



Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Faculty Newsletter



SEPTEMBER EDITION



Central Community!

Dear Central Family,

The Center for Community Engagement & Social Research (CCESR) is excited to welcome everyone back for the 2024-2025 Academic Year! We thank everyone for the amazing work that has been done so far and we are eager to see what this new year brings. 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.

Upcoming Events

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

Empty Bowls –
November 19th, 2024

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: \$30



Friendship Service Center, Inc.
1000 Maple Street

  **175**
YEARS
CENTRAL

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

Announcements and Upcoming Events



LALCC

LATIN AMERICAN,
LATINO, AND
CARIBBEAN CENTER

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAMMING AT THE LALCC SAVE THE DATES!

September 13–October 15: Flag Display outside the
Elihu Burritt Library

September 25, 12–3PM: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration with
performance by the Hartt Salsa All Stars,
dance workshop with Xiomara Colón, and food trucks
In collaboration with Mosaic Center and LASO

October 2, 4–6PM: Latino Poetry Kick-Off & LALCC Open House
Celebration with hot buffet and performance by Mariachi Mexico Antiguo
Elihu Burritt Library, 4th Floor

October 21–22: Latino Poetry activities with Mexican–American poet
Deborah Paredez: **10/21: 5:30–6:30 PM**, New Britain Public Library,
Periodicals Room; **10/22 10:50AM**, CCSU, Constitution Room
Made possible by grants from the Library of America & [c7humanities](#)

October 24, 7:30–9:30PM: The Other Side Story with Ángel Vázquez,
Torp Theatre

Tickets are FREE and open to the public! Use the link below or scan QR
code!

[https://ccsubluedevils.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/74?
es=mvnrhnduu4pe0l1mh4l1nfg03b0i&single=1](https://ccsubluedevils.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/74?es=mvnrhnduu4pe0l1mh4l1nfg03b0i&single=1)



LALCC October Events

Community Engagement Around Campus

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Central partnered with the Connecticut Concrete Promotion Council and the American Concrete Institute New England Chapter to host the Federal Highway Administration's Mobile Concrete Technology Center (MCTC) at the Kaiser Hall parking lot. The MCTC introduces students to the state-of-the-art concrete technology in materials selection, mixture design, field and laboratory testing, and pavement evaluation.

The MCTC is visiting Connecticut to introduce new test methods related to the Performance Engineered Mixture initiative and other concrete technologies. Students from Central, other colleges and universities, and high schools, were invited to participate in technical talks and demonstrations.



CAROL A. AMMON COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



With a host of ceramic and metal sculptures, Thomas Zaccheo has been able to showcase his talent in ceramics.

Even though he retired around 30 years ago, Zaccheo has vowed to "never stop learning." He enrolled at CCSU, has now earned over 300 credits taking a variety of courses including art, language and drawing and still remains a student.

His work will be showcased during an exhibition titled "Transformed by Fire" at the Central Art Gallery in the Samuel S. T. Chen Fine Art Center until Oct. 4.

Community Engagement Around Campus

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Twenty School of Business students recently participated in the Access to Industry Mentorship (AIM) Shadow Day at The Hartford Insurance Company. This immersive experience offered students the chance to observe professionals in action, gain insights into the insurance industry, and explore various career paths within the company. Throughout the day, they networked with executives, attended department briefings, and learned about key aspects of the business, from risk management to corporate strategy.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The Voices Rising project was conceived and implemented 2023-24 by Drs. Toni Ryan, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, and Paula Talty, Interim Dean of the School of Education. **Voices Rising** (VR) is a collaboration between CCSU's School of Education and the New Britain High School (NBHS) chapter of **Educators Rising**, a community-based program supporting secondary-level students who are exploring education as a career. VR provides an opportunity for young women who participate in the Educators Rising program to explore current issues in education through collaborative learning around topics related to women's identity, voice, power, and self-advocacy. In the current VR program, 78% of the participants are Latina, and they represent the fastest growing population among students participating in Educators Rising in several large school districts.



Community Engagement Around Campus

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES



The Central Community Health Education Clinic began a balance and fall assessment program that runs from September 9th- November 25th. There are 2 (6) week sessions. Individuals sign up for a time slot in one of the sessions. The first session they are put through balance assessments with the AT students and a nutrition survey with the nursing students. Each subsequent session will consist of a balance exercise program aimed to improve each individual's balance. The final session will consist of a reevaluation of the initial balance assessments.

Each participant will be given instructions for a home exercise program related to balance. These participants consist of community members, faculty/staff at CCSU, and CCSU students. They are even providing rides to a few participants from the community through their mobile van!

ATHLETICS

On Monday, August 26, Central Women's Volleyball team volunteered to serve as Community Guest Greeters at Smalley Elementary School. Greeters showed up in their professional clothing to welcome students to school with smiles, handshakes, words of encouragement, high fives and fist bumps.



COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHT



During the Fall 2024 semester, fifteen students in Dr. Diana Cohen's PS 250 (Approaches to Political Science) class will be collaborating with the Connecticut Bureau of Education & Services for the Blind (BESB) on a dynamic research project.

The project's goal is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of BESB's **Vocational Rehabilitation Program**. The program assists Connecticut's blind population with acquiring the skills and training necessary to either obtain or retain employment.

Students will gain unique hands-on experience with phone-based surveying, data analysis, and report writing. The work of the class will help inform BESB's upcoming annual State Plan, empowering the community partner to identify goals for the 2025 calendar year.



Connecticut State

Department of Aging and Disability Services

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



Connecticut Foodshare supports individuals and families – from one end of the state to the other – by addressing root causes, creating long-term solutions, and distributing nutritious food through local partner programs in an effort to alleviate hunger. Their vision is to have a thriving community, free of hunger.

As of September 2024, a partnership between Central and Connecticut Foodshare will ensure that the shelves at the campus food pantry will stay fully stocked with high-demand items all semester long. Connecticut Foodshare partners with several food pantries around the state, offering free goods and other resources. Through its Grocery Purchasing Program, Connecticut Foodshare purchases truckloads of high-demand products and resells them to partner programs at cost.

Connecticut Foodshare also operates mobile food pantries around the state, which presents members of the Central Community an incredible opportunity to volunteer!

For more information, visit: [Volunteer | CT Foodshare](#)



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 academic year 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

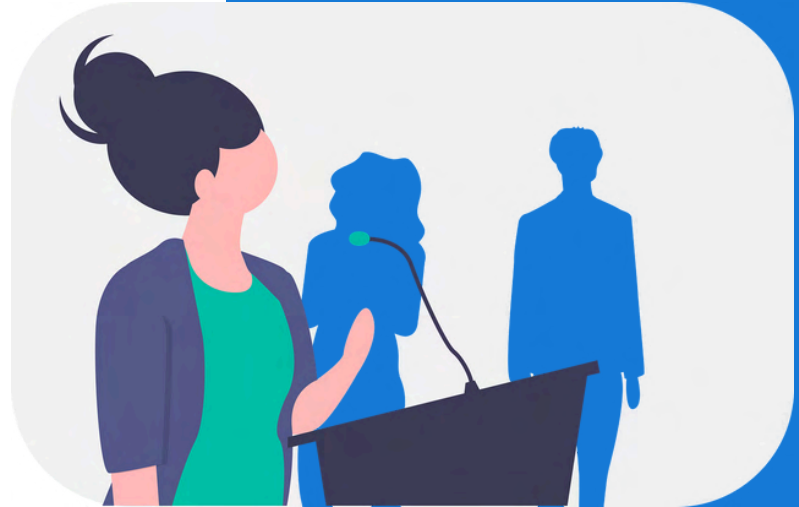
Click [HERE](#) to apply!

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

