

CCE CORNER

The Center for Community Engagement's newsletter designed to share community engagement highlights each semester with our larger TCNJ community and network



NEWS & FEATURES

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Building Bridges: Bridge to Employment expands to Ewing High School

BY DESTINY DE LA ROSA

Through a grant partnership with Bridge to Employment (BTE), The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) Bonner Institute is excited to launch BTE-Ewing in the Fall of 2021! BTE is a Johnson & Johnson youth global initiative program with two main goals: (1) to increase the number of students from economically disadvantaged communities who enroll in higher education and (2) to increase the number of students interested in pursuing STEM2D careers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Manufacturing, Design or healthcare sectors). The BTE Ewing Program Model will assist Ewing High School students and their families with all aspects of post-secondary planning and exploration.

Approximately fifty current ninth grade students were selected to participate in the structured three year program beginning this fall. The overall program design and student selection process is based on a data driven twenty-five year model that requires all BTE programs to include collaboration from four key partners. The BTE-Ewing partners include Johnson & Johnson Consumer, in Skillman, NJ as the local operating partner, Ewing High School as the secondary school partner and TCNJ serving two roles. The college serves both as the institution of higher education, and also houses the community-based organization, TCNJ Bonner Institute. In support of local programming Johnson & Johnson partners with FHI 360's National Institute for Work and Learning (NIWL) to manage the BTE initiative, including the design, launch, and implementation of all programs.

Collaborating Across Boundaries in Partnership with the Community

BY AMY SCHRATZ

Since Spring 2020, the Center for Community Engagement's CEL Institute has supported TCNJ faculty in the Collaborating Across Boundaries (CAB) initiative across campus. Spearheaded by Monisha Pulimood, Diane Bates, and Kim Pearson, CAB seeks to address real-world issues through interdisciplinary course collaborations that integrate Community Engaged Learning. The CAB model develops a more thorough understanding of STEM concepts for undergraduates in STEM and non-STEM majors alike and promotes deeper engagement in learning and problem solving within the community.

This Spring, CAB recruited six faculty pairs that worked with six community partners ranging from local collaborators in Trenton to global partners in India. Spring 2021's CAB collaborations include:

- AAS 321: Race, Gender, and the News with Kim Pearson & ANT 341: Environmental Anthropology with Miriam Shakow collaborating with the FreePress' News Voices Project
- LNG 371: World Englishes with Felicia Steele & CSC 315: Database Systems with John De Good collaborating with Trentoniana in Trenton, NJ
- SOC 345: Inequality, Pollution, & Environment with Diane Bates and LIT 499: EcoCriticism with Glenn Steinberg collaborating with the Ewing Green Team
- CSC 415: Software Engineering with Monisha Pulimood & STA 498: Capstone with Michael Ochs collaborating with Capital City Youth Violence Coalition in Trenton, NJ
- WGS 350: Gender Equity in the Classroom with Marla Jaksch & ETE 341: Environmental & Biotechnology Systems with Matt Cathell collaborating with General Raj Schools and Sprouting Stems in Delhi, India
- ELC 251: Electrics I with Anthony Deese & MGT/BUS 375: Innovation with Kevin Michaels collaborating with the City of Trenton

To learn more about CAB classes, please reach directly out to Monisha Pulimood at pulimood@tcnj.edu, Kim Pearson at kpearson@tcnj.edu, or Diane Bates at bates@tcnj.edu.

"The Collaborating Across Boundaries project builds upon prior pedagogical research that my colleagues and I have conducted over the last 15 years. Each project has been progressively more ambitious in its incorporation of community-engaged learning into the research and instructional design. Our CCE colleagues are an integral partner in this work. We have brainstormed together, presented workshops together, and we are in continual dialogue about what we are learning and how those insights can improve our work together. CCE's infrastructure, professional staff expertise, and deep community relationships are essential to campus-wide efforts to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and to deepen students' understanding of the real-world impacts of their academic studies."

-Kim Pearson



TCNJ's Center for Community Engagement staff sit on the steering committee for the Capital City Youth Violence Coalition (CCYVC), along with Isles, Inc., Mercer County Human Services Department, the Trenton Police Department, and Millhill Child & Family Development Center. Like many other entities, CCYVC transitioned to a virtual model in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this virtual time, we hosted robust presentations from Mercer Street Friends, East Trenton Collaborative, the Trenton Anti-Violence Coalition, and the Tre' Devon Lane Foundation.

Recently, CCYVC began collaborating with the Trenton Anti-Violence Coalition (TAVC), an organization that supports the families of victims of gun violence in Trenton. Through this partnership, CCYVC members are able to provide TAVC with resources such as counseling services and funeral cost assistance. One such resource is Capital Health's new Violence Intervention for the Community Through Outreach Recovery (VICTORY) program, in partnership with Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton and Millhill Child & Family Development. The VICTORY program has been a successful resource in this new collaboration so far, supporting one of the families who lost a life to gun violence this past year, and is expected to assist many more. Through this collaboration between CCYVC and TAVC, we are able to connect resources directly to Trenton community members.

CCYVC also assisted with a fishbone activity around gun violence in Trenton that was organized by Gene Bouie, board member on the Board of Education. Through a series of virtual meetings with guided facilitation, the group identified root causes of gun violence in the City of Trenton. The findings from these exercises can be instrumental in developing programs for organizations and identifying needs in the community.

CCYVC created a Trenton Youth Safety Playbook for organizations and community members to access to help guide decision making, program planning, and grant writing. You can find the playbook [here](#). To learn more about CCYVC, please visit <https://ccyvc.pages.tcnj.edu>.

Thank you for taking the time to celebrate these stories with us. We welcome new TCNJ and community partnerships, ideas for community engagement, and donors to support our ongoing work. We would be happy to share more information with anyone interested.

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