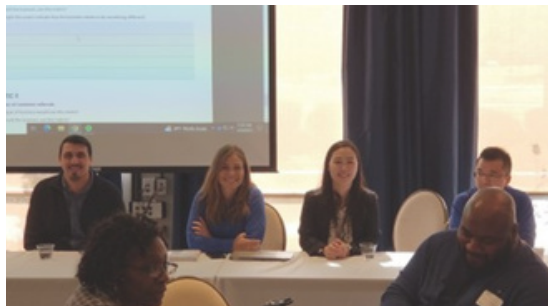




Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter



MAY 2023 EDITION



Thank You CCSU Community

Dear CCSU Family,

As the Spring 2023 semester comes to an end, The Center for Community Engagement & Social Research (CCESR) would like to thank you for all your hard work throughout the semester. The primary goal of the Center is to integrate teaching, research, and service through community engagement (CE). That work is not possible without forging and maintaining strong relationships with both on and off-campus entities, and we recognize the vital role faculty and staff have played in the University's CE endeavors.

Additionally, CCESR wants all students to engage in multiple experiential learning opportunities, for faculty to develop scholarship with a community focus, and for our community to work with us to address their most pressing needs. With the help of faculty and staff, we have made strides towards achieving that goal. It has been amazing to see all the CE projects and initiatives faculty are involved in, and CCESR is excited to support and highlight those efforts in the coming semesters.

Once again, the CCESR family would like to thank you for the contributions you have made to the Center, the CCSU Community, and its surrounding areas. We hope you have an amazing (and well-deserved) summer break.

Sincerely,

The Center for Community Engagement & Social Research Team:

- Beth Merenstein, Executive Director
- Ed Vargas, O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy & Practical Politics
- Christian Reyes, Program Assistant
- Kamilah Hastings, Assistant
- MacKenzie Gould, University Assistant
- Angela Alvarado, Student Worker

Looking Forward

SUMMER NEWSLETTER & EVENTS

CCESR will be releasing a newsletter in August with upcoming events and opportunities to be aware of for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester. Stay tuned! There are also a number of exciting events occurring this summer:

- 5/20- Celebrate New Britain, Downtown street festival. 12:00pm-8:00pm
- 5/25- Accepted Students Day,. 4:00pm-7:00pm
- 5/30- New Britain Memorial Day Parade
- 6/3- Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain (OIC) Annual Gala, 5:30pm
- 6/11- Art in Our Heart Pop-Up Art Show in Downtown New Britain, 10am-2pm
- 6/13- New Student Orientation
- 6/15-6/16- New Student Orientation
- 6/21-6/27- New Student Orientation
- 6/26-6/27- New Student Orientation
- 6/29-6/30- New Student Orientation
- 7/10-7/11- New Student Orientation
- 7/11-7/24- Digging into History
- New Britain Farmers Market, Wednesdays from June-October, 11am-2pm



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING STIPEND

CCESR is currently piloting our first ever Community Engagement Experiential Learning Stipend (CEELS) for the summer 2023 and plans on continuing it into the Fall and Spring Semesters.

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 were able to apply and receive \$18/hour with a maximum of \$3,000 (this averages to 20hrs/week for an 8-week program). The deadline to apply for the summer was May 15. However, we plan on continuing it into the academic year.

More information about applying for the stipend in the Fall semester will be available in our Summer Newsletter. To learn more, [click here!](#)

COLLABORATORY

If you were involved in a Community Engagement Project/Event fill out this [Microsoft Form](#) or email CECollaboratory@ccsu.edu to have it uploaded to Collaboratory, an online database that showcases these events.

Fall Programming

Stay tuned for our fall programming highlighting civic engagement with our O'Neill Chair, Ed Vargas!

Spring 2023: A Glance Back



MLK Day of Service:
Feminine Hygiene Kits



MLK Day of Service:
Reading to Smalley



MLK Day of Service: Literacy
Kits with the United Way



MLK Day of Service: Cleaning
the Friendship Center



Opening of the Friendship
Center's Hope Connection
Center



Greater NB Chamber of
Commerce 3rd Annual Mardi
Gras Raffle



Read Across America with
the United Way



Shirt making for the
Clothesline Project



Community Partner
Appreciation Luncheon



Terrarium building at
Smalley Elementary School



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



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



Yard Clean-Up with UR
Community Cares



Succulent Potting &
Outdoor Movie Night



Neighborhood Clean-Up
with the North Oak NRZ



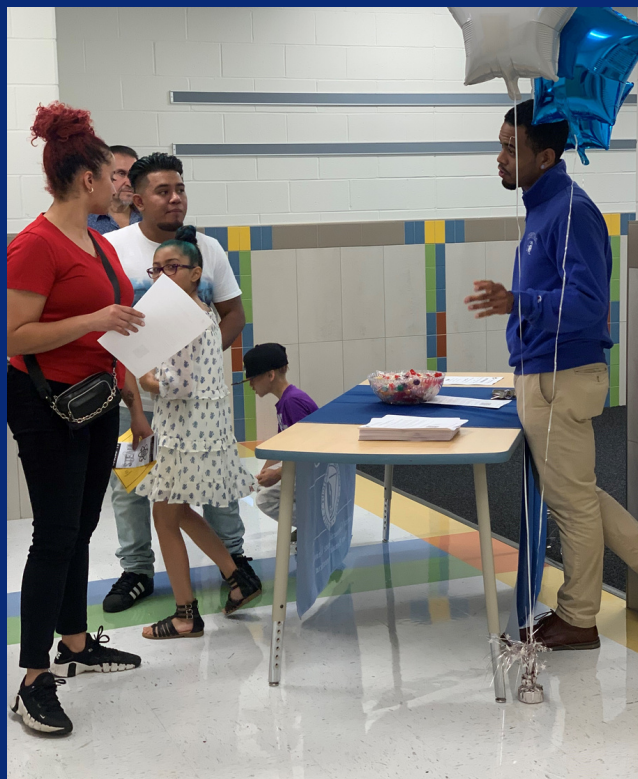
Clothesline Project
Unveiling & Denim Day

Spring 2023: A Glance Back

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS CCESR HOSTED

The following service learning projects were a part of CCESR's MLK Day of Service or Earth Week Programming. In total, there have been approximately 145 students/faculty and staff members who have volunteered at these events.

- Feminine Hygiene Kits with the Women's Center (1/20)
- Reading to Smalley Elementary School
- Literacy Kits with the United Way (1/20)
- Cleaning/painting the Friendship Center (1/20)
- Terrarium Building at Smalley Elementary School (4/18)
- Yard Clean-up with UR Community Cares (4/20)
- North Oak Neighborhood Clean-Up with the North Oak NRZ (4/22)



CCESR RESEARCH PROJECTS

The following are research projects CCESR is currently contracted to work on. Dr. Diana Cohen, Political Science Professor, is heading the first three projects. The final project is being headed by faculty in the Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice at CCSU. Faculty from all four projects are collaborating with students at CCSU to conduct the research.

- Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment for the State of Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and State Rehabilitation Council
- Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report for the Connecticut Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
- Amplifying Neighborhood Voices: Community Perceptions of Public Safety (CCPS) Survey, CCESR and ISCJ Research Collaboration

Spring 2023: A Glance Back

CCESR CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

The following are events and projects that CCESR co-sponsored yet may not have had a direct role in planning or program development. As always, if you have a CE project/event that aligns with our mission and could benefit from additional funding, feel free to submit a funding request with our Center [here!](#)

- Junior Achievement (JA) Be Entrepreneurial Challenge (2/24), CCESR was involved in event planning but not program development
- "Start with a Dream College Exploration Day" with the Center for Africana Studies (2/23)
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Festival with the AAPI Studies Committee and Center Committee (3/20) (see photo on the right)
- "The Poetry of Social Justice" with the English & Philosophy Departments (4/10)
- "Squid Game" & Beyond: Utopia and Dystopia in Contemporary Asian Popular Culture, with the Communication Department (4/13-4/15)



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS CONT.

- Technology and Engineering Education Class Trip to the New Britain Industrial Museum (4/18)
- PSY 551: Prevention and Community-Based Research Project Presentations (5/3) (see photo on left)
- Connecticut History Day (5/6)
- SW 362: Community Practice Class Project: New Britain YWCA East Side Community Center Clean-Up and Community Garden Project (5/6)
- ART 270: Art in Community Class Project: 155 ft. long mural on East St.
- From the Ground Up: Grassroots Movements for Climate Justice Panel Discussion (4/19), CCESR was involved in event planning but not program development
- 'We are still here': A roundtable discussion with local Indigenous communities (4/20), CCESR was involved in event planning but not program development

Spring 2023: A Glance Back

CCESR GETS INVOLVED

The following are events that members of the CCESR team attended or volunteered at throughout the Spring semester:

- The opening of the Friendship Center's Hope Connection Center (2/1)
- The Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce's 3rd Annual Mardi Gras Raffle (2/21)
- Read Across America Day with the United Way (3/2)
- The Women's History Month Luncheon (3/8)
- The 16th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium (4/3)
- The JA Hall of Fame visit (4/4)
- The Clothesline Project, making T-shirts and attending the unveiling (4/5 & 4/26)
- The Undergraduate Spring Open House (4/15)
- The Connecticut Foodshare Mobile Pantry Distribution (4/18)
- The Women of Color Graduation (photo to the right) (5/2)
- The Lavender Graduation (5/3)
- JA Partners Achievement Breakfast (5/3)



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CCESR works to build mutually beneficial relationships with various partners across the City of New Britain & surrounding towns. By collaborating, we are able to gain valuable insight and knowledge, recognize community identified needs, provide resources, and work towards collective goals and initiatives.

To better understand those needs, CCESR put together a Community Engagement Advisory Board consisting of 11 Community Partners and a number of CCSU representatives. The board met twice throughout the semester (3/21 & 5/9).

CCESR also co-hosted a Community Partner Appreciation Luncheon on 4/14 with the CCSU Faculty Senate Community Engagement Committee. Guests represented 16 different organizations including a number of CCESR's partners.