

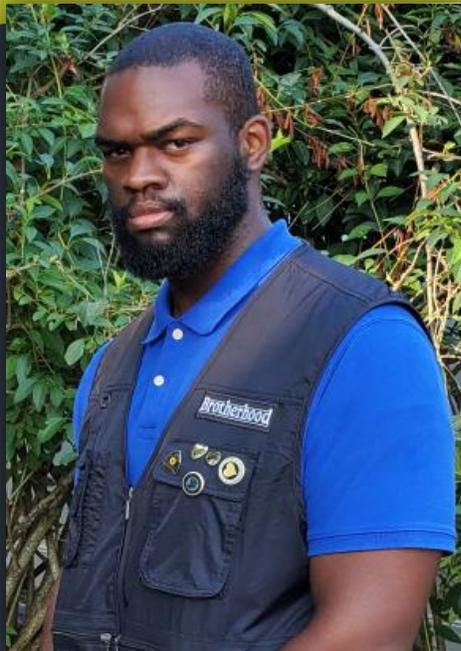
THEY EARNED THEIR WINGS

The following registered participants of the Brotherhood Initiative earned a 3.0 or better during the Spring 2021 semester

- Adriel Allen
- Anas Alomari
- Raheem Anderson
- Kevin Arango
- Duly Bolivar
- Humza Chaudhary
- Byron Dickens
- James Ely
- Fathima Fazeel
- Colin Fontenelle
- Zaindeen Huseini
- Kyle Knobel
- Andrew Krasuski
- Kishan Kunver
- Steven Malley
- Roberto Mauro
- Jonathan Medina
- Olanrewaju Olamuyiwa
- Dana O'Neal
- John Pham
- Hector Pulido
- Samuel Rego
- Cade Snow
- Jackson Toomey



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PERSPECTIVE ON SUPPORTS

By Gerti Gjini



My name is Gerti Gjini, and I am an international student. I am about to finish my first year of college and I must admit that being an international student has its challenges. It is hard being away from my family and adjusting to a new environment and culture. As much as it has been challenging, it has been an experience that has made me more mature and independent. I would suggest to all international students especially male students to always ask for help when they need it. CIE (Central for International Education) will guide

you on every step that you must take as an international student. They have helped me a lot with every question that I have had. It is not only CIE that will provide help, but CCSU also has so many other offices, support groups, and programs, that can help you, when it comes to academic support, guidance, etc.

Lately, I have been working with the Brotherhood Initiative which has been a pleasure. As an international student, I want to be your voice. I want to represent International Students as best as I can and express every difficulty and challenges that we have.

Furthermore, I am organizing an event about orienting International Students on how to find a job on campus or internship because I know it is somehow challenging.

I would encourage every male international student to join our programs and meetings and feel free to express every need that they have. Your needs are important. The Brotherhood Initiative and I as part of it will be more than welcome to help you. You won't solve anything by keeping your problems to yourself, other than being more

(Continued on page 2)

Brothers Pop-Ups

By Cade Snow

One of the primary goals of the Brotherhood Initiative centers on educating the campus about issues impacting the lives of college men. Over the course of the semester, we hosted several outreach activities to promote the initiative and highlight the importance of Men's Initiative on college campuses.

One of our Pop-Up events included the Brotherhood tabling in front of Maria-Sanford Hall. This event took place on September 9th, 2021. We used the tabling event as an opportunity to explain what we do, how students can get involved, and inform the campus about our weekly meetings.



"GREAT MAN IS ONE WHO KNOWS WHEN TO SET ASIDE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE VITAL ONES" - Bald Brothers

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PERSPECTIVE ON SUPPORTS

(Continued from page 1)

stressed. From my personal experience, I know how important it is for the Brotherhood Initiative to support every male student here on campus.

I am so thankful that I am part of this, and I have a platform where I can talk about my and every international male student's needs. I want to let you know that you're never alone, you have "brothers" that will always help you.

THEY EARNED THEIR WINGS!

Due to the partial campus closure, the BROTHERHOOD Initiative was unable to formally recognize the twenty students who earned their wings during the spring semester. It is our hope to do something special for the "Wingmen" since we were unable to celebrate their academic success at our end of the semester "You Earned Your Wings Honor Roll Reception".

You Earn Your Wings was created as a vehicle to promote male student academic achievement.

Each semester, the Brotherhood Initiative recognizes participants of the Brotherhood Initiative and Sisters of the Brotherhood who earned a 3.0 GPA or better. As a symbol of success, Wingmen will receive a *gold wing keychain* and/or a lapel pin. *"Every time a brother earns his wings, we improve the graduation rate of college men."* See list of *Wingmen on cover page.*



WHERE IS HE NOW?

SKIN

By Cade Snow

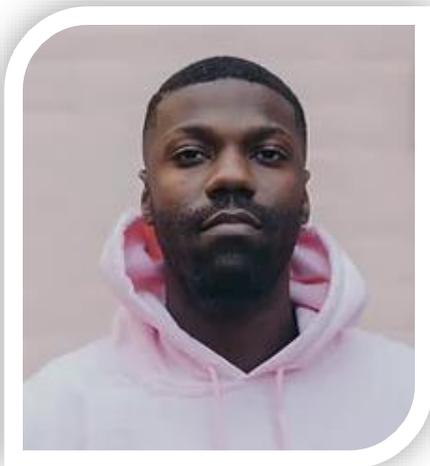
The Skin event was held on September 1, 2022. The event was hosted by the Mosaic Society and supported by the Brotherhood Initiative. The Brotherhood was invited to help with the event by getting people signed in and promoting ourselves during the presentation.

The presentation was held in Semesters, Student Center. The Mosaic Society brought alumnus, Anthony Valentine back to campus to speak about different subjects, including promoting his book, "On the Car Ride Home", and newly released film (Shea).



MR. JOSEPH KIERWIAK

Joe Kierwiak, graduated CCSU in 2016 with a Bachelors in Anthropology. He served on the Bassett Student Achievement Award Committee as chair and committee member. Along with that, he was the Bassett Scholarship Chair and member of the Bassett Memorialization Committee and Humanitarian Award Committee. Since graduating from CCSU, he has worked for four years at the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Kierwiak just recently moving to Baltimore, Maryland to assume a position with the Baltimore Area Boy Scout Council as a Senior District Executive. His work for the Boy Scouts includes, fundraising, membership growth, youth retention, adult mentorship, and training, and advising on camp operations. Mr. Kierwiak's passions include traveling, reading, hiking, baking, and gardening. He has traveled to Egypt and Russia and shared his archaeological excavation research on a local, state, national and international level. He cannot wait to see what great things emerge from his alma mater and the institution's Brotherhood Initiative.





LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

“Light Up the Night” was an event organized by the Brotherhood Initiative to recognize Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide Prevention Month is held annually in November. A campus wide procession and rally brought together students, faculty, campus police, and administrators who walked from Arute Field parking lot to Davidson Hall. As a symbol of illuminated knowledge about suicide, participants held and wore glowsticks. Neary 40 individuals participated in the event. Some of those in attendance included Dr. John Tully, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Jonathon Pohl, Wellness Education, Dr. Evelyn Phillips, Anthropology Department, Dr. Sheri Fafunwa-Ndibe, Art Department, Mr. Lawrence Hall, Director of Admissions, and students from the LGBTQ Center. The event concluded with memorial to those who died due to suicide. After a few words by Dr. Tully, individuals cited the name of those lost to suicide and rang the Bell of Remembrance. In the eyes of those of us who are affected every day by suicide, the event was emotional and very successful. The Brotherhood Initiative plans to host the suicide prevention rally on an annual basis.

See video:

https://mediaspace.ccsu.edu/media/Light+Up+The+Night+Fall+2021/1_2z5cmx7z

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- *Men's Issues in Recovery*
by Craig Nakken
- *Men's Issues and Men's Mental Health*
by Rob Whitley
- *The True Measure of a Man: How Perceptions of Success, Achievement, and Recognition Fail Men in Difficult Times* by Richard E. Simmons
- *Understanding the Purpose and Power of Men*
by Myles Munroe

ARTICLES

What's Masculinity got to do with it? The COVID-19 pandemic, men and care by Katarzyna Wojnicka (Article)

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/13505068221076322>

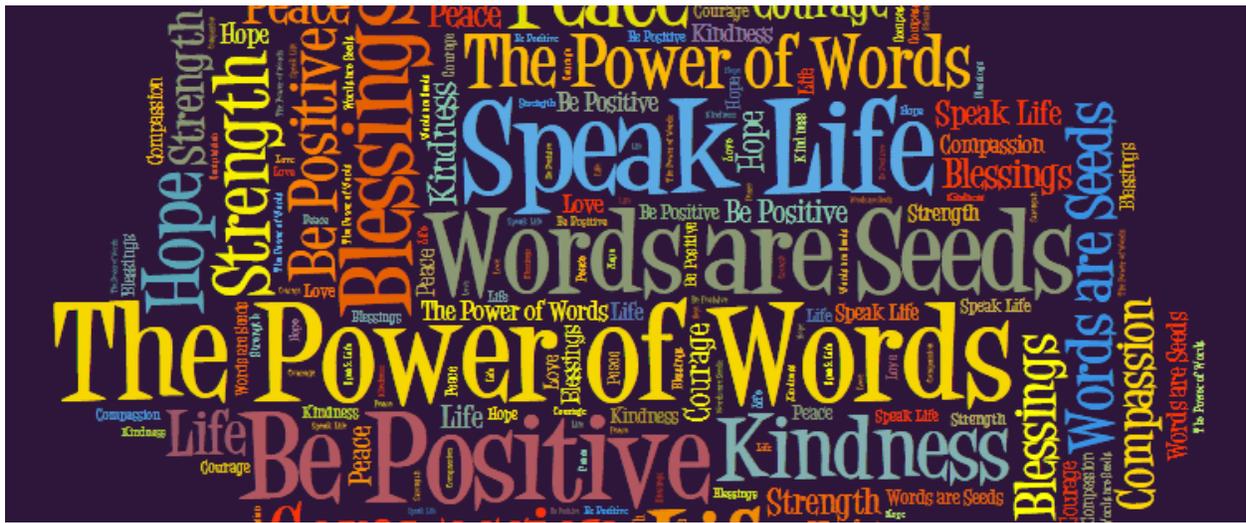
The Men's Movement and Men's Studies: A Study of the Literature by Nancy A. Wooton

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/20862406.pdf>



Frederick Douglass was right when he spoke the following words, “*Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave.*” Knowledge feeds the deepest part of our humanity. There is much debate about educational access, making college tuition free, and whether education is a civil right. There is nothing to be debated if we truly believe in freedom. Human-kind must coexist with the ending of the enslavement of the human mind. We deserve a society where knowledge is accessible, free, and exists as a human right.

If not now when?



MEN PLAYING IN THE DIRT

By Cade Snow

November 17th, 2021

On Wednesday, November 17th, 2021, the Brotherhood Initiative hosted a performance of “DIRT” by John Morello. The event was held in Alumni Hall in the Student Center. Thirty-six individuals attended the one man show. John addressed very sensitive issues about substance and life choices using vignette and the portrayal of four characters he created from real life experiences. The actual performance lasted for an hour, but the QA extended duration of the event. There were many questions asked about the performance and about the personal life of the actor. Many found the performance compelling. The event was cosponsored by the Brotherhood Initiative, LGBTQ Center, and the Africana Center.

Dirt is a one-man show that explores the challenges and decisions that young people face every day. Dirt gets to the heart of issues related to drugs, bullying, and self-esteem in a manner that resonates with audiences in a real and meaningful way. Through the portrayal of relatable and memorable characters, John Morello gives voice to those who sometimes feel as though they are not heard and reassurance to those who sometimes feel as though they are not understood. John does not preach, teach, or lecture; instead, he takes students on a journey that challenges them to think about the choices they make and how those choices impact their own lives and the lives of those around them.

DIRT A ONE-MAN SHOW WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY JOHN MORELLO

LIVE AND IN PERSON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021
5:00 pm
Alumni Hall, Student Center

"MORDANTLY FUNNY... A NEW WEAPON IN THE WAR AGAINST BAD CHOICES... LAUGHTER!" - THE NEW YORK TIMES

"RELATABLE" - MOVING - CAPTIVATING - LIFE CHANGING

For more information contact: Cade Snow, c.snow@my.ccsu.edu or William Fothergill fothergillw@ccsu.edu Brotherhood Initiative

Event Sponsors: Brotherhood Initiative, Africana Studies, CCSU LGBT Center, University of Connecticut





Dear Brothers,

By Danaiyla Mendoza
Sisters of the Brotherhood

THE STORY OF A SISTER

I once saw a poster for the Initiative hung up in Ebenezer D Bassett Hall. It was the epic predator handshake with Arnold Schwarzenegger; and in awe I told myself, this was something I wanted to do. Now I never had the biceps to replicate the picture well, but the spirit of strength that resided in its symbolism of joint arms inspired me greatly. So, when I was offered a position within the Brotherhoods ranks, I was shocked. I never thought a girl could be a part of a male only group, until I learned about the Sisters within the Brotherhood, and that's where it all came together for me.

We are an operative that frames the wellness and retention of college men, while including the key drive of societal success – women. This fits my philosophy to a thousandth degree. To inspire better men, better women, to inspire fearless interactions between us all. This is a dream worth living. Collectively, as we coast through ages of enlightenment, I still notice everlasting prejudices and stereotypes tarnishing the reputability of both sides. So, in my own way of advocating change, as a Sister, I've designed plenty of posters, organized events, and have led our Real Talk Conversation in hopes of initiating newer and healthier environments for Central.

As a person who still has a whole lot to learn from College, I can proudly say navigating this campus with my Brothers beside me has strengthened my resolve to face life's uncertainties. In my experience with the guys, our time with each other ranges from cracking jokes to holding each other accountable and responsible. When we meet on Wednesdays, we have dinner together afterwards; sometimes we even play basketball together, and/or workout at the gym.

In many ways, I could never imagine that my experience in the Brotherhood has been a gift to my personal development. I give thanks to the foundation our platform was built upon. From one man's vision to the real time experience of others. I plan to accomplish such feats in a way that shows what exactly I represent as a Sister of the Brotherhood.



The Dear Brother op-ed column allows college women the opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions directly to our male readers. It is our hope that the column will serve as a constructive vehicle to help college men respect and validate the voices of their college sisters. The column is available to women who are committed to the wellbeing of men. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the staff of the Brotherhood Newsletter.

Get More Information
<https://www.ccsu.edu/BROTHERHOOD>

A man has two options
in a relationship:
Either **STAND UP** and be
the man she needs or
SIT DOWN, so she can
see the man behind
you.

7th Annual Dads Matter Too Conference

"Engaging Men: Moving Men from Risk to Resource"

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2021

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021

For a seventh year, the Brotherhood Initiative collaborated with the Department of Children and Families to host the Dads Matter Too Conference. This year's conference, "Engaging Men: Moving Men from Risk to Resource", focused on recognizing male competencies and strengths. Due to COVID distancy restrictions on the CCSU campus, the conference was held virutally over the course of two half days. Viewers were provided with the opportunity to learn from leading medical professionals, community educators, mental health clinicians, and educators.

Dr. Zulma Toro, Central Connecticut State University President, Michael Williams, Deputy Commissioner of Department of Children and Families, and Dr. Deidre S. Gifford, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Health and Human Services, provide opening remarks. Presenters included, Dr. Beebe and Dr. DiVietro, Daryl McGraw, Department of Children and Families Commissioner, Vanessa Dorantes, Connecticut State Senator, Marilyn Moore, and the event was moderated by Abdul-Rahmaam I. Muhammad, Executive Director and Founder of My People Clinical Services. William Fothergill, Faculty Administrator of the Brotherhood Initiative provided closing remarks.

The conference explored male vulnerabilities, harmful aspects of male masculinity, health disparities, and solutions. The conference sessions focused on the following topics: psychology of boys and men, improving the competence of social work staff and professionals working with guy populations; prioritizing the emotional needs of male populations; and reviewed the intersectional identity of social constructed gender roles and how this impacts fatherhood engagement.

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH



1. **Value yourself**
2. **Take care of your body**
3. **Surround yourself with good people**
4. **Give yourself**
5. **Learn how to deal with stress**
6. **Quiet your mind**
7. **Set realistic goals**
8. **Break up the monotony**
9. **Avoid alcohol and other drugs**
10. **Get help when you need it**

13TH Annual HEALTHYfellows Men's Health & Wellness Forum

Building A More Equitable Society For All

The 13TH Annual HEALTHYfellows Men's Health & Wellness Forum brought together students, educators, parents, healthcare providers, government entities, advocates, clergy, and community partners for a series of panel discussions that focused on the intersection between health, social justice, inclusion, and gender equity. The national forum included panelist and attendees from throughout the United States. Over sixty individuals attended the event. Participants explored how to merge unique causes for gender equity into a collective effort to build a more equitable society for both woman and men.

PLENARY SESSION (1):

- In Pursuit of Wellness and Justice in the Beloved Community

PLENARY SESSION (2):

- Gender Equity: What is it and How Does it Contribute to A Healthy Society?

PLENARY SESSION (3):

- Men's Issues: Challenging the Myths & Misconceptions about Boys and Men.

PLENARY SESSION (4):

- Student Voices on Gender Equity

The forum concluded with a student conversation about college men. The plenary session was moderated by Javen Harris and Cade Snow of the Brotherhood Initiative. Panelist included male students from CCSU and Lakeland Community College in Ohio. Panelist discussed next steps and plans to expand intercollegiate and national conversations about college men.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Olanrewaju Olamuyiwa

John Lewis Institute Scholar



Celebrating Men's Health Week



Panelists:

Randolph Brooks
Victoria Christgau
Anthony Gay
Jackie Green
Evelyn Newman Phillips
M'Bwebe Ishangi
Isaiah McCorkle
Michael Scanlon IV
James Shelley



The annual forum will bring together students, educators, parents, healthcare providers, government entities, advocates, clergy, and community partners for a series of panel discussions that will focus on the intersection between health, social justice, inclusion, and gender equity. Participants will explore how to merge unique causes for gender equity into a collective effort to build a more equitable society for both woman and men.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm EST

For more information contact: William Fothergill at fothergillw@ccsu.edu
or Javen Harris at javenharris@my.ccsu.edu

LINK TO REGISTRATION

<http://evite.me/ef51SkG9fP>

WebEx link: <https://ccsu.webex.com/ccsu/j.php?MTID=m32eb793e34643827b853f6e3882fa9c>

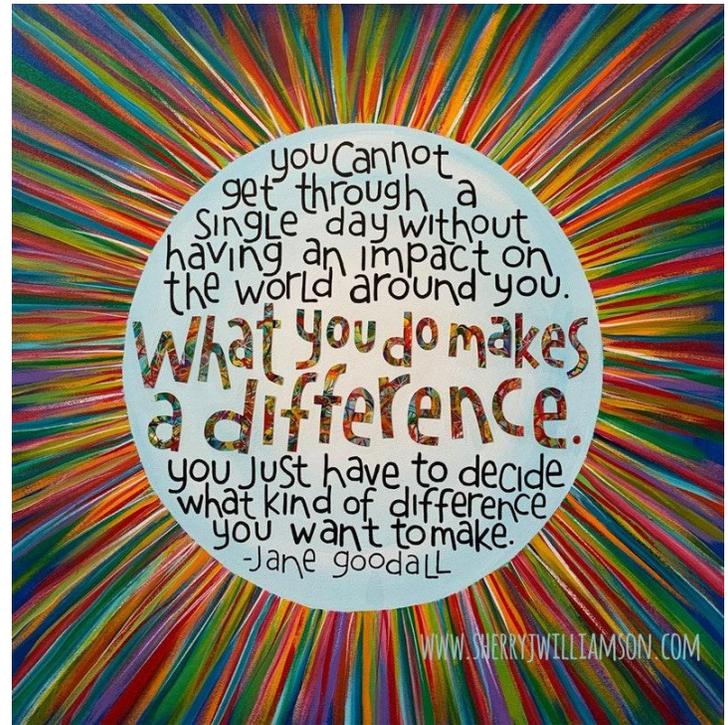


"If you are a person who believes in love, justice, integrity, and equality for all people then you know that this work is nonnegotiable." Layla F. Saad

PURPLE THURSDAY 10.21.21

BLUE GOES PURPLE

Purple Thursday is a national day of action to raise awareness about domestic violence. Since its inception, the Brotherhood Initiative has remained diligent in our efforts to encourage college men to become more active and responsive to issues related to violence. For the past two years, the initiative has supported the efforts of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and organized events on the CCSU campus that focused on broadening awareness about Domestic Violence. This year's activities were held on October 21st. Annually the third Thursday in October is recognized as Purple Thursday. It was our hope to turn the Blue campus Purple for the day. The event is a part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year the members of the Brotherhood were encouraged to wear purple and sent selfies to CCADV where they joined forces with others who demonstrated their commitment to promoting healthy relationships. The Brotherhood also handed out lapel buttons and information cards. For more information about domestic violence programs and services, please contact CCADV at contactus@ctcadv.org



Word of the Edition

H O P E

**BROTHERHOOD
INITIATIVE
CCSU**



PURPLE THURSDAY
Raise awareness about domestic violence

 **SNAP A SELFIE!** Or take a group shot of you & your friends/family/co-workers all wearing purple.

 Post it with **#PURPLETHURSDAY** and tag **CCADV!**
FB - @CTCoalitionAgainstDomesticViolence
Twitter & Instagram - @CTCADV

ON THE COVER

Javen Harris

Engineering Major

Graduating May 2022



CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS

Connections Men's Resource Group

Mondays at 5:00 pm

Ebenezer D. Bassett Student Achievement Award Ceremony

Tuesday, May 3rd at 5:00 pm

National Brotherhood Day

Tuesday May 24th at 5:00 pm

Brotherhood

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



GET YOUR FREE MASK

While supplies last, you can get a free gift just for CONTACTING US on the Brotherhood Initiative Webpage

<https://www.ccsu.edu/brotherhood/contactUs.html>



HEALTHYfellows Brotherhood Initiative
Central Connecticut State University
Student Wellness Center
(860) 832 - 1639

fothergillW@ccsu.edu



Seeking faculty who are willing to serve as a Wellness Navigator. Navigators are an integral part of our initiative. They gift their time, talents, and expertise to support the success of our students.

The BROTHERHOOD Newsletter contains a broad range of news articles that focus on improving the lives of male students. If you would like to contribute an article, editorial, and/or information about upcoming events, please contact William Fothergill at fothergillW@ccsu.edu