



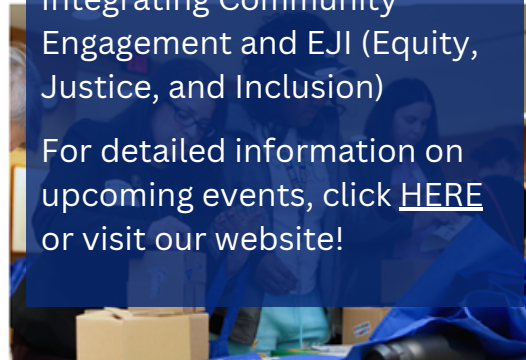
Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter



Upcoming Events:

- 2/2- CCSU Club Fair
 - 2/14- Spring 2023 Career & Internship Fair
 - 2/23- Engineering, Manufacturing & Construction Management Career Fair
 - 2/24- Junior Achievement (JA) Be Entrepreneurial
 - 3/29- Faculty Workshop: Integrating Community Engagement and EJI (Equity, Justice, and Inclusion)
- For detailed information on upcoming events, click [HERE](#) or visit our website!



January 2023 Edition



CCESR Event Highlight: MLK Breakfast & Day of Service

On January 20th, CCESR joined forces with the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) and Academic Affairs to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The annual MLK Breakfast was hosted followed by an interactive symposium on Creating an Inclusive Campus featuring Dr. Ken Coopwood Sr., Owner/CEO of Coopwood Diversity Leadership & Education Universal. After the symposium, CCESR hosted a campus-wide Day of Service. In partnership with local community organizations including the United Way, Girls Inc, the New Britain YWCA, Smalley Elementary School, and the Friendship Center, participants were given the opportunity to participate in one of the service-oriented activities offered on or off campus. If you attended, please fill out our [MLK Day of Service Volunteer Experience Survey!](#)

MLK Day of Service Activities:



Feminine Hygiene Kits with the Women's Center



Reading to Smalley Elementary School



Literacy Kits with the United Way



Cleaning and Painting the Friendship Center

Community Engagement Around Campus

Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

The Intro to Community and Civic Engagement students had an eventful fall semester! Led by Dr. Schnobrich-Davis and Dr. Soper students took a walking tour of New Britain, visiting the NB Museum of American Art, the NB Public Library, and the NB Police Department. In Hartford, students participated in a guided tour of the Capitol Building and completed a service activity at Sun Scholars. There were impactful presentations from Hands On Hartford – Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, UR Community Cares, and CCSU alumni working in the nonprofit field. The Community Engagement minor, now housed in the Economics Department (CLASS) consists of 17 credits, with three required CEN courses, one being an internship. The minor is a great compliment to many majors, students learn the theory behind community and civic engagement and gain valuable skills that are transferable to all fields.

School of Business

Professor Cheryl Crespi coordinated with Junior Achievement (JA) to bring CCSU School of Business students to schools in Hartford. JA is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy. CCSU students visited Parkville Community School and West Middle School and provided JA training by teaching lessons, providing fun activities, and sharing their experiences. Not only did CCSU students teach valuable life skills, but they were given the opportunity to connect with students and serve as role models.

School of Education & Professional Studies

Dr. Allison Seifert Gonzales's EXS 215: Physiological Aspects of the Human Performance of Aging course collaborated with the New Britain Senior Center to implement group and individualized fitness programming with the seniors throughout the semester. Every Tuesday, 21 students in the Exercise Science Program went to the NBSC and met with 21 seniors. Students conducted initial fitness assessments then provided weekly personal training sessions with group exercises mixed in. Dr. Seifert Gonzales teaches the physiological process of aging and how staying active is crucial, so this collaboration allowed students to apply their knowledge in a real-world setting while offering beneficial social activities for seniors in the community.

School of Engineering, Science & Technology

CCSU C.A.R.E.S. (Collaboration for Assistive Resources Equipment and Services) is a group of students and faculty advisors on campus working to solve problems and foster the spirit of community service. In 2015, they held their first Go Baby Go! Workshop. Founded by the University of Delaware, Go Baby Go! Provides mobility (and play!) to very young children with special needs by adapting toy ride-on cars. Since then, 11 high schools and four middle schools in CT have participated in Go Baby Go!, including New Britain High School where CCSU students and high schoolers worked together to modify four cars for local families. This touching story was featured on an episode of CBS's Uplift Series in 2019. CCSU C.A.R.E.S. frequently receives requests from new districts interested in starting new Go Baby Go! Programs. To date, CCSU has provided 184 special needs children with toy ride-on cars at no cost to the families. [Watch a video here!](#)

Athletics

For the 27th year, CCSU Athletics is proud to take part in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Blue Devil student-athletes, coaches and staff packed 132 shoe boxes of gifts, schools supplies and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, 198 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox.



Community Engagement Database: Collaboratory

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.

Collaboratory is a searchable, online database that collects information about these activities to help us understand the extent of CCSU's engagement in and with community. This information can be viewed by internal and external members of the institution. It improves our ability to tell our institutional community engagement story--the who, what, where, when, and to what end.

For any questions, contact Victoria Richards, at vrichards@ccsu.edu

CE Resource: Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities

CCSU is now one of the newest institutional members of the [Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities \(CUMU\)](#). CUMU is the longest-running and largest organization committed to serving and connecting urban and metropolitan universities and their partners. There are several ways administrators, faculty, and staff can benefit from CCSU's membership, including:

- **Metropolitan Universities Journal:** CUMU's peer reviewed, quarterly online journal for scholarship on cutting-edge topics impacting urban and metropolitan universities
- **Programming- Connecting and Learning Opportunities:** CUMU has a number of virtual and in-person opportunities for institutions and community partners to discuss their work, contemporary challenges and issues affecting various communities, new opportunities, and exchange ideas



Community Partner Highlight



The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

The Community Foundation of Greater NB is a 501(c)(3) public charity and one of the oldest community foundations in the nation. Since 1941, they have been a signature resource for those who aspire to make the community a better place. They have more than 200 charitable funds that work to support a wide range of programs and services in the Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington areas. One ongoing program is the Degree Completion Initiative. The program helps juniors and seniors experiencing financial difficulties pay for some or all their tuition and fees allowing them to continue their studies. In partnership with CCSU, the Foundation provided support to 22 students from 2019-2021.