

Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter



November 2022

Upcoming Events:

10/17-12/1- Reflect & Preserve: What Climate Change Means to Me, Writing Multimedia Contest. Submission deadline 12/1, winning participants announced in the Spring semester.

1/20- MLK Breakfast/Day of Service. This upcoming MLK breakfast will be followed by a campus-wide Day of Service. More details to come!

For detailed information about upcoming events/opportunities visit our website!

<https://www.ccsu.edu/communityEngagement/>



CCESR events that happened this past month...

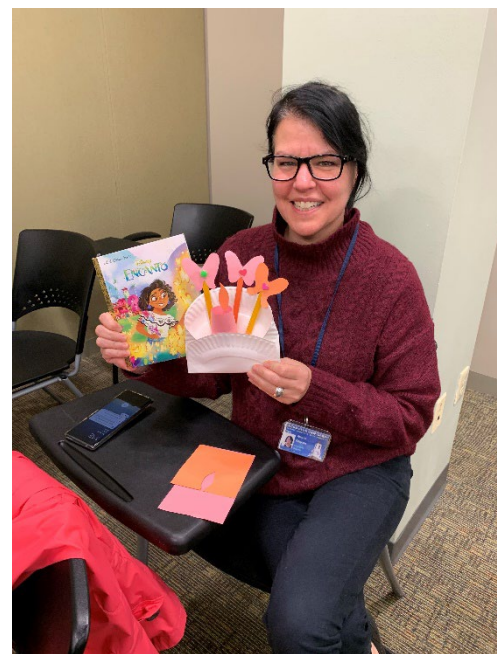
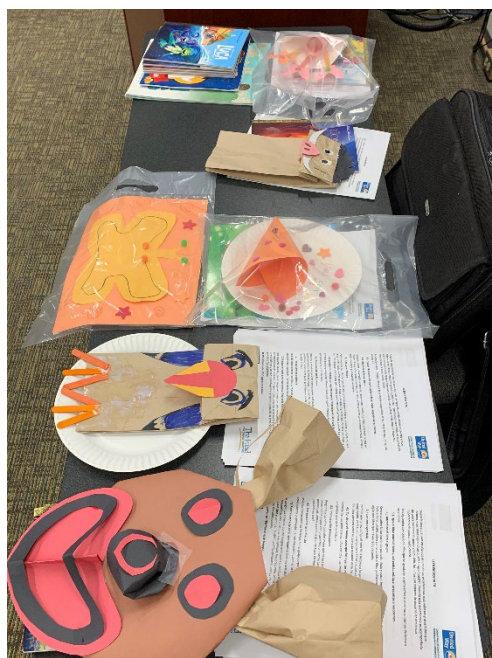
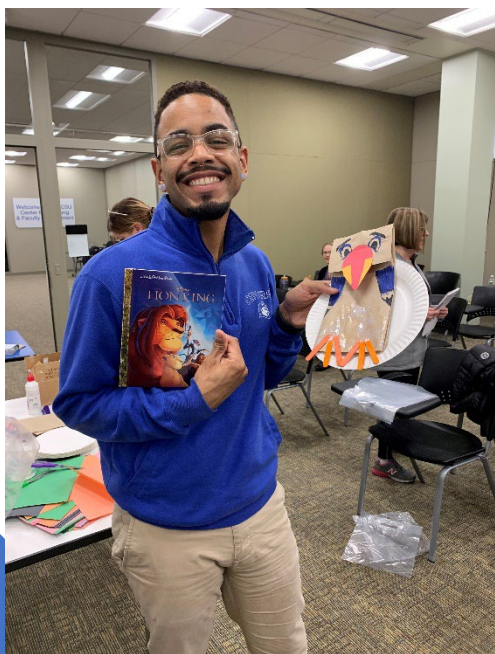
On Wednesday, November 2nd, CCESR's Donald DeFronzo presented at the City Charter Referendum Open Forum. The event was held to discuss the proposed city charter amendments on the Nov. 8th ballot that represented the biggest changes to city government in a generation. Don and John McNamara, contributing writer for the NB Progressive, gave presentations followed by a lively Q&A.

On Thursday, November 17th, CCESR attended and contributed resources to the Empty Bowls event organized by CCSU's Intro to Management Class. The event was held at Smalley Elementary School to raise money for the Friendship Center in New Britain. Read more about the event in the School of Business section!

On Saturday, November 19th, CCESR and ISCJ attended the Coat and Winter Gear Drive held by New Life II. CCESR set up donation boxes around campus asking the CCSU community to donate brand new coats, hats, scarves, etc. to be handed out at the event. The Center and ISCJ also administered surveys for the "Amplifying Neighborhood Voices: Community Perceptions of Public Safety" project at the event. (Photos to the right)



On Friday, November 11th, CCESR's Beth Merenstein and the Center for Teaching and Innovation welcomed representatives of the United Way for the faculty workshop, "Focus on Community Engagement". The workshop provided information and resources on community engagement/partnerships and included a fun literacy kit activity. The next workshop, Integrating Community Engagement and EJI (Equity, Justice, and Inclusion), will be held on February 10th. To learn more about CCESR resources and workshops, click [here!](#)



Community engagement around campus...



Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

As part of the Next Generation of Student Success, Diversity, Innovation, and Community Engagement grant, students from Vinal Tech High School visited the University. Students received a campus tour and got to know some Criminology professors and Criminal Justice Club leaders.



School of Business

Professor Sarah Stookey's Intro to Management Class (MGT 295) organized an Empty Bowl dinner at Smalley Elementary School in New Britain. Empty Bowls is a grassroots effort that uses dinners as fundraising events to combat food insecurity and the stigma surrounding it. Individuals were able to purchase tickets, pick out a handmade bowl created by students from CCSU and Smalley, and enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread. The goal of the event was to provide students taking MGT 295 the opportunity to implement skills covered during the course (planning, strategy, etc.) while contributing to an important community partner, the Friendship Center.



School of Education & Professional Studies

Dr. Reinaldo Rojas from the Social Work Department has been collaborating with the YWCA of New Britain since 2018 and is a member of the advisory board for the Cultivating Healthy Communities Grant. The grant helped establish the East side Community Center which provides services to the neighborhood. Dr. Rojas has incorporated his classes into various projects, including the Photo Voice project which aims to involve teen community members in a neighborhood revitalization process through research and community action projects. The YWCA began later began training some of those teens to become Community Health Workers (CHW). With the CHWs, Dr. Rojas also involved his community practice students in organizing several community outreach events to promote community health and vaccination against Covid-19.



School of Engineering, Science & Technology

On November 5th, CCSU's Computer Science faculty Chad Williams and Samir Hamada along with the Computer Science Club, with support from CCSR, hosted its 4th annual Random Hacks of Kindness Jr. – Kids Coding for a Cause event (RHoK Jr.). The event pairs non-profits with a team of 4th-8th grade students and CCSU mentors who will spend a day developing a prototype for an app customized for the organization. RHoK Jr. gives CCSU students an opportunity to mentor and inspire young students while giving non-profit groups a technological boost. Patrice Gans, founder and director of Random Hacks of Kindness, developed the program as a way for young students to learn first-hand how technology can create solutions for social good and by the end of the day they will see how technology can have a positive impact on someone's life.



Athletics

In November, the CCSU Volleyball team held a paper and pencil drive for Smalley Elementary School. The team collected over 14,000 pencils and 120 reams of paper for the schools.