members of the campus community to take a quick and painless check swab to be added to the donor registry. If you missed the drive but are interested in being added to the registry, click [here](#) to learn more!



COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA) is a leading provider of an integrated health and behavioral health care system for children, families, and adults. They are headquartered in New Britain and have 9 locations throughout northwest and central CT.

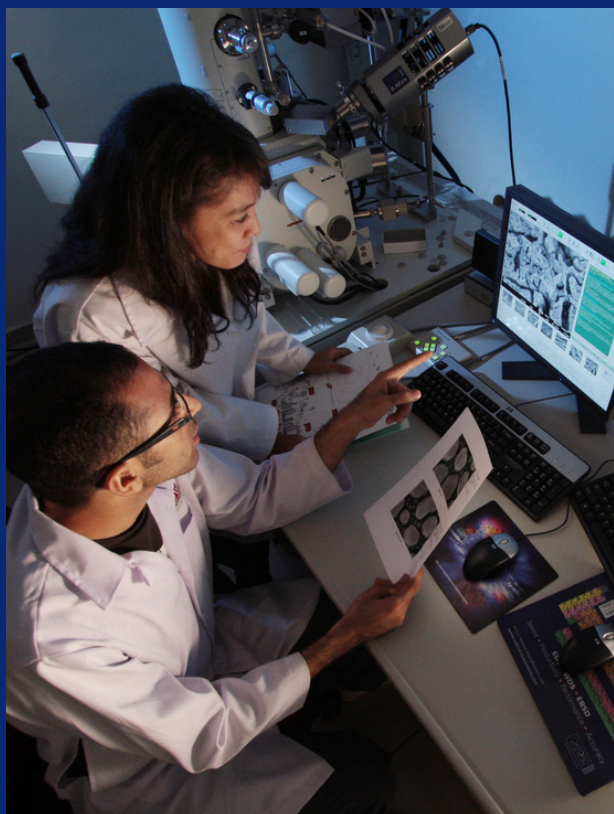
CCESR is proud of our ongoing partnership with CMHA! Not only does CCESR promote opportunities for internships and employment at CMHA through our weekly student newsletter, but CMHA currently has 4 CCSU student interns and 1 volunteer. In addition, Ray Gorman, CEO of CMHA, sits on CCESR's Community Engagement Advisory Board. Our Executive Director, Beth Merenstein, also sits on their board. Dr. Merenstein has also connected Dr. Silvia Corbera Lopez of CCSU's Psychological Science Department to CMHA where she will serve as a consultant for one of their grant funded programs.



SERVICES OFFERED

CCESR is committed to increasing Community Engagement (CE) and research opportunities for students, faculty, and the surrounding area. Our Center can help in a number of ways including, but not limited to:

- Help you create community engagement courses.
- Find and develop community partners.
- Integrate a service-learning component into your class.
- Locate internship, volunteer, and engagement opportunities for your students.
- Find grant opportunities for your research interests that connect with the community.
- Support applied community-based research projects.
- Provide resources, support, and funding for events and activities you would like to host on campus.
- For more information on funding opportunities click [here](#) or submit a [funding request](#).



JOIN OUR FACULTY RESEARCH & VOLUNTEER LISTS

Looking to get involved? Sign up for updates!

To be notified about upcoming volunteer opportunities, email Kamilah Hastings at hastings@ccsu.edu!

The Center also provides affordable, state-of-the-art research, analysis, and consulting services to enhance the quality and delivery of public and non-profit services in CT. Not only can we assist you in your own research projects, but community partners often contact us willing to pay faculty members to help with their research projects.

If you would like to be informed of these research opportunities, email Beth Merenstein at merenstein@ccsu.edu

collaboratory®

Many CCSU faculty, students and staff participate in collaborative activities throughout the year that address pressing social issues via teaching, research, creative activities, outreach, and service.

Collaboratory is a searchable, online database that collects information about these activities.

If you were involved in the planning and implementation of a community engagement or public service event, program, or course, fill out this brief **Microsoft Form** to have it added to **Collaboratory** or find more info on our **website**.

For questions, contact MacKenzie Gould at m.gould@ccsu.edu



CONTACT OUR TEAM

If you would like to promote a community engagement or research project in our newsletter, contact MacKenzie Gould (see below). For other information on how CCESR can assist you, see our contact info below or visit our **website!**

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