



# CENTRAL

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | CAREER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM



# COLLEGE TO CAREER SUMMIT

AUGUST 22-24, 2023



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WELCOME TO THE

**2023**

# COLLEGE TO CAREER SUMMIT

held at

**Central Connecticut State University**



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**TRAVELERS** 



| NAME  | COMPANY                                 | EMAIL                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Michael (Dr. G) Gendron<br><i>Coordinator</i> | Central Connecticut<br>State University | gendronm@ccsu.edu<br>860.832.3293 |

**If you have any question during the Summit, Call Dr. G**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Central extends our heartfelt appreciation to the Summit Organizing Committee, whose unwavering dedication and meticulous planning made this summit possible. Their exceptional organizational skills, passion, and teamwork ensured the resounding success of this event. From coordinating logistics to curating insightful discussions, their professionalism and attention to detail shone through every aspect. We are immensely grateful for their tireless efforts, which provided an invaluable platform for learning, networking, and collaboration. This summit will leave a lasting impact, thanks to the solid foundation laid by this committee. Our sincerest thanks and congratulations for a job well done go to this exceptional committee.

| NAME  | COMPANY  | EMAIL                        |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| Beth Merenstein<br><i>AVP Community Engagement</i>                        | Central Connecticut State University                                   | merensteinb@ccsu.edu         |
| Cheryl R. Constantine   | Travelers Insurance  | crconsta@travelers.com       |
| Dana A. Wilkie  | Central Connecticut State University                                   | dwilkie@ccsu.edu             |
| Martin J. Geitz   | Central Connecticut State University                                   | geitz.m@ccsu.edu             |
| Heather Hokunson<br><i>Program officer–Scholarships</i>                   | American Savings Foundation  | hhokunson@asfdn.org          |
| George Hermann  | Windsor Federal  | ghermann@windsorfederal.com  |
| Jamie Roshka  | Travelers Insurance  | jroshka@travelers.com        |
| Jason Newman<br><i>CPA Partner, Assurance Practice Leader–New England</i> | Cohn Reznick LLP   | jason.newman@cohnreznick.com |
| Kelli-Marie Vallieres   | State of CT Governor’s Workforce Council, Office of Workforce Strategy | kelli-marie.vallieres@ct.gov |
| Laura Marchese  | Central Connecticut State University                                   | marcheselav@ccsu.edu         |
| Richard Leone   | Central Connecticut State University                                   | rleone@ccsu.edu              |
| Lisa Frank<br><i>Dean, School of Business</i>                             | Central Connecticut State University                                   | franklic@ccsu.edu            |
| Maria Falvo<br><i>President &amp; CEO</i>                                 | American Savings Foundation  | mfalvo@asfdn.org             |
| Mark Turek  | The Hartford   | mark.turek@thehartford.com   |
| Michael D. Nicastro<br><i>Principal and CEO</i>                           | Coppermine Advisors  | michael.nicstro@ccsu.edu     |
| Susan Winkler   | Metro Hartford Alliance  | swinkler@metrohartford.com   |



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# Summit Campus Locations

## **CAMPUS ADDRESS**

Central Connecticut State University (Central)  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06050

### **Willard-DiLoreto Hall**

Location of conference/panels  
*Room = D121*

### **R.C. Vance Academic Center**

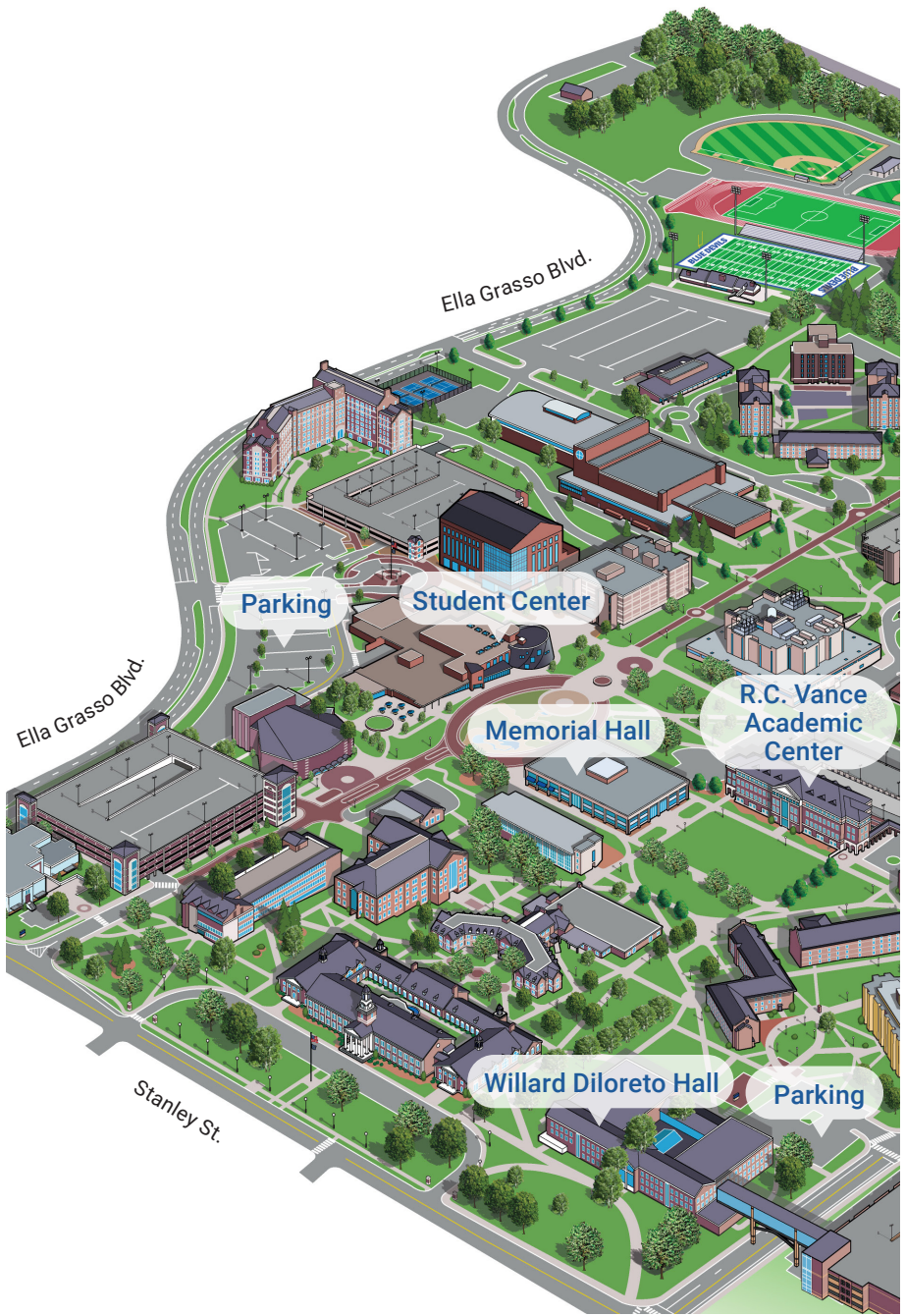
Location of Post-Summit Session  
*Room = RVAC003*

### **Memorial Hall**

Location of Lunches & Networking Session  
*Room = SE Dining Hall*

**FREE PARKING NEXT TO THE STUDENT CENTER &  
WILLARD-DILORETO LOT**





# 2023 COLLEGE TO CAREERS SUMMIT PROGRAM

## Tuesday, August 22

**9:30–10:30 AM | KEYNOTE: Insurance, a Field of Opportunity**

**Michael Klein**, *Executive Vice President/President Personal Insurance, Travelers*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Discover and learn about the wide-ranging career opportunities in the insurance industry, including some you might expect, and others you might not.



**10:30–11:15 AM | Insurance Employment Opportunities**

**Lee Chamberlin**, *CPCU–Travelers*; **Cheryl Constantine**, *CPCU–Travelers*;  
**Noreen Kuziak**, *CPCU–Munich Re Specialty Insurance*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Attendees will learn about the Institutes/CPCU Society and the educational opportunities (Designation Programs) that support different types of jobs within the insurance industry.

Q&A throughout and at the end.



**11:15 AM–12:15 PM | Insurance & Insurtech Capital of the World**

Susan Winkler, *Metro Hartford Alliance*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Connecticut is the Insurance Capital of the U.S. and is a global leader in Insurtech. What are the strengths of the insurance industry in our state, and what does that mean for jobs now and in the future? Is the insurance industry keeping up with the pace of innovation and change when more of us demand digital and faster e-everything? What are the new and emerging risks that keep insurance leaders' razor-focused on innovation and create new jobs?

Connecticut's insurance industry drives towards AI, IoT, blockchain, and other insurtech technologies. These global companies are creating new jobs that require new thinking, digital skills, and an understanding of what's next. Are you ready?



**12:15–1:30 PM | Lunch**

*Memorial Hall, SE Dining Room*

Lunch sponsored by Windsor Federal



**Windsor Federal**

## 2–3 PM | College to Career

**Jamie Roshka**, *Travelers*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Providing a presentation on making the transition from college to career. We will cover personal branding, what to do on your first day, first week & first year, and how to build relationships.



## Wednesday, August 23

### 9:30–10:30 AM | KEYNOTE

**Jason Newman**, *Partner, Assurance Practice Leader–New England,*  
*CohnReznick LLP*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Attendees will learn about the various career paths in accounting (public, private, governmental) and the overall requirements to become a CPA in CT. Jason will also lead a discussion of the general business environment and his path from Central student to Partner and Assurance Practice Leader in New England.

Jason is a partner at CohnReznick and has more than 26 years of public accounting experience in areas including auditing and strategic business planning. He co-leads the efforts of CohnReznick's Employee Benefit Plan practice in New England, where he performs audits of defined contribution and defined benefit plans.



**10:30–11:15 AM | Benefits to Engaging in the Community**

**Beth Merenstein & Christian Reyes**, *Center for Community Engagement and Social Research, Central Connecticut State University*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

This presentation will share how students can get involved in the larger community and how it can be a mutually beneficial relationship. We will also share ways for students to document their extra/co-curricular activities and benefits.



**11:15 AM–12:15 PM | Non-Profit Career-Panel Discussion**

*Moderator: Heather Hokunson, American Savings Foundation; Bob Burns, Museum Director, Mattatuck Museum; Dr. Marlo Greponne, Executive Director, HRA of New Britain; Hollie Randall, Social Media & Marketing Communications Manager, Hospital for Special Care*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

With a large number of non-profits in Connecticut, there is a vast variety of career opportunities for students to explore. This panel will discuss the wide range of career opportunities in our communities and how internships and volunteering can help to explore these options.



**2:15–1:30 PM | Network Lunch**

*Memorial Hall, SE Dining Room*

Networking Lunch Sponsored by Travelers & CohnReznick

Industry Attendees:

- Central’s Career Development Office
- Travelers
- CPCU
- Central’s Graduate Office & MBA Program
- The Hartford
- CohnReznick
- Northwestern Mutual Pizzuti Group
- Central’s Center for Community Engagement
- American Savings Foundation



## 2–3 PM | Resume Writing

**Brittany Galko**, *CohnReznick*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Join CohnReznick’s CT Campus Recruiter, Brittany Galko, for an informative and interactive session on career readiness. We will discuss tips and tricks for building your resume, nailing your first interview, connecting with professionals on LinkedIn, and business etiquette. You will feel prepared to take on the professional world when you leave this session!



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## Thursday, August 24

### 9:30–10:30 AM | KEYNOTE: The Future of Work and Resources to Prepare

**Kelli-Marie Vallieres**, *State of Connecticut*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Dr. Vallieres is Connecticut’s Chief Workforce Officer at the Office of Workforce Strategy, a new state agency leading the advancement of a cohesive workforce development ecosystem and serves as vice-chair of the Governor’s Workforce Council. She will join us today to share perspectives on the future of work, the skills needed to succeed, and resources available to you as you work to launch your career.



**10:30–11:15 AM | Discover Your Career Path:  
Steps to Success (Recent College Alumni Panel)**

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D12*

This panel invites current undergraduate students to learn from recent graduates who have successfully navigated their career journey. This diverse panel of industry professionals will each share a 3 to 5 minute narrative of their journey from classroom to career, discussing the essential steps, decisions, and strategies that propelled their transition from students to working professionals. These narratives will delve into the practicalities of job hunting, interviews, networking, internships, and more, designed to help you make informed career choices. Following these insightful stories, the panel will be opened up for a live Q&A session, allowing you to engage directly with the panelists and seek personalized advice. Attend this event to gain a clearer perspective on your career trajectory, avoid common pitfalls, and discover effective strategies to jump-start your career.





**11:15 AM–12:15 PM | Internships and Such**

**Mark Turek**, *The Hartford*

*Willard-DiLoreto Hall, D121*

Join The Hartford for an immersive session on personal branding and interview preparation and execution. During this session, students will have the opportunity to hear insights from a seasoned college recruitment leader. Topics will focus on the ins and outs of interviewing, developing your personal brand on applications like LinkedIn and Handshake, networking hacks, and more. This session will also tie in subject matter covered by previous speakers over the course 3-day Business Summit.



**12:15–1:30 PM | Lunch\***

*Memorial Hall, SE Dining Room*

Lunch sponsored by Central Connecticut State University.

\*By reservation: please email [gendronm@ccsu.edu](mailto:gendronm@ccsu.edu)



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## **2–3 PM | Post Summit Session - Central’s Career Development Office\*\***

**PJ Rossitto**, *Central Connecticut State University*

*R.C. Vance Academic Center, 003*

\*\* Reservation required: email [gendronm@ccsu.edu](mailto:gendronm@ccsu.edu)

PJ joins us today with members of his team to introduce students to the services available at the Central’s Office of Career Development and to assist students with registration and use of the premier software platform for searching for Jobs and Internships called Handshake.

PJ is an experienced university Director at the Office of Career Development working at Central Connecticut State University with a demonstrated professional history of working in the higher education industry. Skilled in student development, team management, career coaching, recruiting, social media, training, academic advising, and employer relations. Strong student centered and social services professional with a bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Southern Connecticut State University and a Master of Science focused on Organizational Management from Eastern Connecticut State University.



# THANK YOU

Thank you for taking part in our exhilarating and enlightening Summit! We trust you have gathered invaluable insights for securing an internship and launching your career successfully.

Remember, you are not alone in this journey!

## OFFICE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT CENTRAL

careers@ccsu.edu

860.832.1615

ccsu.edu/cdo

Furthermore, I am personally committed to providing any assistance you need. Don't hesitate to reach out to me:

## MICHAEL (DR.G) GENDRON

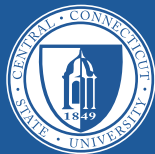
gendronm@ccsu.edu

860.832.3293

Our speakers, too, are valuable resources—you'll find many of their contact details in the program book.

Here's to you, the brave career hunters, and massive congratulations on taking this monumental step by attending the summit. Happy hunting, and remember—the future is yours for the taking!

—Dr. G



**Central Connecticut State University**

**School of Business**

1615 Stanley Street

R.C. Vance Academic Center

New Britain, CT 06050

860.832.3205

[ccsu.edu/business](https://ccsu.edu/business)