

## THEY EARNED THEIR WINGS

The following registered participants of the Brotherhood Initiative earned a 3.0 or better during the Spring 2022 semester

- Adriel Allen
- Raheem Anderson
- Kevin Arango
- Brian Bible
- Bintou Camara
- James Contacos
- Adam Choa
- James Ely
- Sean Excellent
- Colin Fontenelle
- Gerti Gjini
- Andrew Hazard
- Kyle Knobel
- Aidan Krok
- Andrew Krasuski
- Kishan Kunver
- Roberto Mauro
- Joseph McCarthy
- Teague O'Connor
- Dana O'Neal
- Justin Ogazi
- Olanrewaju Olamuyiwa
- John Pham
- Jacob Reyes
- Jalaun Ross
- Samuel Rego
- Cade Snow
- Jackson Toomey

### Honorable Mention

- Duly Bolivar
- Christian Estefani
- Danaiyla Mendoza



Continued on page 3



## EBENEZER D. BASSETT DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN AWARD CEREMONY



The Bassett Distinguished Humanitarian Award Ceremony was held on March 1, 2022. Bi-Annually, the Central Connecticut State University's Ebenezer D. Bassett Memorialization Committee and the Office of Institutional Advancement hosts the ceremony. Individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding public service and those who have demonstrated their ability to keep Ambassador Ebenezer D. Bassett's legacy of humanitarianism alive. This award is given in the name of Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, the first African American appointed as a United States diplomat and the first African American to graduate from a public operated institution of higher education in Connecticut.

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Humanitarian Award recipients included Ms. Lyn Caliendo (Scholar/Educator Award), Mr. Gary O'Neil (Diplomat Award), Ms. Gail Williams (Civil Rights & Equity Award), Ms. Michelle McFarland (Faith & Freedom Award), and Dr. Tim Crain received the Alumnus Award posthumously.

The **Black Governors "Community Leadership" Award** was presented to Chop it up, Welcome 2 Reality Inc., Queen Ann Nzinga Center, and the Haitian and Americans for Tomorrow.



Dr. Sheri Fafunwa-Ndibe, Bassett Memorialization Committee and Ms. Gail Williams, 2022 Humanitarian Award



## 2022 HUMANITARIAN AWARD CEREMONY

### "A Teacher's Love"



Photo (1): Marcus Stallworth, Lyn Caliendo, Gayle Williams, Michelle McFarland, Leslie Craine (Front) Dr. John Tully, Dr. Zulma Toro, Gary O'Neil, Naylani Hemingway, Dana Snell, and Berline Jean-Felix. Photo (2) Gail Williams, Gary O'Neil, and Michelle McFarland. Photo (3): Dr. Jesse Turner. Photo (4): Lyn Caliendo and Danaiyla Mendoza.

## MAN-U Webinar Series

Man-University serves as an educational platform for Navigators of the Brotherhood Initiative and those who care about the welfare of college men. It is our goal to create an academy where individuals can expand their knowledge about men's issues and resources. The following webinars were sponsored by Innovative Educators: Friday 5 Live. Brotherhood hosted the following hybrid webinar:

- ✚ **THE POWER OF FINANCIAL LITERACY ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS**
- ✚ **FAILING STUDENTS: PROVIDING THE SUPPORT STUDENTS NEED NOW**
- ✚ **THE COVID CRISIS: HELPING FIRST-GEN MEN**
- ✚ **CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: SUPPORTING BLACK MALE STUDENTS**



Dr. Wizdom Powell  
Bassett Humanitarian Award



## ON THE COVER

MR. JAMES ELY

Major: Marriage & Family Therapy



## 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.



Inspiring retention one wing at a time!

## Where Are They Now



Hello! My name is Anthony Vinci. Recently, I graduated from CCSU's Ed.D. Program in Higher Education Leadership. Since graduation, I have been accepted to present my dissertation research about strengthening university-community partnerships at regional and national conferences. I also work as a stock trader and for my family's business.

Additionally, I have been working on developing a non-profit organization that seeks to help universities become more innovative regarding university-community partnerships; the future of work; and addressing major societal problems. If universities go beyond the ivory tower concept, the possibilities are endless for local community improvement, better job attainments post-graduation, and the development of innovative solutions to address the world's most challenging problems.

I have two pieces of advice to share with students about life. First, use your gifts (special talents) to benefit society by being of service to others. Second, find personal joy from the deployment of your gifts that will improve society. As Yale philosophy professor Kronman argued, Spinoza defined joy as, "the experience of a finite being as it progresses toward an ever more complete embrace of the eternality of the world as a whole." Kronman's summary of Spinoza's concept of joy is precisely why being joyful and using your gifts in service to society, will sustain you through the disappointing times. By deploying your talents, being of service to others, and obtaining joy from these activities, you will experience the beauty of life.

## THE POWER OF FINANCIAL LITERACY ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

The Brotherhood hosted the Power of Financial Literacy on Student Engagement and Success Webinar on April 19, 2022. The webinar focused on the importance financial literacy plays in student engagement, wellness, and academic success. The two-part hybrid in-person and virtual event was cosponsored with the Office of Student Financial Literacy. The first part included participation in a free livestreamed "Friday 5 Live" Innovative Educators webinar. Presenters include Dr. Audrey Murrell, Mark Visco Jr., and Gene Natall Jr. The second part of the presentation included an in-person presentation by Dr. Gladys Colon, Coordinator, Financial Literacy.



For additional information and financial literacy support:

**Dr. Gladys Colón EdD**  
Financial Literacy Coordinator and Advisor  
Willard-DiLoreto Hall W217  
860.832.2261  
[colon\\_gla@ccsu.edu](mailto:colon_gla@ccsu.edu)



Dr. Gladys Colon, Financial Literacy Coordinator



## Eddie Rivera Class of 2018

Eddie Rivera graduated from CCSU in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems from the school of Business. During his time at CCSU he was involved in various clubs and served as Vice President of the M.I.S Club during his last year. Since graduating Eddie has worked in the Information Services department at Hartford Healthcare where he has been involved in highly visible technology projects. He has been with Hartford Healthcare for 15 years, all the technical and non-technical knowledge he has acquired throughout the years has allowed him to step into an exciting role as a Systems Manager under the Data

Analytics team at Hartford Healthcare Bone and Joint Institute. In this role Eddie will be serving as a project lead and application owner for a new system that will be rolling out within the next year. He is also working on obtaining his PMP credential so that he can continue to provide value to the organization and deliver technology projects on time and on budget. "CCSU has provided me with the foundation and confidence I needed to start my career in information technology at an affordable price." Eddie is also involved in his local church where he serves as a coordinator leading Financial Peace University. A 7-step program by Dave Ramsey that shows people how to get out of debt and live a debt free lifestyle. Eddie wants to continue to pay it forward by showing other minorities that came from a difficult upbringing that success is possible. *"You just have to have faith and some grit. Never give up no matter how hard it gets. Your story will help someone else."*

## BRO CODE



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH HAPPENINGS

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month in May, The Brotherhood sponsored several activities to promote mental health awareness. It was the initiative's goal to raise awareness about mental health, challenge stigmas, and highlight on campus resource. Over one hundred students and faculty participated in our mental health activities.

(Continued on pages 5-7)



The Brotherhood hosted several events during the month of March. The theme of the month was Men's March Into Self Care. During the month, the leaders of the Brotherhood sought to engage the campus community through weekly interactive activities and webinars.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In recognition of International Women's Day, the leaders of the Brotherhood organized a Bro-Cart event to show our appreciation of CCSU women. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The Brotherhood has a long history of recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of our campus sisters. In recognition of International Women's Day, the Brotherhood joined forces with others internationally to promote the "Break the Bias" campaign. The BRO-Cart was taken around campus and the brothers handed out small gifts of appreciation and a Break the Bias campaign button. The Brotherhood looks forward to more opportunities to celebrate our sisters and establishing cooperative efforts to promote gender equity for all.



### REAL TALK

Sisters of the Brotherhood organized and hosted February's REAL TALK Conversation. The hybrid event was held on February 16, 2022, at the Campus Tour Center in Memorial Hall. The conversation was moderated by Danaiyla Mendoza, Coordinator of the Sisters of the Brotherhood. The conversation, "Fake People", was inspired by Danaiyla's observations and concerns about the challenges of making close friendships in college and beyond. The conversation explored fakeness, making friendship in the social media age, identifying fake people, how to deal and navigate around them, how to distinguish between real and fake friendships, and how to be aware of our own capacity to be fake. The lively conversation sparked a passionate discussion about the reason people some people are deceptive in relationships and the desire we all have for genuinely trusting intimate friendships.

**REAL TALK IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE** exists as a human engagement forum that brings together college men and women for candid, constructive, and meaningful conversations about gender, equity, privilege, relationship, and health issues, and more.



### Ebenezer D. Bassett Humanitarian Award Ceremony

Humanitarian Award recipients: (Left) Leslie Craine, wife of Dr. Tim Craine (Posthumous), Michele McFarland, and Lynn Caliendo.



## STEPS TO SELF-LOVE: Let Go of What is Weighing You Down

Motivational speaker Dana O'Neal spoke to a gathering of male and female students at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Brotherhood Meeting. Mr. O'Neal a Navy veteran, professional actor and director spoke about the importance of loving yourself. During the interactive, Mr. O'Neal lead a lively conversation about self-care practices and the application of manifestation, affirmation (as tools to self-discovery), and defining one's life purpose. Mr. O'Neal incorporated his years of experience and involvement with the international Association of Near-Death Studies to enlighten participants about manifesting the life they desire.

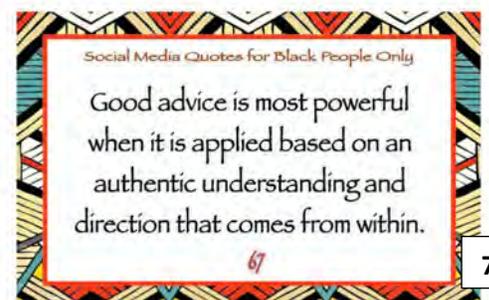


## ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING HEALTHY HABITS FOR COLLEGE MEN

The March 30, 2022, Brotherhood Meeting was devoted to male grooming and hygiene practices. Alphonso McGriff III, Public Intellectual, Cosmetologist, Author, Inventor Speaker, and self-proclaimed relationship maven was the initiative's invited guest speaker. The title of the presentation was, Encouraging and Promoting Healthy Habits for College Men. Mr. McGriff spoke to an audience of CCSU students and community guests. He shared his own personal experiences and framework about health. Mr. McGriff led an interactive conversation that challenged participants to examine their own wellness practices and encouraged them to adopt healthier lifestyles.



Alphonso McGriff



## BACK ON TRACK: FINISHING THE SEMESTER STRONG

The Grad & Go GO-Cart event was held on Monday, March 21, 2022. The event was held in front of the Student Wellness Center in Willard Hall. The program served as a post midterm reminder to finish the semester strong. Those attending the Grab & Go event received information resources, novelties, swag, and encouragement that centered on motivating them to do well academically.



### THE BRO-BUS

The BRO-Bus is the newest acquisition to the Brotherhood fleet of BRO-Carts. The cart was created as a fun way to engage the campus community and disseminate information and resource during the initiative's outreach activities.



### THE COVID CRISIS: FIRST-GEN MEN

On January 27<sup>th</sup> the Brotherhood hosted the Covid Crisis: Helping First-Gen Men webinar. As a continuation of a series titled "What it Really Takes Be Student Centric Institution", the Chronicles of Higher Education brought together experts on access and student enrollment to discuss how to support male students during the COVID pandemic. The virtual presentation examine the following questions: Why are fewer men going to college? How can colleges solve the challenges of this population through new and innovative ways? How may these solutions help other student groups on campus as well? The program was hosted by Sarah Brown, the Chronicles, Senior Reporter and Anthony Jack, Assistant Professor of Education at Harvard University.

### CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: SUPPORTING BLACK MALE STUDENTS

On March 11, 2022, the Brotherhood hosted the "Continuing the Conversation: Supporting Black Male Students" webinar. The webinar was held as a part of the Brotherhood's Making the Grade event. During the livestream event, Dr. Reginald Stroble, Coordinator of the Black Male initiative, at any Arundel Community College, further discussed the relevance of recruiting and retaining black male students. Dr. Stroble shared his insight and critically consideration for work being done with male students. The attendees were challenges to reflect on the following questions: how can institutions listen to the needs of their black male students? How can you reach into our communities to better support prospective black male students? Are there any methods or programs you found that are particularly impactful? What are the factors contributing to the drop in male college enrollment? Are there other considerations we should examine to better support our male students? Students, faculty, and the Associate Dean of Student Affairs attended the informative event. At the conclusion of the webinar, Mr. James Ely, Brotherhood Initiative's Graduate Fellow led a discussion about supporting black male students with the faculty and students attending the in-person event.

## **FAILING STUDENTS: PROVIDING THE SUPPORT STUDENTS NEED NOW**

The Brotherhood hosted the Failing Students: Providing the Support Students Need Now Webinar. The webinar was sponsored by Innovative Educators as a part of their Friday Live 5 series. The free webinar was held on April 1, 2022. Attending the event included CCSU students and faculty. The webinar featured Jessica Tinklenberg, Program Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning at Claremont Colleges. Ms. Tinklenberg shared her insight into how we can better understand the learning environment from a student perspective while sharing ways we can provide the support students need right NOW. The following questions were explored during the webinar: what are you hearing from students at your institution about their learning experience during COVID and in this year of transition? What are the strategies that faculty and staff can take to support students now to finish the semester strong?

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: NAVIGATING CAMPUS RESOURCES**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Brotherhood and the Center for International Education cosponsored an event titled, Navigating Campus Resources. Montez Johnson, Advisor, Department of Undergraduate Advising was the primary speaker at the event. The presentation was organized primarily for international students and was the brainchild of Gerti Gjini and international student and a Brotherhood Initiative Accountability Coach. Based on his own experiences transitioning and adjusting to CCSU, Gerti desires to help his fellow international students become more knowledgeable about becoming more informed, and involved about personal, professional, and academic resources on campus. The Brotherhood plans to coordinate more outreach supports that target international students. It is our hope to help our international brothers and sisters become more knowledgeable about campus life, support services, and developmental opportunities on campus.

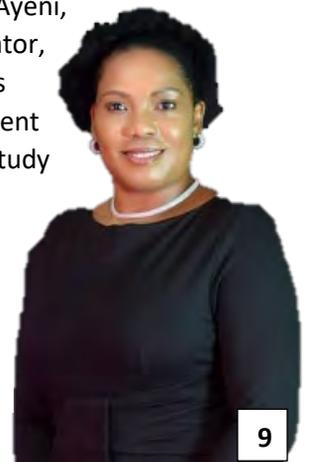


**Gerti Gjini**

**Outreach & Retention Manager, Brotherhood**

## **NAVIGATING CAMPUS RESOURCES: QUICK IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS AND TRAVEL TUTORIAL**

As a continuation of the first Navigating Campus Resource presentation, the Brotherhood cosponsored the second round of information sessions for international students with the Center for International Education. The presentation was held on April 28, 2022, in Barnard Hall. The presentation was facilitated by Ms. Toyin Ayeni, CIE and Mr. Gerti Gjini, Outreach Coordinator, Brotherhood Initiative. Presentation topics included immigration questions, employment opportunities for international students, study abroad, and resources to promote college involvement.



**Oluwatoyin Ayeni, Associate Director ISSS,  
Center for International Education**

## GENIUS: BASSETT EMERGING SCHOLARS

The Brotherhood partners with several community organizations, schools, and agencies to identify male students who are deserving of recognition for their academic and personal achievements. Annually, the Brotherhood showcases the excellence of these young geniuses, for exemplifying at least one of the five Bassett Legacy Virtues, at the Ebenezer D. Bassett Student Achievement Award Ceremony.

See photos on pages 12-13



Mr. Jean St Simon (left), Ebenezer D Bassett Award and Nomination Committee, Chairperson and Mr. Colin Fontenelle (right) 2022 Ebenezer D. Bassett Scholar and Bassett Scholarship recipient

## EBENEZER D. BASSETT SCHOLARSHIP

Ebenezer D. Bassett Scholarship was announced at Ebenezer D. Bassett Student Achievement Award Ceremony, which was held on May 3, 2022. The Ebenezer D. Bassett Scholarship is awarded annually, by Ebenezer D. Bassett Memorialization Committee the CCSU Foundation, to students (e.g., undergraduate and/or graduate) continuing their education at Central Connecticut State University. The scholarship is named in honor of Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett. The scholarship provides financial support to students who represent an underrepresented, non-traditional, underprivileged group, and/or who has demonstrated a financial need to meet educational expenses. Applicants must possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 with the promise of outstanding academic performance and career potential. This year, Comm scholarship honorees were Ms. Danaiyla Adoza, Mr. Colin Fontenelle, and Mr. Gerti Gjini.

Ebenezer D. Bassett Memorialization Committee greatly appreciates the significant financial gift, made by Mr. Jacqueline Harris. Her financial gift made it possible for the committee to award three 2022 scholarships.



Welcome Justin Gurekovich to the BLT  
Brotherhood Leadership Team





Mr. Cade Snow (left), Operations Manager and Mr. Javen Harris (right), Senior Project Manager Brotherhood Initiative, 2021-2022 recipients of the HEALTHYfellows Founder's Award

## A SEXUAL HEALTH COVERSATION: WHAT EVERY COLLEGE MAN NEEDS TO KNOW

The Connections Men's Resource Group hosted a presentation by Mr. Matthew Noonan, teacher and Health Educator. The interactive presentation provided a safe environment for college men to discuss health issues. Topics included: Men's health, sexual practices and behaviors, reproduction and STDs, relationships, sleep, fitness, nutrition, and building a consistent health routine. Mr. Noonan provided answers to questions pose to him about sexual and relationship issues confronting young men. The Brotherhood plans to schedule more consistent presentations about male sexual health and relationships.



Myrna Figueroa, Heidi Hugley, and Terry Moore, Student Wellness Center

## TAKE A MENTAL HEALTH BREAK

On May 11<sup>th</sup> the Brotherhood unveiled its information B.U.S. as a part of its effort to promote and recognize Mental Health Awareness Month. Take a Mental Health Break was held at Willard Hall and in front of the office of Counseling & Student Development. Nearly eighty (80) students and faculty attended the event. Participants received free ice cream, mental health information, promotional materials, and a mental health awareness month lapel pin. The initiative appreciates the support of Counseling & Student Development, Wellness Education, and Health Services whose staff came out in full force to support the event. The Brotherhood continued to make information and lapel pins available to individuals on campus for days after the event.



Above Dr. Kristine Larson, Geological Science, Rt. Dr. Shannon Jackson, Associate Director and Dr. Michael Russo, Director Counseling & Student Development

## MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

As a part of the Brotherhood's Real Talk Conversations, the initiative hosted a panel discussion titled, Men's Mental Health. The forum was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> and focused on a broad range of topic that intersect men and their mental health. The hybrid conversation was organized as a part of the Brotherhood's Mental Health Awareness Month. Presenters included Mr. Rondell Perry, Department of Children & Families, Mr. Eric Vargas, Connecticut Department of Labor, Mr. William Fothergill, Central Connecticut State University, and Mr. Leo Jones, Entrepreneur. The forum was moderated by Mr. James Ely, Brotherhood Initiative Graduate Fellow and MFT Graduate Student.

# REAL TALK

# Men's Mental Health



## Mental Health Awareness Month 2022

### Thursday, May 5, 2022 (5:00 pm EST)

The Brotherhood Initiative at Central Connecticut State University will host a panel discussion about men and mental health. The virtual conversation will take place in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Conversation hosted by James Ely, MFT Student and Brotherhood Initiative Graduate Fellow.



#### Join from the meeting link

<https://ccsu.webex.com/ccsu/j.php?MTID=mc1abf82e2fa030d9e5301435376bf552>

Surveys from around the world show that men everywhere find it difficult to open up about mental health, though they are significantly more at risk of completing suicide, substance abuse, perpetrator and victim of violence, and are less likely to access mental health supports. In this REAL TALK CONVERSATION, we look at why and will explore:

- Mental illness and the rate of male suicide
- Why men are more likely to resist mental health treatment
- Barriers impeding access to support services
- Cultural and community responses
- How men are perceived and treated by agencies and organization
- Stressors unique to the male experience, etc.

For More Information  
Contact: Gerti Gjini,  
Brotherhood Initiative  
[gerti.gjini@my.ccsu.edu](mailto:gerti.gjini@my.ccsu.edu)



**Rondell Perry**  
Investigation Social Worker  
CT Dept. of Children & Families



**Erik Vargas**  
Career & Technical  
Advisor Florida  
Job Growth Grant, Palm  
Beach State College



**William Fothergill**  
Counselor  
Counseling & Student  
Development, Central  
Connecticut State Univ.



**Leo Jones**  
Entrepreneur & Higher  
Education Professional

# ACCOUNTABILITY COACHING

The Brotherhood recently restructured its Student Making the Grade supports to address the growing need for more time management, organization, and task completion concerns. Over the past year, the Brotherhood received feedback from male students who expressed interest in academic supports that helped and reinforce them getting their assignments done. Students described needing more structure and needing someone to hold them responsible for completing assignments. Some may view this intervention as handholding and may not see this level of support necessary in a college setting. We reject this view because at times we can all benefit from a helping hand. The Brotherhood is willing to hold a thousand hands if sitting with a student or scheduling periodic check-in or monitoring sessions will help our students complete a term paper or an assignment. The end outweighs the means - completed work. Isn't this the goal? Since initiating the service, we noticed an increase in the number of male students accessing Accountability Coaching and describing the benefit of the academic support. Students are allowed to participate in walk-in group sessions, Friday Making the Grade sessions, and/or 1-on-1 coaching sessions (e.g., remote and in-person). Students can access Accountability Coaching by contacting the Brotherhood at <https://www.ccsu.edu/brotherhood/contactUs.html>

*Accountability coaching is a free academic resource offered by the Brotherhood Initiative Student Success Advocates. Advocates help their peers get things done and help them become more responsible for completing their class work. Accountability Coaching is a great resource for students whose success is limited by procrastination, lack of organization, time management, task completion, and motivation concerns. Accountability coaching is designed to hold students accountable, keep them on track, monitor their progress, help them prepare for tests in quizzes, being champion their success. Our goal, help student persist to degree completion.*

## DIVERSITY AT ITS BEST

### 2022 Bassett Scholars

**No matter the age, they deserve the stage!**





## 2022 Ebenezer D. Bassett Emerging Scholars

The Brotherhood inspiring the next generation of scholarly men

**GENIUS**  
EMERGING SCHOLARS



**Mr. Zyhir Brown**  
New Britain High School, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Personal Development Award"

**Mr. Eli Reese**  
Waterbury Arts Magnet School, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Scholastic Award"

**Mr. Kyle Rodrigo**  
Sage Park Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Victor & Triumph Award"

*"The event definitely exceeded my expectations! I can't wait to learn more about the brotherhood. It was a blessing to be a part of that last night. Thank you for nominating Jahki, he truly felt the appreciation and recognition he deserves."` Ms. Clara Ruffin*

**Mr. Bryan Rowland**  
New Britain High School, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Personal Development Award"

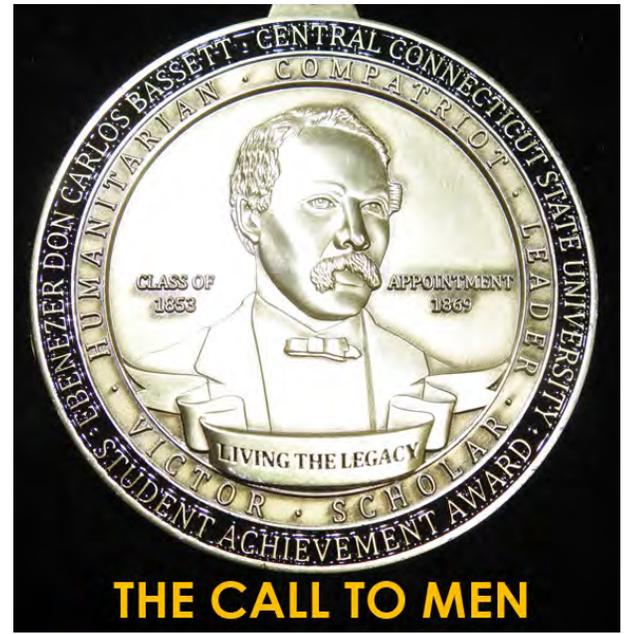
**Mr. Sheraud Wilder**  
Vinal Tech High School, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Scholastic Award"

**Mr. Jahki Webb**  
Achievement First Middle School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Scholastic Award"



## EBENEZER D. BASSETT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CEREMONY

On May 3, 2022, the Brotherhood Alumni Committee hosted its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual HEALTHYfellows Ebenezer D. Bassett Student Achievement Award Ceremony. The Ebenezer D Bassett Student Achievement Award celebrates the accomplishments and achievements of male students who exemplify the Ebenezer D. Bassett's Legacy Virtues. The Emerging Scholar Awards was presented to several students from collaborative partnering schools and community groups. See page \_\_ for the article on 2022 Emerging Scholars. These awards expand the definition of student success by highlighting personal attributes that support the health, retention, and graduation of male students. The hybrid ceremony was held in person and virtually. The recipients of the Dr. Jacqueline Harris "Heart of Gold Award" included Ms. Tiffany Moffo- Simpson, Ms. Jacqueline Guzman, and Dr. Chaka Felder-McEntire. The Photos and nomination information for the 2022 Bassett Scholars and Bassett Emerging Scholars can be found on pages \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.



Allen Abutin	Richard Boampong	Jarriel Cruz
Silvio D'Agostino	Patrick Dwyer	Corey Ferguson
Colin Fontenelle	Samuel Gabriel-Deveau	Jefferson Garcia
Gerti Gjini	Winston Hendricks	Kyle Halehale
Dijon Johnson	Anthony Lopez	Marvin Medina
Omar Madjoub	Elijah Panfili	Andrew Penaranda
Javiel Powell	Jacob Reyes	Spencer Smalley
Damon Sumter	Bowen Zhao	




**Jacqueline Guzman**  
Advising and Student Support Specialist  
School of Business Student Services Center

**HEART OF GOLD AWARD**



**Chaka Felder-McEntire, Ed.D.**  
Founder/Executive Director  
Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Programs.

**HEART OF GOLD AWARD**



**Tiffany Moffo Simpson**  
Assistant Director for  
Student Center Services

**HEART OF GOLD AWARD**

# 2022 EBENEZER D. BASSETT SCHOLARS

## THE MEN IN THE GLASS



**Mr. Allen Abutin**



**VICTOR & TRIUMPH**

Nominated by  
Mr. William Fothergill, Counseling &  
Student Development & Brotherhood  
Initiative

**Mr. Richard Boamong**



**SCHOLASTIC**

Nominated by  
Dr. Michele M. McKelvey, Nursing

**Mr. Jarriel Cruz**



**VICTOR & TRIUMPH**

Nominated by  
Dr. Evelyn Newman Phillips,  
Anthropology

**When you get what you want in your struggle for self,**

**And the world makes you king for a day,**

**Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,**

**And see what that man has to say.**

**Mr. Silvio D'Agostino**



**HUMANITARIAN**

Nominated by  
Dr. Jacob Werblow, Educational  
Leadership, Policy Instructional  
Technology

**Mr. Patrick Dwyer**



**VICTOR & TRIUMPH**

Nominated by  
Mr. William Fothergill, Counseling &  
Student Development & Brotherhood  
Initiative

**Mr. Corey Ferguson**



**SCHOLASTIC**

Nominated by  
Dr. Shelly Jones, Mathematical Sciences

**Mr. Colin Fontenelle**



**HUMANITARIAN**

Nominated by  
Dr. Mary Ann Mahony, History and Latin  
American, Latino, and Caribbean Center

**Mr. Samuel Gabriel-Deveau**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Dr. Karen Ritzenhoff, Communications

**Mr. Jefferson Garcia**



**VICTOR & TRIUMPH**

Nominated by  
Dr. Mary Ann Mahony, History and Latin  
American, Latino, and Caribbean Center

**For it isn't a man's father, mother, or wife,  
Whose judgment upon him must pass,  
The fellow whose verdict counts most in life,  
Is the man staring back from the glass.**

**Mr. Gerti Gjini**



**SCHOLASTIC**

Nominated by  
Dr. James Barnicle, Physical Education  
and Human Performance

**Mr. Winston Hendricks**



**VICTOR & TRIUMPH**

Nominated by  
Ms. Jacqueline Boivin, Women's Center

**Mr. Kyle Halehale**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Ms. Jaqueline Guzman, School of  
Business



**Mr. Dijon Johnson**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Dr. Charles Menoche, Music

**Mr. Anthony Lopez**



**VICTOR & TRIUMPH**

Nominated by  
Ms. Mildred Guzman-Young, Latin  
American, Latino, and Caribbean Center

**Mr. Marvin Medina**



**HUMANITARIAN**

Nominated by  
Mr. Matthew Landrigan, Student Center

**He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear to the end,  
And you've passed, your most dangerous, difficult test,  
if the man in the glass is your friend.**

**Mr. Omar Madjoub**



**HUMANITARIAN**

Nominated by  
Mr. Angelo M. Prevosto, Student Center

**Mr. Elijah Panfili**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Dr. Karen Ritzenhoff, Communications

**Mr. Andrew Penaranda**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Dr. Mary Ann Mahony, History and Latin  
American, Latino, and Caribbean Center



**Mr. Javiel Powell**



**HUMANITARIAN**

Nominated by  
Mr. Matthew Landrigan, Student Center

**Mr. Jacob Reyes**



**SCHOLASTIC**

Nominated by  
Ms. Mildred Guzman-Young, Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center

**Mr. Spencer Smalley**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Ms. Tiffany Moffo Simpson, Student Center

**You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,  
and get pats on the back as you pass,  
But the final reward will be heartache and tears,  
If you've cheated the man in the glass.   Anonymous**

**Mr. Damon Sumter**



**LEADERSHIP**

Nominated by  
Olanrewaju Olamuyiwa, Student

**Mr. Bowen Zhao**



**SCHOLASTIC**

Nominated by  
Ms. Jaqueline Guzman, School of Business





## THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BROTHERHOOD CELEBRATION!



**2022 EBENEZER D. BASSETT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**  
Danaiyla Mendoza. Ms. Mendoza is also the Coordinator of the Sisters of the Brotherhood.

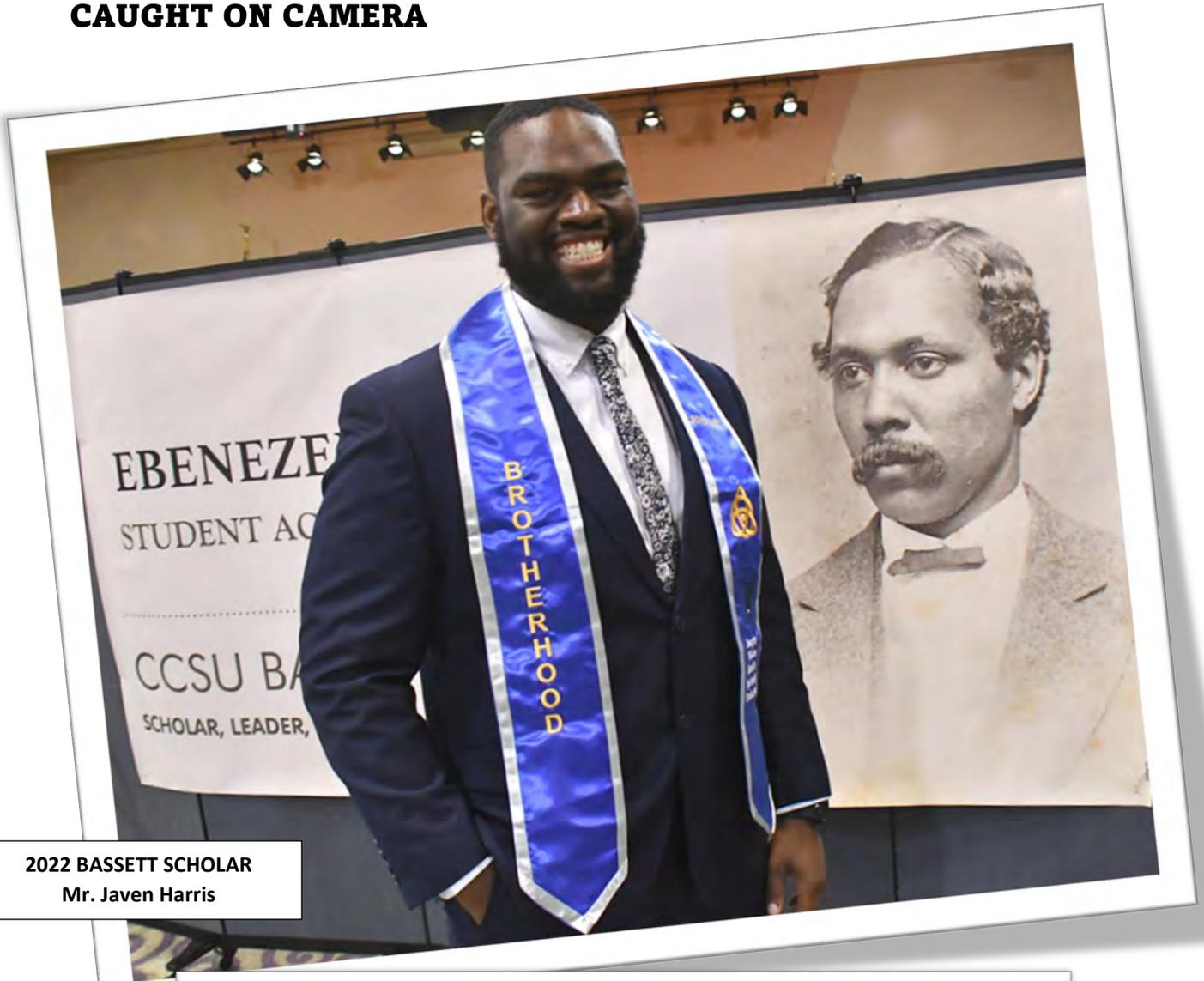


# NOTHING BUT HUGS

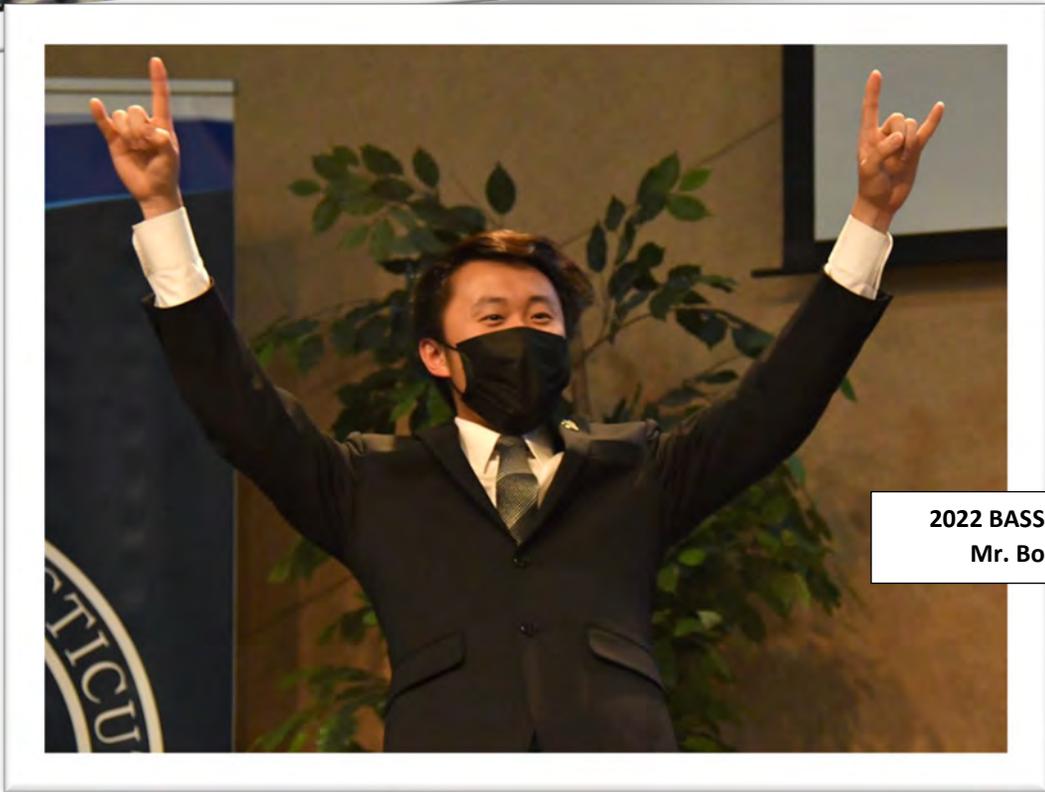
  
**BIG  
HUGS**



**CAUGHT ON CAMERA**



**2022 BASSETT SCHOLAR**  
**Mr. Javen Harris**



**2022 BASSETT SCHOLAR**  
**Mr. Bowen Zhao**

# END OF THE YEAR INITIATION AND WRAP-UP



Anas Alomari prepares wears his Brotherhood graduation shall



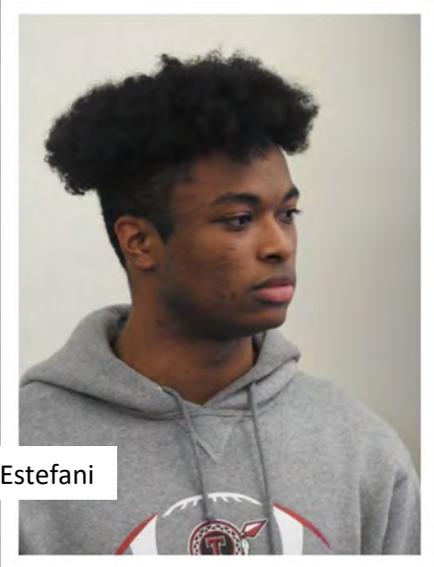
Brian Bible pins Hilberto Depena



Hilberto Depena pins Danaiyla Mendoza



Brian Bible receives the "Newbie" Award



Chis Estefani



Justin Gurekovich resights the Brotherhood 5 Virtues while Brian Bible looks on.

# WE FORGOT TO MENTION...

## DINNER AND A WORKSHOP

The Connection Men's Resource Group, RECentral, and the Brotherhood joined forces to sponsor Dinner and a Workshop. The Man-Well & Fit Dinner and a Workshop was organized as a response to questions several college men had about fitness and the creation of healthy workout plans. The workshop was held on November 8, 2021. Attendees came together for a pre-event dinner in Memorial Hall and then proceeded to the workshop, which was held in the new athletic center. Working out nor does having the greatest fitness facilities necessarily leads to physical health. The lack of knowledge about proper fitness can be very destructive and counteract an individual's effort to be healthy. Preoccupation with working out, body image issues, steroid use, improper use of exercise equipment, and other unhealthy fitness practices are serious problems encounter by college men on their quest to be physically fit. Mr. Matt Bradley from RECentral provided and informative discussion about physical health, fitness care, proper use of fitness equipment, and the development of a healthy workout routine. The Brotherhood plans to cosponsor more collaborative fitness events with RECentral.

## MANBREAK RETREAT: A QUEST FOR MANHOOD

*The ManBreak retreat provides CCSU college men with the opportunity to spend time away from the pressures of college so they can rejuvenate themselves and reflect on the men they are becoming. The Men's retreat provided participants with the opportunity to enhance themselves personally, emotionally, and professionally.*

The retreat was held on December 3, 2021. The free event was open to undergraduate and graduate male students. Due to the personal nature of several of the retreat topics, the retreat was limited to a small number of students. During the daylong event, students participated in several workshop sessions where they explored manhood, what it means to be a man, and they participated in several breakout session that helped them define the man they are becoming. The work sessions included breakfast and lunch. Participants were introduced to self-care and wellness practices, which included wellness planning, social connectedness, exercise, nutrition, sleep, and mindfulness. Special emphasis was applied to introduce participants to breathwork and relaxation strategies.



**The Brotherhood Initiative**  
**Mental Health Awareness Month**  
A HEALTHYfellows Informative Aid Sheet

*Each Mind Matters*

- Obtaining positive mental health is possible for everyone
- For 71% of students, listening to music is how they take care of their emotional health
- Walking, reading for fun, and spending time with friends are all forms of self-care
  - Self care is proven to reduce stress and anxiety levels
- Track your gratitude and achievements through journaling
- Healing takes time, allow yourself the patience to take small steps too
  - Imbalance is not a personal weakness, everyone is different, and you are not alone

For more supports  
Stop by the Student Wellness Center  
(M-F 8am - 5pm Willard DiLoreto Hall, W101),  
to learn more how you can get the help you need!



## THE BLACK GOVERNOR'S AWARD

The award was created to celebrate community spirit and the embodiment of leadership found in individuals who sacrifice and dedicate their lives for the betterment of their communities.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

**BE INSPIRED!  
ALL WELCOME!!**

**Guest Speaker: Randy Burruso**

5:00pm-6:00pm  
Campus Tour Center  
in Memorial Hall




**RANDY BURRUSO SPEAKS AT BROTHERHOOD MEETING**

Mr. Randy Burruso was the guest speaker at the November 3rd Brotherhood Initiative Meeting. Mr. Burruso spoke before a diverse group of students. Mr. Russo is a 26-year-old engineer who works on the submarines at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut. He also works as a professional actor and movie director. Mr. Burruso was invited to share his personal story of success and use it to motivate those in attendance to never give up on their life's pursuits and goals.

**BACK-DOOR ART**

In preparation for final exams, the brotherhood organized the Back-Door Art activity to promote healthy self-care practices. The December 8<sup>th</sup> event was cosponsored with Wellness Education and held in the Student Wellness Center. Students were encouraged to take a break from final exam stress by engaging in several stress relieving art activities. The drop-in activity allowed students the opportunity to paint and/or draw while listening to calming music and having a snack. Several students attended the event and stepped away from the business of final exam to gift themselves a few minutes of peace, calm, and creativity.

**TAKE A STRESS BREAK FROM FINAL EXAMS**

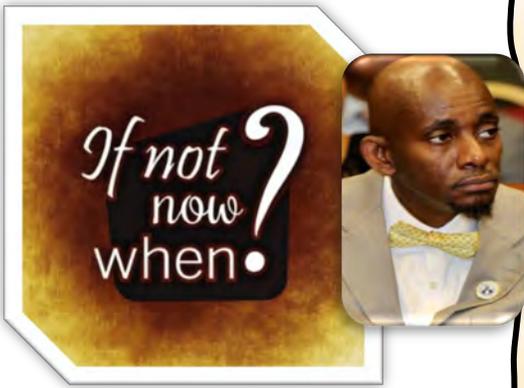


Are you stressed out preparing for your finals? Studying can easily become overwhelming. You deserve a break. Join us for stress relieving activities where you can paint or draw your stress away. Gift yourself with a few minutes of peace, calm, and creativity. This is an "open-door" event.

**Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
Wellness Education, Student Wellness Center, Willard Hall

Sponsors: Brotherhood Initiative and Wellness Education  
**We provide the canvas and you provide the creativity**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
Danaiyla Mendoza [mendoza.da@my.ccsu.edu](mailto:mendoza.da@my.ccsu.edu)

**One man in five dies before the age of 65.** Most factors effecting the mortality rate of men are preventable. Encouraging men to become more proactive and helping them adopt better health care practices must become a priority. Improving the health and wellbeing of our sons, brothers, fathers, partners, and friends is the responsibility of all of us. It's time to challenge societal perceptions that sadly accept the male body as dispensable. **If not now, when?**

## RECOMMENDED READINGS

- **Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus**  
by John Gray, Ph.D.
- **HE-MOTIONS: Even Strong Men Struggle**  
by T. D. Jakes
- **Developing Effective Programs and Services for College Men**

## ARTICLES

**The Missing Men on Campus: Can Colleges Boost Male Enrollment?**  
The Chronicle of Higher Education

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-missing-men>

**(Contact the Brotherhood for a free e-copy)**

**The Men's Center Approach to Addressing the Health Crisis of College Men**

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232559614> **The Men's Center Approach to Addressing the Health Crisis of College Men**

**8 Things Schools & Educators Can Do to Support Student Mental Health**

<https://navigate360.com/blog-news/8-things-schools-educators-can-do-to-support-students-mental-health/>



# Dear Brothers,

By Heidi Huguley



**You are smart. You are kind.  
You are resilient. You are miraculous. You are weak. You are handsome. You are bold.  
You are needed. You are welcomed. You are misunderstood. You are worthy.  
You are strong. You are everything. You are underestimated. You are human. You can persevere. You are my rock. You are loved**



**We appreciate the words and encouragement from the Sisters of the Brotherhood. Thank you for holding us accountable for being better men**



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](mailto:fothergillW@ccsu.edu)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BROTHERHOOD

[www.ccsu.edu/BROTHERHOOD/](http://www.ccsu.edu/BROTHERHOOD/)

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.



HEALTHYfellows  
Brotherhood Initiative  
Central Connecticut  
State University  
Student Wellness Center  
(860) 832 - 1639  
[fothergillW@ccsu.edu](mailto:fothergillW@ccsu.edu)

Newsletter Edition Contributing Writers

Gerti Gjini, Javen Harris,  
Cade Snow, and William Fothergill

## CHECK OUT THESE EVENTS

**CONNECTIONS MEN'S RESOURCE GROUP**  
Mondays at 5:00 pm

**BROTHERHOOD MAN\*HOUR**  
Thursdays at 6:00 -7:00 pm (biweekly)

**BACKDOOR PAINT & PLANT**  
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 (3:30 – 6:00 pm)

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEN'S HEALTH & WELLNESS FORUM**  
Thursday, November 17, 2022  
4:30-5:30 pm

**CENTER FOR AFRICANA STUDIES CONFERENCE**  
Friday, March 3, 2023