



Center for Community Engagement & Social Research

Monthly Newsletter



December 2022 Edition



Contact: communityengagement@ccsu.edu | <https://www.ccsu.edu/communityEngagement/> | Insta: [ccsu_ccesr](#)

Thank you CCSU Community

Dear CCSU Community,

The Center for Community Engagement & Social Research (CCESR) would like to thank you for your support throughout the Fall 2022 semester. The primary goal of the Center is to integrate teaching, research, and service through community engagement (CE). Additionally, we want all students to engage in multiple experiential learning opportunities, for faculty to develop scholarship with a community focus, and for our community to work with us to address their most pressing needs. Doing so requires a high level of commitment to CE from all members of the CCSU community. With the tireless effort made by each and every one of you, we have been able to work towards achieving that goal.

In addition, the Center has thoroughly enjoyed being able to assist and highlight some of the amazing work being done by each of the different schools here at CCSU. It is truly inspiring to see all the CE projects occurring around campus. Great work is being done, and we cannot wait to see what comes next.

Once again, the CCESR family would like to thank you for the contributions you have made to the Center, the CCSU Community, and the surrounding areas. We hope you have a happy holiday season and enjoy the Winter break!

Sincerely,

The Center for Community Engagement and Social Research Team- Beth Merenstein, Donald DeFronzo, Christian Reyes, MacKenzie Gould, Victoria Richards, and Angela Alvarado

A Special Thank You...



Donald J. DeFronzo

The CCESR family would also like to thank Donald J. DeFronzo for all that he has done for the Center and CCSU community. Don will be retiring from his appointed position as the Governor William A. O'Neil Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics this December, a position he has held since 2016. He was chosen for the position for his outstanding contribution to the understanding and shaping of public affairs in Connecticut. Among his many accomplishments, Don has served as State Senator for the 6th District in Connecticut's General Assembly, Mayor of the City of New Britain, Executive Director of the Human Resources Agency of New Britain and was a planning analyst in the state's Office of Policy and Management. With over 30 years in public service, Don has brought an unmatched level of expertise and wisdom to the Center. Thank you for everything, Don.

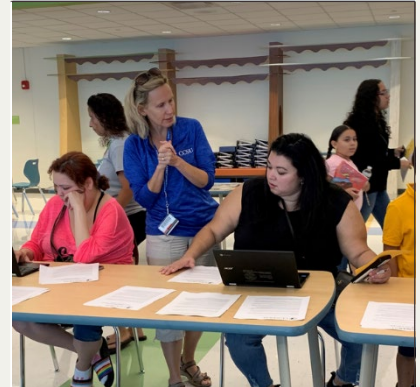
Fall 2022: A Glance Back



Smalley Elementary:
First Day of School



North Oak Neighborhood
Clean Up



Smalley Open House: ISCJ +
CCESR Public Safety Survey
Distribution



Rock Painting at NB
Fire Safety Day



Voter Registration Day



New Britain Trick or
Treat Safe Zone



New Life II: Winter Gear
Distribution



Empty Bowls



Community Engagement
Faculty Workshop

Fall 2022: A Glance Back

The Center for Community Engagement and Social Research seeks to engage the CCSU campus and surrounding community in projects that are mutually beneficial, contribute to the greater good, and build a sense of civic responsibility. The following are some events/projects the CCESR team has been a part of during the Fall 2022 semester:

- Events
 - The New Britain Puerto Rican Parade
 - New Britain Back to School Bash
 - Kaiser Kick Off
 - NB North Oak NRZ Neighborhood Community Clean Up
 - CCSU Kaiser Kickoff
 - Various CCSU Club and Career Fairs
 - Smalley Elementary School Open House, CCPS Survey Administration
 - CCSU Constitution Day
 - New Britain Main St USA, Street Fair
 - New Britain Fire Safety Day
 - Voter Registration Day- Reduce, Reuse, Register: Combatting Climate Change through Civic Engagement
 - New Life II: Winter Gear & Coat Drives
 - Undergraduate Open Houses
 - New Britain Halloween Trick or Treat Safe Zone
 - Empty Bowls Event
 - Random Acts of Kindness Jr.- Kids Coding for a Cause
 - Reflect & Preserve: What Climate Change means to me, Writing/Multimedia Contest
- Faculty Workshops
 - Incorporating experiential learning opportunities into the classroom
 - CTI's Food for Thought- CE Workshop with The United Way
 - School of Business Faculty Professional Development Workshop: Community Engagement
- Research Projects
 - Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment for the State of Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and State Rehabilitation Council
 - Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report for the Connecticut Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Program
 - Amplifying Neighborhood Voices: Community Perceptions of Public Safety (CCPS) Survey, CCESR and ISJ Research Collaboration

Spring 2023: Looking Forward

CCESR is excited to announce a number of events occurring in the Spring 2023 semester!

January 20th- MLK Breakfast/Day of Service

The Center for Community Engagement and Social Research (CCESR), Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), and Academic Affairs are joining forces to organize CCSU's annual MLK Breakfast and Day of Service to honor and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Breakfast will be hosted in Alumni Hall at 8:30am followed by an interactive symposium on Creating an Inclusive Campus featuring Dr. Ken Coopwood Sr., Owner/CEO of Coopwood Diversity Leadership & Education Universal. Afterwards, guests will be given the opportunity to participate in a campus-wide Day of Service. In partnership with local community organizations, participants will sign up for one of the service-oriented activities being hosted on or off-campus. Activities will be geared towards homelessness/hygiene and education/literacy. We hope to see you there!

February 24th- Faculty Workshop: Integrating CE and EJI

Join us for CCESR's faculty workshop, Integrating Community Engagement and EJI (Equity, Justice, and Inclusion). CCESR's Executive Director, Beth Merenstein, regularly hosts workshops to share ideas and practical guidance on increasing experiential learning opportunities for students and how to get more involved with community partners. This particular workshop will provide information on how to effectively integrate Equity, Justice, and Inclusion in Community Engagement work.

April- 3rd Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium

Each year, the Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition (GESAC) at CCSU host its Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium. The event hosts a number of guest speakers to discuss various topics pertaining to the annual theme. In addition to its regular schedule of events, the symposium will also welcome CCSU winners of the writing/multimedia contest, "Reflect & Preserve: What Climate Change Means to Me", to present their submissions. The contest was sponsored by CCESR, GESAC, and the CCSU Geography Department. All matriculated undergraduate and graduate students were invited to participate for the chance to win scholarships ranging from \$250-\$2,500.

April 20th and 21st- Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual celebration aimed at raising awareness on the importance of environmental protection and sustainability while recognizing the achievements that have been made. This year, CCESR will be hosting a 2-day Earth Day celebration involving panel discussions featuring climate justice activists, film and discussion, and services activities in the community.

More information on each event will be available closer to the date. As always, if you have any questions or are looking for more information, feel free to visit our website or email us!