As the spring semester draws to a close, CCSU’s Office of Community Engagement would like to remind the campus community that community engagement is possible year round and does not need to end with the academic year. There are many opportunities to get involved in local communities over the summer months! Plan ahead and take a look at our Community Engagement Directory for engagement opportunities for fall 2017!

Wishing You A Wonderful Summer!

- CCSU Office of Community Engagement Team

Community Engagement Survey

We are currently gathering data to inform CCSU’s submission for the 2016-2017 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. We ask faculty, staff, and student organizations to document service learning and community based activities and research undertaken between July 1st, 2016 and June 30th, 2017.

Please complete the surveys for:
• Faculty/Staff
• Student Organizations

Funding Support

Have a service learning or community-based project in mind for the fall or spring but not enough funding? Does this project connect CCSU students with the surrounding community? Does the project advance CCSU’s community engagement objectives? Between now and the start of the fall 2017 semester, the Office of Institutional Advancement will be helping faculty and staff develop online crowdfunding projects to fund community engagement initiatives.

Advantages to working with Institutional Advancement instead of creating a GoFundMe page include:
• 100% of the gifts go directly to the project
• Each donor will receive documentation to put towards this year’s taxes
• You can utilize fundraising techniques from CCSU’s fundraising professionals

To learn more, please contact Assistant Director of Development, Charles Johnson at 860-832-1794 or charles.johnson@ccsu.edu

C.H.A.N.G.E
Carrying Humanity As New Generations Emerge

CHANGE is a CCSU student organization that takes part in activities that promote leadership and support among students at CCSU and creates opportunities that will further the success of individuals, groups, and communities on campus and in the New Britain community. It encourages leadership skills, unity, and achievement in young individuals, regardless of race and economic status. CHANGE offers programs, including “pep talks,” where members share their real life experiences as minority college students and give tips to local high school students on how to navigate college. CHANGE also runs a big brother/big sister program with elementary school students and seeks to make an impact by showing “children of color that education is the key to freedom,” according to Edna Maldonado, CCSU senior and the organization’s current president. CHANGE hopes to help these children realize their range of career possibilities and pathways, while also providing emotional support and serving as an emblem for unity.
Susan Slaga-Metivier
Title: Head of Reference and Instruction, Elihu Burritt Library
Program: Read To A Child
Site: Lincoln Elementary School, New Britain, CT.

Program Description:
Volunteers read to children one day per week during lunch breaks with books that have been donated to the program or provided by local libraries.

How did you get involved with Read to a Child?
I came across the program in my own research and contacted the director. I have told colleagues from CCSU about my experiences who are now also involved with the program!

What do you get out of your involvement with the program?
I am glad the elementary school students get excited about reading. My mother always brought my brother and I to the library when we were young and stressed the importance of reading. Now, I like to share that with others, which can open a whole new world to them. I am also exposed to people of different backgrounds and perspectives.

What do you think the students with whom you work get out of their experience with the program?
The students continue to develop an interest in reading. They are exposed to many books and topics, including fiction, nonfiction, different authors, different subjects, new concepts, and places. Their reading comprehension and creative skills can improve. They also receive individualized attention, which they may not get at home if they have siblings.

What connection do you find in your work between elementary students versus college students?
Students of all levels need guidance in the learning process. I teach college students information literacy and library research skills. With elementary students, I do similar work on a simpler and more time-limited scale. I love their curiosity and desire for knowledge.

For more information and to get involved as a reader or donor, contact:
Gina Broadbent, Connecticut Director at (860) 838-3916 or gina.broadbent@readtoachild.org

Management 295
Title: Associate Professor, Management and Organization
Project: Homeless Connect

Project Description:
Students from MGT 295 Fundamentals of Management and Organizational Behavior work in groups to contact service providers, market, collect donations, and run Homeless Connect, an annual event which provides physical and mental health services, disability, housing and educational assistance, and employment training resources to over eighty individuals experiencing homelessness in New Britain.

How are student learning outcomes assessed over the course or following completion of the project?
Student learning is evaluated through mid-term progress reports completed by each group, which includes tools for decision making and planning, including the GANTT bar chart. This tool helps students to apply the theoretical concepts of the course material to this real life experience while also providing key stakeholders with progress updates. Groups also submit a final report and give a presentation where students also offer feedback on team work, leadership, successes, and areas of improvement.

What do students get out of their experiences with taking a service learning course?
Experiential activities help bring more energy to the classroom, which is more enjoyable for the students and professor. Service learning also provides an opportunity for students to give back to the community and helps them see that ‘success’ is not just about achieving an ‘A’ or landing the dream job, but also about helping to collaboratively work towards solutions for community problems. Working on the project encouraged several students to look for internships that relate to community engagement and find their passion and direction for future careers.

How has conducting this course influenced your teaching?
Prior to becoming a professor, I provided training to working professionals where I brought theory into their real lives. As a professor, I look for ways to bring real life to theory. Working at CCSU is amazing because the University really supports and encourages faculty and students to find ways to embed community engagement in classroom learning. I am looking forward to developing these opportunities, which I plan to bring to my courses.
**Go Baby Go!**

Go Baby Go! engages CCSU students in working with middle and/or high school students to modify toy ride-on cars for children with special needs. 74 children have received cars to date.

Dr. Michele Dischino is CCSU Associate Professor of Technology and Engineering Education and faculty advisor to Central C.A.R.E.S, the student organization which houses the project. She explains, “We hope to continue to spread the Go Baby Go! project throughout the state. We also hope to expand into related areas whereby more CCSU students can help more individuals with special needs.”

CCSU Senior & President of Central C.A.R.E.S, Kristen Stolen, says the program is incredibly impactful. She explains, “I like seeing the kids’ reactions. This may be the first time where the kids can just go, they don’t have to stop.”

Kalpesh Patel and his family are from Farmington, CT. Student volunteers, physical therapists, and the Patel family contributed to outfitting a car for the family’s two year old. He said, “My son has impairments and he likes to feel so they added features like colors and textures on the wheel and in the car.” He urges families to get involved with the program, and said, “it is encouraging to see future engineers working to make people independent.”

Interested in participating in Go Baby Go? Contact Michele Dischino at Dischinomic@ccsu.edu or join Central C.A.R.E.S. No prior training is necessary, and participating students can be from any academic area.

**IMRP/CIP**

The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) is a CCSU-based non-partisan organization working in public policy, which conducts and disseminates research, hosts community engagement, and coordinates outreach on issues faced in urban settings. IMRP has received funding from the Connecticut General Assembly since 2008 to work with faculty to assess the efficacy of direct care services and to administer grants related to the Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative (CIP). Their work and these grants support positive interventions for at-risk children who are dealing with the impacts of having incarcerated parents and/or family members. Contact Program Manager, Aileen Keays Yeager for more information at keaysaik@ccsu.edu.

The Initiative offers scholarships for CCSU students who experienced the incarceration of a close family member. Students receive up to $1,500 per semester for six semesters.

Please visit CIP Scholarships or email ctcp@ccsu.edu for additional information.

**For inquiries and questions, contact us at:**

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