



Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Faculty Newsletter



OCTOBER EDITION



Central Community!

Dear Central Family,

As the Fall 2024 semester is half way done, The Center for Community Engagement & Social Research (CCESR) would like to highlight the amazing initiatives and programs that have taken place in the month of October. Our commitment to integrating teaching, research, and service through community engagement has flourished! We are grateful to everyone who has collaborated with us, including students, faculty, and community partners. Your dedication has played a pivotal role in addressing the most pressing needs of our community. We look forward to continued collaboration and making a positive impact for, and with, our community.

Sincerely,

The Center for Community Engagement & Social Research
Team:

- Beth Merenstein, Executive Director
- Christian Reyes, Assistant Director and Community Partner Liaison
- F. Kamilah Hastings, Administrative Assistant
- Diana Velasco, Faculty Liaison
- Angelia Rafter, Student Liaison

RECLASSIFICATION APPLICATION



This year, The Center for Community Engagement and Social Research has been working on reapplying for the **Elective Classification for Community Engagement 2026** cycle. The Central community will be a valuable asset as we continue the reclassification process. We ask you to please share any important efforts that you or your departments have participated in. In the coming weeks we will be reaching out to different departments and centers on campus to assist with the application.

Together we will showcase the incredible work being done by our esteemed university.

For more information or to schedule a time to talk about your efforts please contact our faculty liaison, Diana Velasco, at d.velasco@ccsu.edu

INTRODUCING...



GivePulse

BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO DRIVE SOCIAL IMPACT
THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE GIVING PLATFORM

- Promote events for your course!
- Track your partnerships and experiential learning opportunities!
- Compatible with Blackboard, Anthology, and Handshake!

Please keep an eye out for more information surrounding the rollout of our new platform.

QUALTRICS

Qualtrics is a powerful survey software that we now have access to at CCSU. It is polished, professional, powerful, and user friendly. Everyone (faculty, students, staff, etc.) has access to and can use this tool to do research, collect feedback, gather information, poll classes, or anything else you'd like to do with a survey software.

Simply navigate to <https://ccsu.qualtrics.com/> and select "CCSU Single Sign-On" to get started. No need to make an account, it has already been made for you.

Below is a link to a recording of a workshop session on how to use Qualtrics (also featured on Blackboard Homepage).

[Qualtrics Workshop Link](#)



Seeking Board Members!

Are you looking to get more involved with the community?

Look no further!

Some of of CCESR's close community partners are looking for Central members to join their Board of Directors. Time commitments and expectations vary from organization to organization so if you have an interest to serve, we can help find the right place!

Current Openings:



Friendship
Service
Center, Inc.
love made visible

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
New Britain

For more information reach out to Diana Velasco. Faculty Liaison.

Upcoming Events



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

CCSU NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART

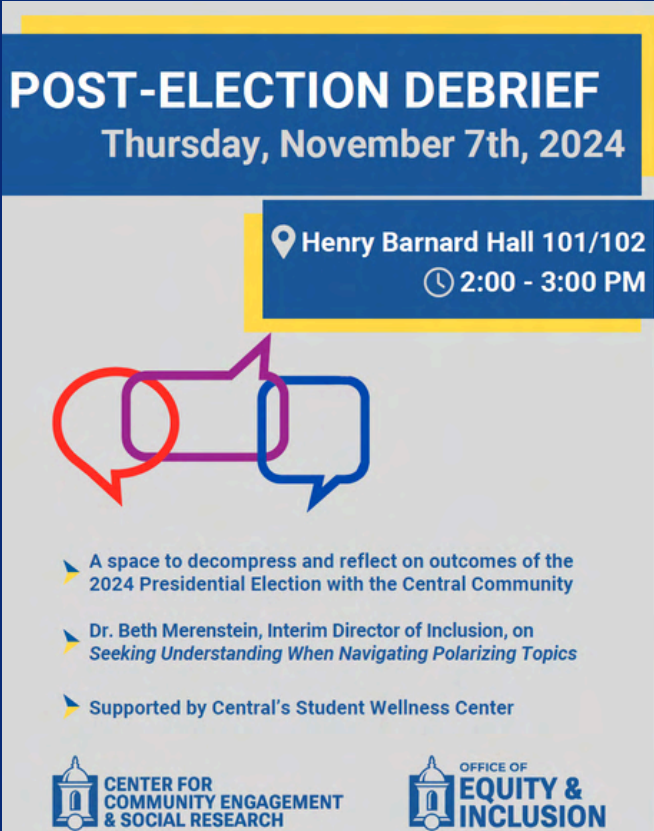
FREE!
THURS., NOV. 7, 2024

4-4:15 pm Meet'n'Greet arrival time in Stanley Works Center (free food)
4:15-4:30 pm Welcome and Overview of the NBMAA by Emily Dunnack,
Director of Learning and Engagement
4:30-6:00 pm Self-Guided Tours (guides will be provided)

Hosted by CCSU Art & Design Department and
the Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Night at the Museum –
November 7th, 2024

Post-Election Debrief –
November 7th



POST-ELECTION DEBRIEF
Thursday, November 7th, 2024

📍 Henry Barnard Hall 101/102
🕒 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Office of Equity & Inclusion

- ▶ A space to decompress and reflect on outcomes of the 2024 Presidential Election with the Central Community
- ▶ Dr. Beth Merenstein, Interim Director of Inclusion, on *Seeking Understanding When Navigating Polarizing Topics*
- ▶ Supported by Central's Student Wellness Center

Announcements and Upcoming Events

CCESR, Ceramics faculty and students,
Management and Organization students, and Smalley Elementary
present

EMPTY BOWLS 2024

- ▶ Pick out your own beautiful bowl made by Central and Smalley students and enjoy a simple meal.
- ▶ All proceeds go to supporting families through the Friendship Service Center, Inc. in New Britain.
- ▶ Open to all!

Tuesday,
November 19th
5:00PM to 7:00pm
Smalley
Elementary
175 West St, New Britain
(5 min. drive from CCSU)

BUY NOW

TICKET PRICES
CCSU Students: \$10
Others: \$15
Family: \$20



For further inquiry / information, email Professor Sarah Stookey, Management Department at stookeysab@ccsu.edu



Friendship
Service
Center, Inc.
love made visible



175
YEARS
CENTRAL

Empty Bowls – November 19

Community Engagement Around Campus

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Under the broader umbrella of Connecticut Valley Section of American Chemical Society (CVS-ACS), Central's Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry department organizes a full-day career preparation workshop for undergraduate STEM students with local industry and academic leaders to prepare students for transition into the next phase of their career.

The workshop is open to all chemistry & biochemistry undergraduates from local area universities and community colleges as well as all STEM students from Central. This is the sixth year of this workshop, and it was hosted on Saturday, 26th October, 2024.

Students learn how to prepare a resume for a specific job, social media presence and their impact on a job application, Use of LinkedIn, Networking, Research Experience for Undergraduates and industrial internships. Moreover, they are connected with a pool of career mentors ranging from early career scientist or engineer to hiring manager. The program is self-supported and sponsored by CVS-ACS, Chemistry & Biochemistry at CCSU and local industries such as Henkel and Allnex Inc. This program is managed by Dr. Sourav Chakraborty of Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry.



CAROL A. AMMON COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Students from Manchester High School, Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School, and Middletown High School were invited by Central's Theatre department to view **Much Ado About Nothing**.

Much Ado About Nothing is one of Shakespeare's romantic comedies complete with disguises, good-natured scheming, and a battle of wits. This production is set in the Hollywood Hills in the year 2000 and includes some of the top songs and dances of the day. Whether a Shakespeare fan, a Shakespeare skeptic, or just a fan of late 90's-early 2000s' music and fashion, this show has something for everyone.

Attendees were able to connect with the cast and even tour Central's campus.



Community Engagement Around Campus

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Students from the School of Business recently had the unique opportunity to attend a **Access to Industry Mentorship**, Shadow Day at Travelers Insurance Company, gaining firsthand experience in the world of insurance. Participants were able to shadow professionals from various departments, ask questions about career opportunities, and observe the collaborative work environment at Travelers. This hands-on experience helped bridge the gap between classroom



learning and the dynamic field of insurance, while providing valuable insights into the professional skills required for success in the industry. The School of Business is committed to preparing students for successful careers through experiential learning opportunities like this Shadow Day, which allows students to make connections between their academic studies and real-world business environments.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Central is expanding the **Inspire Teacher Residency** to include a cohort of paraeducators from East of the River. Participants in this next cohort of future educators will include representatives from Vernon, Manchester and East Hartford. The focus of this group will be to engage in a special education initial certification program that has been structured specifically for these residents.

Support will be provided by the Department of Special Education and a Faculty in Residence who will lend additional mentoring and coaching to the residents. Leadership support for building principals will also be provided by a member of the Educational Leadership and Instructional Technology department.



Community Engagement Around Campus

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES

This year, the nursing department started an initiative to improve communication skills in sophomore nursing students. The students rotate through the Central Connecticut Health Education Clinic as part of their nutrition class. While in the clinic, students complete nutritional assessments and counseling for senior citizens who are participating in a



balance program offered by the athletic training students. While in the clinic, students complete nutritional assessments and counseling for senior citizens who are participating in a balance program offered by the athletic training students. In addition to gaining experience in communicating with the seniors, they also interact with the athletic students. The feedback from the students, and seniors alike, has been great.

ATHLETICS

4 volunteers from Central's Cross Country/Track and Field program participated in Hartford Marathon Foundation's FITKIDS IN SCHOOL event on Tuesday, October 29th.

The running program is a free five-week program designed for students throughout Connecticut grades 4-8 to learn how to incorporate running and fitness into their everyday activities and encourage a healthy lifestyle. The Hartford Marathon Foundation provides schools with training materials so that students can log their miles each day to accumulate enough mileage to complete the distance of a Half Marathon or Full Marathon over the course of the five-week program.

All students that participated in the program came together to run their "FINAL MILE" on Medal Day, which took place at Walnut Hill Park, New Britain.



COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHT



Alliance for Living is the only HIV/AIDS service organization in southeastern Connecticut, providing essential support to people experiencing homelessness and substance use disorders. Their team is dedicated to eliminating stigma. They offer culturally sensitive, harm-reduction-focused services that promote social justice, equitable resource access, and community partnerships.

Alliance for Living fosters a safe, confidential environment that values peer leadership and lived experiences. They embrace wellness through inclusivity, transparency, and compassion.

In a pilot program, students from Dr. Soper's ECON321 Economics of Social Issues course are delivering financial and economic literacy workshops. These workshops aim to equip the Alliance for Living community with practical financial skills and knowledge to navigate the current economic environment.



COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

The **Rotary Club of New Britain-Berlin**, a chapter of Rotary International, works to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through their fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. New Britain-Berlin Rotary supports this mission locally through its humanitarian efforts, which include scholarships and grants. One of these included a grant to purchase a 3D-printer in support of Go Baby Go! at Central, an initiative in which the Central C.A.R.E.S. Club and New Britain High School students modify Fisher-Price Powerwheels® to become therapy vehicles!

Central is proud to have sponsored the New Britain-Berlin Rotary's First Annual 5K Fun Run, Fitness Walk & Children's Costume Parade on October 5th. The inaugural Fun Run raised over \$5,000 to support the Rotary in its mission!

Mark your calendar for Designer Bag Bingo on December 6th! This is a major fundraising event for New Britain-Berlin Rotary, for which Central will sponsor one of the winning bags. Scan the QR code on the flyer to purchase a ticket/table!



ROTARY
Designer Bag Bingo

Friday, December 6, 2024

VFW 41 Veterans Dr. New Britain, CT
5:00 PM DOORS OPEN | 6:30 PM BINGO STARTS

**GRAND PRIZE:
LOUIS VUITTON**

10 games - 10 designer bags!
\$40/person OR \$360/table of 10

Decorate your table: best theme wins an extra bingo game for just your table!

Bring snacks and beverages

Proceeds support Rotary Club of New Britain-Berlin's charitable & scholarship funds.

GET TICKETS:

@Kenny-Jones-92

The flyer is decorated with a festive winter theme, featuring holly leaves, red berries, and two red birds perched on branches. A yellow Rotary International logo is positioned at the top center. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event name in large, bold letters. The date and location are clearly stated, along with the start and end times. The grand prize is highlighted in a green box. The ticket information and QR code are also clearly visible. The flyer concludes with the event's purpose and the organizer's social media handle.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINOR

The Minor in Community Engagement is a program that draws from many academic areas, equipping students to work across differences to solve problems and create possibilities in your own community and beyond. Real-world experiences combine with engaged scholarship to develop the creativity, understanding, and civic agency students need to be active agents of change in today's world.

Students:

- Gain leadership skills and coordination experience.
- Make connections in the community.
- Develop skills and creativity to solve future problems.
- Improve their ability to analyze issues concerning social justice.
- Increase their appreciation of diversity.
- Enhance their understanding of community and civic challenges.



Spring 2025 CEN courses:

- CEN 402 Community Engagement Internship Seminar (4 credits)
- CEN 300 Global Community Engagement: Exploring Costa Rica:
- Marketing & the Underground Economy (3 credits)

Contact for more information:

Community Engagement Minor Coordinator: Dr. Julie Schnobrich-Davis
j.schnobrichdavis@ccsu.edu

COMMUNITY ENGAGED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STIPEND

CCESR offers stipends to faculty and staff to participate in community engaged professional development. This stipend has a maximum of \$3,000 per awardee that can be used towards attending an academic conference, workshop, training, or webinar. Apply on our website or contact Diana Velasco for more information.

Primary goals of the stipend:

- Promote community engaged practices/opportunities in the classroom and in research projects.
- Allow faculty and staff to expand their professional portfolio as it relates to community engagement.
- Open the opportunity to teach community engaged courses at the university.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING STIPEND (CEELS)

CCESR's Community Engagement Experiential Learning Stipend (CEELS) provides stipends for unpaid internships or research roles without standard wages. We offer financial support for experiential learning opportunities that might otherwise be unpaid.

Student Internship Information

Eligible students would receive \$18/hour with a maximum of \$3,000 (this averages to 20hrs/week for an 8-week program). Applications open and close in the following months. More details of deadline will be given near the end of current semester:

- Spring application: December 6, 2024 - February 7, 2024



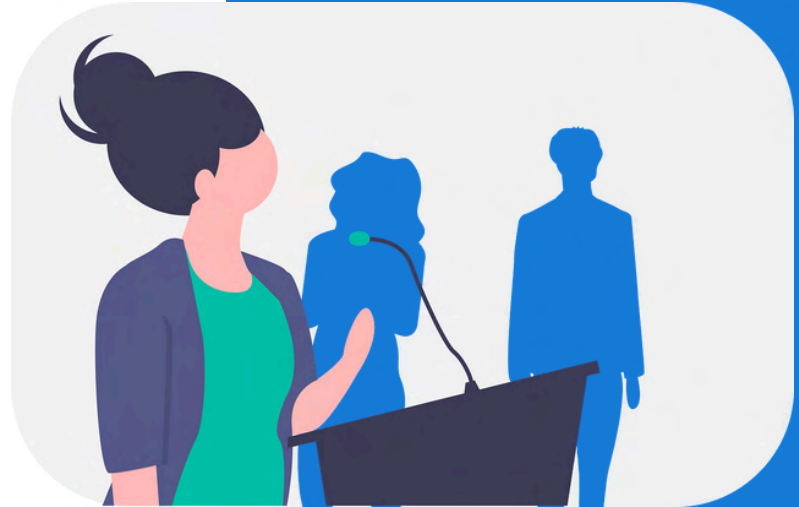
Click [HERE](#) to apply!

CCESR IN THE CLASSROOM

It's not too late to have us guest speak for your class this upcoming semester! Whether you are teaching an FYE, intro course, or other - CCESR can come and speak to your class about...

Community Engagement
Experiential Learning
Volunteering
Service Learning
Internships
and much more!

Reach out to Diana Velasco or Angelia Rafter to schedule a time.



CONTACT OUR TEAM

For more information on working with CCESR, do not hesitate to contact us or visit our [website!](#)

- Executive Director, Beth Merenstein, merensteinb@ccsu.edu
- Assistant Director, Christian Reyes, creyes@ccsu.edu
- Administrative Assistant, F. Kamilah Hastings, hastings@ccsu.edu
- Faculty Liaison, Diana Velasco, d.velasco@ccsu.edu
- Student Liaison, Angelia Rafter, a.rafter@ccsu.edu

