



# Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter

## Upcoming Events:

[4/3- 16th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium](#)

[4/10- The Poetry of Social Justice](#)

[4/13-4/15- Squid Game and Beyond Conference](#)

[4/17-4/22- Earth Week at CCSU](#) (See Next Page for More Details)

[4/29- Hoops for Homeless](#)

[4/29- Accepted Students Day](#)

Click on the event titles for more information!



MARCH 2023 EDITION



## EVENTS FROM THIS PAST MONTH

On March 2nd, the CCESR team participated in the United Way's Read Across America Day. CCESR staff along with CCSU students, faculty, staff, and other community members traveled to different elementary schools in New Britain and read "Hair Love" to several classrooms.

On March 8th, CCESR celebrated International Women's Day by attending the Women's History Month Luncheon put together by the Department of Communications & Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies here at CCSU. Tracey Heather Strain (Wesleyan) shared part of her film, "Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space" which was then followed by a stimulating Q&A led by Dr. Evelyn Phillips (CCSU).

On March 21st, CCESR held its first CCSU Community Engagement Advisory Board meeting. The purpose of the board is to strengthen our relationship with the larger community while gaining valuable knowledge, expertise, and guidance from community leaders. Members are from various community organizations including, GNB Community Foundation, CMHA, NB Chamber of Commerce, OIC, the Friendship Center, YWCA, the North-Oak Community, New Life II, the NB Mayor's Office, NB Downtown District, and the CCSU academic schools.



## REFLECT & PRESERVE: WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS TO ME CONTEST WINNERS

**Reflect & Preserve:**  
**What Climate Change Means to Me**  
Reflective Writing/Multimedia Contest

- Win scholarships from **\$250 to \$2,500!**
- Entries may be video, visual art, audio/music, or fully written submissions (including but not limited to essays, poems, painting, photographs, etc.)
- Submission window opens on **Monday, October 17th** and closes **Thursday, December 1st**
- Top winners present at the 2023 GESAC Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium

Scan QR Code for full contest guidelines, or visit [www.ccsu.edu/communityengagement](http://www.ccsu.edu/communityengagement)

Questions/Concerns? Contact Christian Reyes, Program Assistant for the Center for Community Engagement and Social Research at: [communityengagement@ccsu.edu](mailto:communityengagement@ccsu.edu) 860-832-2977

During the 2022-2023 academic year, CCESR sponsored a writing/multimedia contest, Reflect & Preserve: What Climate Change Means to Me. This contest presented students an opportunity to discuss the issue of climate change to bring a personal perspective to a global crisis. Winners were announced this month, and CCESR awarded a total of \$10,500 (up to \$2,500 each) to student participants! Congratulations to our winning submissions' authors:

- "Photo Ark Meets the Lawns" by Michelle Carrasquillo
- "We Are Failing Our Planet" by Chloe Zito
- "Blockbuster Temperatures" by Samantha Jones
- "The Sooner We Start, The Better It Is" by Areesha Waseem
- "Our near future" by Ty Pales
- "Ecostrike Photograph" by Agatha Hueller
- "Climate Change Submission" by Sofia Thalheimer

Four of our contest winners will be presenting at GESAC's Annual Sustainability Symposium on April 3rd, 2023 in Alumni Hall! Click here for more details on the symposium. We hope to see you there!



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING STIPEND (CEELS)

CCESR is excited to announce our newest initiative, the Community Engagement Experiential Learning Stipend (CEELS)! Our Center encourages all students to engage in experiential learning opportunities, but understands that not everyone has the financial resources available to take on unpaid roles. As a result, **we are offering stipends for students who are in an unpaid internship or doing unpaid work in a research setting.**

Eligible students can apply and would receive \$18/hour with a maximum of \$3,000 (this averages to 20hrs/week for an 8-week program). To learn more, [click here!](#)



## EARTH WEEK AT CCSU: APRIL 17TH-22ND, 2023



CCESR has collaborated with different departments and community organizations to put together various events and service activities related to sustainability.

- **Terrarium Building at Smalley Elementary School** - Tuesday, April 18th from 1:30pm-2:30pm (sign-up to volunteer)
- **From the Ground Up: Grassroots Movement for Climate Justice Panel Discussion** - Wednesday, April 19th from 4:45pm-6:30pm
- **'We are still here': a roundtable discussion with local Indigenous communities** - Thursday, April 20th from 3:00pm-4:30pm
- **Cactus Potting/Painting and Outdoor Movie Night** - Thursday, April 20th from 6:30pm-7:15pm
- **2023 CT Youth Advocacy Day** - Friday, April 21st from 8:30am-3:00pm
- **North Oak Neighborhood Clean-Up** - Saturday, April 22nd, starting at 10:30am (sign-up to volunteer)
- **FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS AND FOR VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP, [CLICK HERE](#)**

# Community Engagement Around Campus

## CAROL A. AMMON COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

On March 31st, Andrea June and Carrie Andreolotti, CCSU Professors from the Psychological Science Department, participated in "Livability 2023: Our Aging Landscape". The virtual conference was held by AARP Connecticut and Masonicare, a not-for-profit integrated senior care continuum, along with various other Universities and agencies. The event included a number of presentations and workshops with Prof. June and Prof. Andreolotti presenting on "The Work of an Age-Friendly University". During their segment, they highlighted some of the great intergenerational and community engagement work CCSU has done around aging.



Masonicare

★ An Ageless Commitment to Caring



CFA Society  
Hartford

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

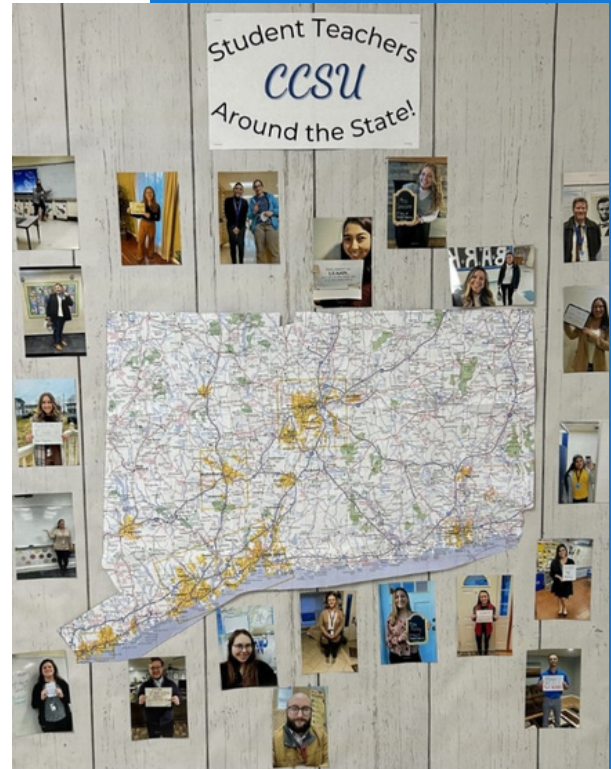
The CFA Global Research Challenge is a worldwide stock research competition hosted by the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) society each year. The participating student teams need to conduct an equity analysis of a public company, specified by the CFA Society. The activities include conducting detailed financial analysis on the company, making investor conference calls with the company's CFO, building valuation models, writing a professional analyst research report, and presenting the final recommendation on the company's stock to a panel of expert judges.

This year, 15 teams from 11 universities (including Yale) joined the local competition hosted by the Hartford CFA society. Out of the two CCSU teams participating, one made it to the finalists round (top four). The students in the finalist team were: Hyun Kang, Nathaniel Chandler, Mia Servidone, and Lucas Roosli, who are all senior students with finance major. [Click here](#) for more information.

# Community Engagement Around Campus

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

This Spring 2023 semester, the SEPS Office of School and Community Partnerships placed 90 student teacher candidates with 115 cooperating teachers in 41 districts across Connecticut. Our well-prepared candidates are meeting the challenges that developing teachers experience with determination and a passion for students and learning! In the coming weeks, we will welcome our district partners to Barnard Hall to serve on interview panels for Fall 2023 student teachers. During these interviews, district teachers and administrators join CCSU faculty and the Dean's Office to engage with our candidates in a formative interview process. We appreciate the role that our partners play in preparing our amazing candidates for the classroom!



## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE, & TECHNOLOGY

A number of professors from SEST are involved in **The DEEP STEM Program** (DEEP- Discover, Enjoy, Explore, and Practice; STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The extracurricular program is designed to excite high school students about careers in STEM. It is a year long program consisting of five events in which students have the opportunity to connect with CCSU STEM faculty and students by participating in various academic, hands-on activities and events.

On March 11th, Dr. Smith and Dr. Broderick were involved in the event, "Life of Early Earth". The workshop allowed students to learn about and observe organisms that thrive in extreme mimicking conditions present billions of years ago. They then investigated how those microorganisms could be applied towards green energy production through the creation of mud batteries.



# Community Engagement Cont.

## ATHLETICS

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX, CCSU honored and recognized 10 Title IX Trailblazers at the women's basketball game on March 2nd. Each honoree has made outstanding contributions to positively impact the lives and well-being of people in their communities in one or more of the following areas: Social justice, activism, and advocacy; community service and community building; scholarly research, writing, speaking, and teaching; education; business; social services; and government.

Each of the women listed below is either an alumna of CCSU; a present or former faculty member; or a present or former staff member of the University. Several of the honorees are former student-athletes for the Blue Devils.

### CCSU'S TITLE IX TRAILBLAZERS:

1970s - Justice Carmen Espinosa, Dr. Jannette Carey

1980s - Awilda Saavedra Reasco, Dr. Kathleen Pirog

1990s - Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin, Amy Strickland

2000s - Kristin Kropp, Dr. Katelyn Ferranti

2010s - Sherise Truman, Marissa Quesnel



## COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

**OIC of New Britain** is a nonprofit organization that works to empower and assist youth with barriers to self-sufficiency through job training and career development programs.

OIC is currently working with CCSU on multiple projects. The Chemistry department is involved in OIC's STEMLinx program, which provides students ages 14-21 an opportunity to pursue and build their knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math.

In addition, Dr. Sarah Miller, CCSU Chemistry Professor, is working with OIC on a hands-on demo experiment that would involve OIC's MMSA Step-Up Program youth in April 2023. The program is designed for 8th graders transitioning to H.S. and follows them through grade 12. Upperclassmen participate in Career Competency Skill development (interviewing, internships, job shadowing, etc.). The collaboration will also involve a CCSU tour to OIC's Men of Many Colors H.S. program.

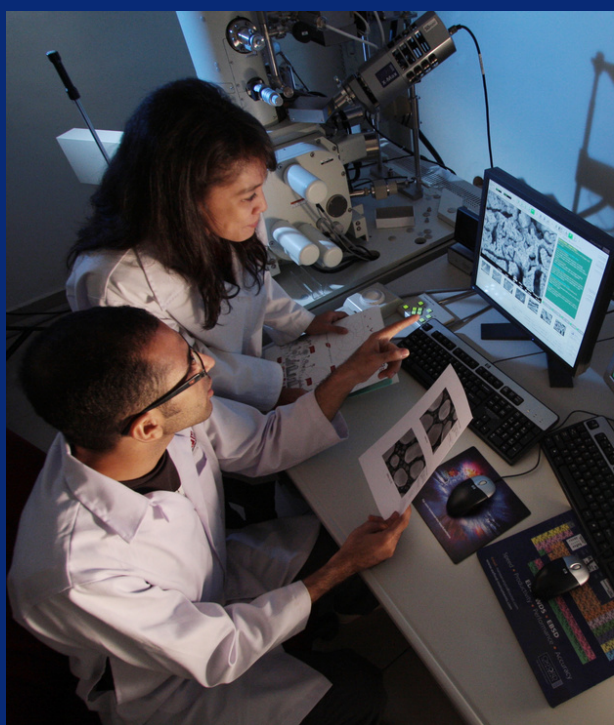


# CCESR Faculty Resources

## SERVICES OFFERED

CCESR is committed to increasing Community Engagement (CE) and research opportunities for students, faculty, and the surrounding area. Our Center can help in a number of ways including, but not limited to:

- Help you create community engagement courses.
- Find and develop community partners.
- Integrate a service-learning component into your class.
- Locate internship, volunteer, and engagement opportunities for your students.
- Find grant opportunities for your research interests that connect with the community.
- Support applied community-based research projects.
- Provide resources, support, and funding for events and activities you would like to host on campus.
- For more information on funding opportunities click [here](#) or submit a [funding request](#).



## JOIN OUR FACULTY RESEARCH LIST

The Center provides affordable, state-of-the-art research, analysis, and consulting services to enhance the quality and delivery of public and non-profit services in CT. Not only can we assist you in your own research projects, but community partners often contact us willing to pay faculty members to help with their research projects.

If you would like to be informed of these research opportunities, email Beth Merenstein at [merensteinb@ccsu.edu](mailto:merensteinb@ccsu.edu)



## collaboratory®

Collaboratory is a searchable, online database that collects information about these activities to help us understand the extent of CCSU's engagement in and with community.

If you were involved in the planning and implementation of a community engagement or public service event, program, or course, fill out this brief **Microsoft Form** to have it added to **Collaboratory** or find more info on our **website**.

For questions, contact Victoria Richards, at **[vrichards@ccsu.edu](mailto:vrichards@ccsu.edu)**.



## CONTACT OUR TEAM

If you would like to promote a community engagement or research project in our newsletter, contact MacKenzie Gould (see below). For other information on how CCESR can assist you, see our contact info below or visit our **website!**

- Executive Director, Beth Merenstein, [merenstein@ccsu.edu](mailto:merenstein@ccsu.edu)
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