

Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter



October 2022

Upcoming Events in November:

10/17-12/1- Reflect & Preserve: What Climate Change Means to Me, Writing Multimedia Contest

11/10, 11/18- CCSU School of Business, Junior Achievement Days

11/11- Faculty Workshop, "Focus on Community Engagement"

11/12- Community Action Poverty Simulation

11/17- Empty Bowls Event

For detailed information, visit our website!

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



CCESR Events that happened this past month...

On Saturday, October 8th, CCESR attended the New Britain Main Street fair, a street-style festival in downtown NB, to connect with community members and organizations and raise awareness on the types of partnerships that can be created.

On Tuesday, October 11th, CCESR set up shop at CCSU's Career Fair. Whether students are looking for an internship, volunteer placement or research opportunity, CCESR can guide them in the right direction.

On Thursday, October 13th, CCESR honored William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair Holder, Donald DeFronzo, for his extensive career in public service. While Don is preparing to end his 6-year tenure as chairholder, his contributions have made a lasting mark on the city of NB and state of CT.

On Friday, October 14th, CCESR's Beth Merenstein hosted a workshop for faculty, "Incorporating experiential learning opportunities into the classroom". The session is available to view on CCESR's webpage. Join us for the next workshop on Nov. 11th, "Focus on Community Engagement". To view the workshop or learn more information, visit: <https://www.ccsu.edu/communityEngagement/faculty/resources-workshops.html>

On Thursday, October 20th, CCESR collaborated with First Year Experience on the event, "Reduce, Reuse, REGISTER: Combatting Climate Change through Civic Engagement". Students were able to discuss the importance of voting, and the impact it can have on climate justice. The League of Women Voters and Indivisible Connecticut had tables around campus for students to register to vote.

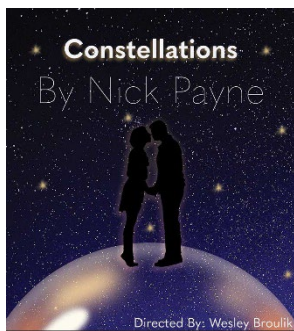
On Friday, October 21st, CCESR attended New Life's Winter Gear & Coats distribution. CCESR, in collaboration with CCSU's ISCJ, donated jackets and administered surveys for the "Amplifying Neighborhood Voices: Community Perceptions of Public Safety" project.

On Monday, October 31st, CCESR had a table at the New Britain Halloween Trick or Treat Safe Zone to hand out candy for Halloween in a pedestrian-safe environment.

On Saturday, October 15th, CCESR participated in New Britain Fire Safety Day. The event was an opportunity for the Fire Department to provide the community with demonstrations and information on fire safety, while offering an afternoon of fun for the whole family. CCESR had a rock painting booth which was a hit!



Community Engagement Around Campus...



Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

CCSU's Theatre Department invites high school students to Friday matinees of their mainstage shows. On Friday, October 14th, students from Middletown High School came to see the show, "Constellations", and participate in a "talkback" with the cast and crew members. In addition, Professor Christie Maturo has been offering auditions workshops and visits to high school drama programs. Professor Maturo and several CCSU students recently visited Bristol Central High School.

School of Business

Professor Drew Harris is currently teaching ENT/MGT 355, Managing a Growing Business, which provides students hands-on experience working with organizations seeking to expand their businesses. One current collaboration is with the CT Startup Podcast, founded and produced by two CCSU Alumni, Eric Francis and Chris DeMorro. The podcast has been growing into a content studio for the entrepreneurial ecosystem in CT, becoming the voice of start-ups in CT. Students in Prof. Harris's class are helping identify and book guests for episodes, will participate in production, editing, distribution and promotion. The project goal is to have six months' worth of episodes booked or produced and momentum to acquire sponsorships and grants to sustain the business. To learn more about the podcast, visit, <https://ctstartup.com/>



School of Education & Professional Studies

NextGen Educators is an initiative that began during the pandemic and is run by the CT State Department of Education and CCSU. The initiative works to bring highly motivated CCSU education students to public school classrooms providing hands-on experience and mentorship while assisting district needs. Unlike student teaching, these positions do not count towards field experience requirements but do provide paid opportunities to gain additional experience and build their professional networks earlier.



School of Engineering, Science & Technology

SEST faculty, Dr. Chad Williams and Dr. Mahdiah Zabihimayvan, are actively mentoring several Farmington High School students' research experiences. The students were connected to CCSU after the department ran the GenCyber cybersecurity camp this summer with a National Security Agency (NSA) and NSF GenCyber grant. Dr. Zabihimayvan is working with one student on her senior capstone project, and Dr. Williams is mentoring a group of students on machine learning and data mining related to cybersecurity intrusion detection. After attending the GenCyber camp, two of those high school students created a Cybersecurity Club that now has 50 student members. The club works with the CS and CEGT department and CCSU's Cyber security Club to organize various events and activities.



Athletics

The CCSU football team hosted The Beautiful Lives Project which gives people with disabilities the opportunity to actively participate in activities and events that may not have been available to them previously due to physical or facility limitations. The CCSU student athletes and members of BLP enjoyed a perfect New England Fall Day while participating in football training, drills, and team bonding. The group then tailgated at the football game on October 22nd and took part in pregame activities.

