

# theLink

*[thelink.ccsu.edu](http://thelink.ccsu.edu) - log in using your Bluenet username and password for student engagement opportunities at Central*

## *In This Issue*

Hamilton Star Comes to CCSU, Virtually (p.1-2)

CPPSR BLM Writing Competition (p.2)

REC Staff Explore DiSC Workplace at retreat (p.3)

CAN hosts Nostalgic Events (p.4)

Spring Checklist for student-led clubs (p.5)

Residence Life is ready for spring (p.6)

Decoding Instagram (p.7)

STAYINvolved (p.8)

## **Student Activities & Leadership Development**

phone. 860.832.1990

virtual office. <https://tinyurl.com/y3p2udkr>

social media. @ccsusald website. [thelink.ccsu.edu](http://thelink.ccsu.edu)

Student Center 2nd Floor, Room 201

Past publications on the [Student Affairs website](#)



## **Bryan Terrell Clark presents a keynote address online**

On **February 3rd** at 9pm, Student Activities & Leadership Development is hosting an online session with Bryan Terrell Clark, known for his role as George Washington in *Hamilton*. This session will consist of a live keynote address, music from *Hamilton*, and a Q&A session where CCSU students can submit their questions in advance. If you, or any students you are in contact with, have questions for Clark about acting, Broadway, or *Hamilton*, please send them to Sarah Horrax, [shorrax@ccsu.edu](mailto:shorrax@ccsu.edu), by January 27. There is a live text-chat feature that allows students to talk to each other during the event which provides more interaction,

See how to attend on the following page.

*cont'd p.2*



# How to Attend

*Continued from p.1*

To attend the event with Bryan Terrell Clark you will have to create an account using your university @ccsu.edu email address. This email address will be sent a code, which you then use to create a password. Once this is done, your account is live and you're good to go.

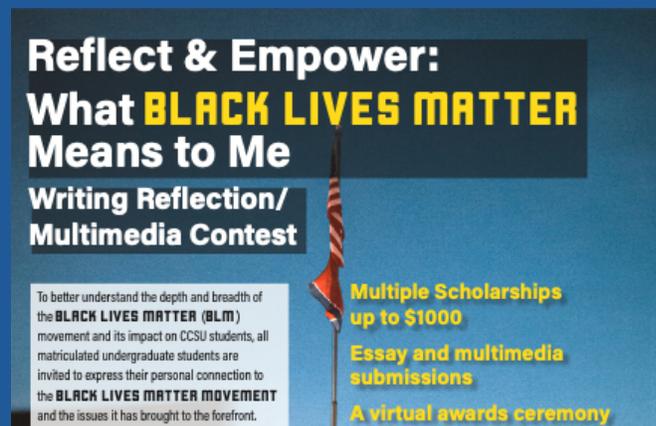
Go to LoopedLive.com or download the Looped app. Click on "My Events" on your desktop browser OR if you are using the App, sign-up starts with "Enter Email Address."

NOTE: you must register using your school ccsu.edu address. Any other email account will be blocked and you will not be able to watch the show. SA/LD will post a link to the event on [thelink.ccsu.edu](http://thelink.ccsu.edu) once the viewing room is created. This link will take you directly to the event.

## Sharing Opportunities with Students

### *BLM Writing Contest*

SA/LD has shared this wonderful CPPRS opportunity with student leaders through our online messaging system which sends an email to anyone registered as a club officer. Each club also has a Microsoft Team, which we have used to promote the writing competition to target student audiences. The Center for Public Policy and Social Research and the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair at CCSU is proud to announce an opportunity for students to participate in "Reflect and Empower: What Black Lives Matter Means to Me", a reflective writing/multimedia contest in which all matriculated undergraduate students are encouraged to express their personal connection to the movement.



Submissions will be accepted from **2/1/2021-3/1/2021**. Winning authors will be awarded scholarships up to \$1000 and will be invited to a public online awards forum. Click [HERE](#) for more details. If you currently have any questions or concerns, you may contact CPPSR Policy & Research Specialist Christian Reyes at [creyes@ccsu.edu](mailto:creyes@ccsu.edu).

# REC Staff Explore DiSC

On January 7th, 2021, the RECentral professional staff members hosted a leadership retreat with their five Graduate Assistants (GAs) to foster teamwork in preparation for the spring semester.



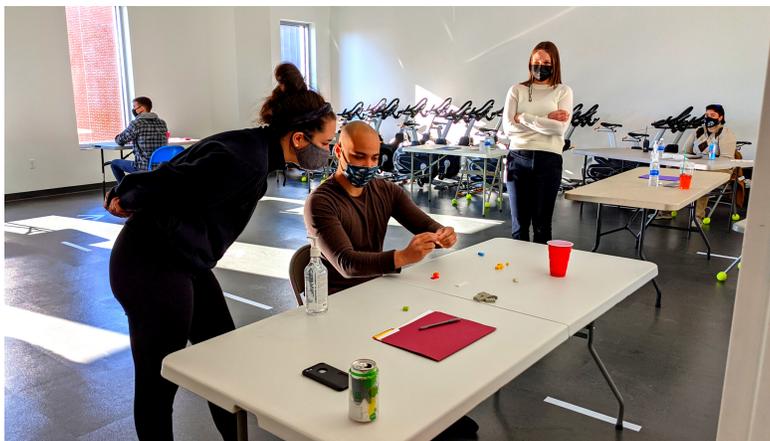
Many may not know that the RECentral staff members are active members in the National Intramural- Recreational Sports Association, more commonly known as NIRSA. Several of the Core Competencies of NIRSA relate to professional develop, leadership, and teamwork.

As such, the Graduate Assistants who work part-time in the REC Center received a unique workplace training during their retreat, known as DiSC. This model asked the GAs to take a self-assessment to evaluate their personalities and workplace behaviors, which sorted them into the following quadrants:

- D, Dominant: direct, firm, strong-willed, forceful, results-oriented
- I, Influence: outgoing, enthusiastic, optimistic, high-spirited, lively
- S, Steadiness: support, even-tempered, accommodating, patient, humble, tactful
- C, Conscientious: analytical, reserved, precise, private, systematic

The training consisted of a deep dive into each GAs DiSC report and a reflection on their interactions with others. The goal was to increase self-awareness of each person's operating style while also giving these graduate students the language to use if conflict arises.

In addition to a summary of the DiSC theory, students participated in physical challenges to test their ability to work as a team and observe their strengths. Graduate Assistant, Diana Gryzkiewicz, enjoyed that the DiSC training and said it was "incredibly helpful in helping us figure out the best and most effective way to work as a team." She stated that with the pandemic and working remotely, they've had to face challenges and figure out how to communicate effectively while working from home. "It was so interesting to see how each personality type works the most efficiently, and so useful in helping us identify our personal strengths and weaknesses," said Gryzkiewicz.



After their leadership retreat, the Campus Recreation staff is ready for Spring 2021 and feels prepared to have better "communication and build an inclusive environment" this semester, a main goal of RECentral's Recreation Specialist, Scott Kazar.

**The REC Center will be open this spring semester on Mondays - Thursdays (8am-10pm), Fridays (8am-8pm), and weekends (10am-8pm).**

# Take me Back Central Activities Network

The Central Activities Network (CAN) welcomes students back to school by inviting them to go back in time with a feeling of nostalgia.

A **Board Game Night** will take place on Tuesday, **January 26** at 6pm in Semesters. C.A.N invites students back to the new semester with a variety of their favorite board games! CAN also has giant versions of classic games. We hope students will join CAN in Student Center, though space is limited. Games can also be played online at [playingcards.io](http://playingcards.io), which includes chess and Go Fish. There will be sanitizing equipment provided.

Become an "Ice Princess" on Wednesday, **January 27** from 1pm-4pm in 7 Centuries Courtyard. Inspired by the Disney Channel Original Movie, *Ice Princess*, this event gives students the opportunity to go ice skating on artificial ice on campus.

Students are going to be encouraged to recreate photos from their youth for the **Retro Camera Contest** going on from **February 2 to February 15** on Instagram & Tik Tok. Perhaps they had a funny hairstyle in a second grade school picture that they can pull off in 2021, or their siblings were forced into matching outfits for a family photo and they want to see if they still look cute.

Prizes will be awarded to creative students for the pictures that make us LOL. Prizes include a modern take on a Polaroid camera.

Next comes the **Nostalgic Trivia Night** on Friday, **February 5** at 8pm in Semesters. Students will have to remember pop-culture moments from their childhood. What shows were on Nick at Nite? Who won the Teen Choice Award for best kiss? Students will be able to win prizes based on what they can recall!



Calling all student film makers! The next round of the **Campus Movie Fest** launches **February 3**. Start creating your masterpiece now and submit your film by **February 9** at <https://campusmoviefest.com/ccsu>. Watch your movie premiere LIVE on the virtual red carpet on February 24th.

# Take me Back To the Good Ol' Days

The CAN Court Mall will be the "Devils Den" program on Thursday, **February 11** at 6pm in Semesters. This event was initially inspired by the 80s mall experience depicted in *Stranger Things*

on Netflix. If you watched the show you may have seen the kids running around the Star Court Mall. Well, CAN is transforming Semesters into a mall, complete with slushies, pretzels, photo ops, and build-a-bear. While many students may not have been born in the 80s, they still feel nostalgia for the classic mall experience.

Be kind and come to "Blockbuster Video" on Friday, **February 19** at 6pm in Alumni Hall.

Do you remember heading to Blockbuster on Friday night to pick out a movie, candy, and some popcorn? CAN is hosting a trivia night that will make students feel like they are inside an old Blockbuster!

On Saturday, **February 13**, we are bringing the roller rink back to campus, but this time we will be serving hot soup! Tell students to bundle up and be on the lookout for more information.

# SPRING CHECKLIST

*for student-led clubs and organizations at CCSU*

## Share this to-do list with Clubs and Organizations you advise!

Each spring, clubs and organizations have many administrative tasks to complete to set them up for success for the next academic year. While the spring semester is just beginning, students need to plan ahead in order to make sure they are registered and have a budget! Here are some things they can do to be a successful organization:



### 1. REVIEW CONSTITUTION

As we meet with club leaders, we try to make sure they are aware of how to find their constitution on The Link so they can refer to it if/when conflict arises. Each club constitution includes their mission, which is important to review with club members in order to be clear about the club's role at the university. When impeachment conversations arise, many students don't realize that their constitution includes the framework to move forward with leadership changes.

### 2. HOST ELECTIONS

This relates to number 1 on the to-do list. Club constitutions outline the procedures for hosting elections. Sometimes, this involves a very specific timeline, which may start as early as February. SA/LD can help clubs set up online elections through their page on The Link. This allows for the club to manage their roster and ensure only active club members participate in the election. We hope students elect their officers in **April**, prior to final exams.

### 3. BASE BUDGETS

The SGA Treasurer, Nicole Elsinger, will be reaching out to students about the base budget process. Club officers will be asked to update their roster and brainstorm activities for the following academic year. Next they will sign up for an online presentation day/time, create a base budget presentation, and submit all materials to the SGA. Students then present their proposed budget to the SGA Finance Committee. Elsinger says they handle base budget deliberations all at once to eliminate bias as much as possible. Budgets will be released in **May 2021**.

### 4. RE-REGISTER

After club's host their elections, they should re-register their organization. This process includes confirming a faculty advisor. You may have clubs reach out to see if you are able and willing to be their faculty advisor. Many clubs were not as active in the fall due to the pandemic, therefore SA/LD needs your help getting the word out about registration in **March**, with the goal of having all clubs re-registered by the end of the semester.

### 5. SPRING CLUB FAIR

The Spring Club Fair is tentatively scheduled for **April 21** at 10am. What? The fair is at the end of the semester? Yes!

We are hoping it will be more of a celebration and a way to see what CCSU has been able to overcome this year. We want our vibrant co-curricular community on display. The goal is to have a socially distant fair on campus, possibly with food and prizes. Please be sure to save this date and bring your PPE.

### 6. AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each spring, the Student Union Board of Governors asks the community to submit nominations for clubs, leaders, and programs that made an impact on the CCSU community for the academic year. Online nominations are submitted through [thelink.ccsu.edu](http://thelink.ccsu.edu) with Bluenet credentials. Nominations are typically due in **April**, so keep your eyes peeled for more!



# RESIDENCE LIFE CORNER



## Live it up by living with us! @CCSURESLIFE

The Department of Residence Life is excited to have our Resident Assistant (RA) staff and resident students back in our buildings for the Spring 2021 semester.



The Resident Assistant staff successfully moved in the majority of our resident student population in one day with the support of our professional staff and our campus partners. We are deeply grateful for everything our RA students do for the department and our residents. They will continue to engage their peers with creative programming both virtually and on-ground; all while continuing their dedication to the health and safety of our on-campus community. #CCSUMasksUp

In preparation for the Spring 2021 semester, Residence Life planned a variety of online and on-ground programs for our students to build connection and engagement. Programs occurring during the first two weeks on-campus includes such activities as a virtual trivia night after a themed dinner in Memorial Hall on **1/22** and an outdoors ice skating rink on **1/23**.

Our entire opening program line-up is available on our CCSU webpage <https://www.ccsu.edu/reslife/> which includes our collaborations with Student Activities (SALD) and other venues taking place with Student Affairs and our other campus partners. Speaking of collaborations: Calling all our Academic Affairs colleagues! We welcome you to contact us if you would like to share one of your exciting, engaging programs, venues, or talks with our Residence Life students. To do so, please contact us at [reslife@ccsu.edu](mailto:reslife@ccsu.edu) to discuss.

For the most up to date information regarding Residence Life programming throughout the semester please follow our Instagram at @CCSUREslife. The Residence Halls and the Inter Residence Council each have their own Instagram accounts to follow as well. Pop in and support our resident student community.

## Meeting students where they are - on Instagram

Instagram is a highly visual social media platform whose mission is “to capture and share the world’s moments.” While it now falls under the Facebook umbrella of platforms, there are some unique features that differentiate Instagram from other forms of social media. Students enjoy being able to curate posts that fit an aesthetic and live on their page, while also sharing their day-to-day stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Instagram does not allow links to be posted in captions, and you are only allowed one link in the biography section. Many organizations are using a website called Link Tree to be able to share more than one link on their page. It is essentially a link to a menu of links. “You can find the link to our event in our bio,” is a common phrase we hear in SA/LD. To translate, this means that on the club’s Instagram account, they have included a link to their online event in the biography section of their page.

Here are some terms to help us out:

**Instagram abbreviations:** If you overhear a student say “do it for the gram,” what they are really saying is that they are capturing something on camera because they think it will be popular on social media. Instagram is also sometimes referred to as Insta or IG.

**Instagram handle:** this is the account name for each Instagram user. Asking someone for their handle will help you find them on Instagram, as many people use an alias.

**Post:** posts live on a person’s account, and are generally a square-shaped image. They remain on the page unless deleted.

**Likes:** On Instagram, as with Facebook, you can like a post. Unlike Facebook, there is only the option to like the post with a heart, no other emotions or “emojis”.

**Comment:** You can comment on someone’s Instagram post. With some of our Instagram contests, we ask that students comment on a post to be entered to win the contest. This is particularly important for the SA/LD Let’s Talk Tuesday weekly Instagram program.

**Tag:** you can notify others within the comment section of the post or the post itself by typing “@” and then including their Instagram handle. Clubs will often tag other clubs in a post if they think it is something they would like to be included in. For example, the Political Science Club might tag the History Club in a post about upcoming debates.

**Stories:** a story only lives on someone’s page for 24 hours. If a person has a rainbow circle around their profile picture, it means they have updated their stories. You can click on their profile picture to watch their stories. You can also share other people’s posts to your story. Stories are becoming more dynamic, where you can add polls, music, countdowns, and other interactive features.

**Highlights:** Student organizations are also creating “highlights” where they can archive past stories. This allows new students or those interested in the club to see what events and activities have happened in the past. Highlights appear as labeled circles on the Instagram page, above the grid of posts.

*follow sa/ld on IG: [@ccsusald](#), or the [LinkTree](#)*

# STAY INVOLVED

## Central Connecticut State University



With resident students coming back to campus for testing and distancing a week before classes, the university came together to provide educational, wellness, and entertaining events for students. The goal was to encourage student to stay in and quarantine while also being involved in the campus community.



With this in mind, SA/LD Program Advisor, Kaylee Roux, and graphic designer, Connor Youmans, developed a campaign and logo for the week of events called STAYInvolved (see the logo at the top of the page).



Men's and Women's Basketball Games were shared on the event calendar, as these games can be viewed on the NEC Front Row website. The Swimming and Diving team also competed at Sacred Heart University on Saturday, **January 23**.



In addition to watching Blue Devil athletes compete, RECentral hosted a series of online fitness classes that students could participate in, even in the confines of their residence hall rooms. With holistic wellness in mind, RECentral is hosting a book club to talk about *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (**January 26** at 6:30pm).



We are also thankful for the Career Success Center for being on hand to assist with students' career development. On Tuesday and Thursday at 4pm, PJ Rossitto was available to talk about resumes, interview skills, and other career resources offered at CCSU.



One creative and new addition to the online event forum was a program called Truth or Laughs, a combined comedy and trivia show. Students logged online to watch each comedian host a live stand-up set based on true stories, but with some embellishments.

At the end of each set, students played a true or false game on their phones to determine which elements of the standup show really happened to the comedian. The quicker the students answered correctly, the more points they earned. Students won gift cards for their trivia answers and for their participating in on-screen challenges.

Student-led organizations hosted meetings and events throughout the week. The WFCS Radio Station hosted a recruitment meeting for those interested in being DJs, while The Recorder newspaper hosted an introductory meeting for new members. The Pride Club held a meeting that turned into an "Among Us" smartphone game tournament.

To the left you will see images submitted by students throughout the week as part of a series of photo challenges. On Friday, **January 22**, students on campus were encouraged to pick up a "flat-Kizer" from the dining hall and take pictures with them. We also asked students to show off their pets, plants, and room decor.

On Sunday, **January 24**, SA/LD introduced the interim VP of Student Affairs, Dr. Tully through a this-or-that video on Tik Tok.