



Fall 2018

News from the Stockton Center for Community Engagement

SCCE FACULTY FELLOW REFLECTIONS Dr. Christina Jackson

Christina Jackson is beginning her first year as the SCCE faculty fellow working on a project engaging with a community organization to bring more environmental justice awareness to Stockton University and conduct research with South Jersey communities. Two years ago, over 60 of Dr. Jackson's students canvassed Atlantic City helping with the Sandy Truth project led by the New Jersey Organizing Project. Their door knocking efforts and interviews contributed to the organizations' report

entitled *The Long Road Home: Understanding Sandy Recovery and Lessons for Future Storms Five Years Later*. With this fellowship, Dr. Jackson will be working with organizers Lena Smith and Jocelyn Sawyer at

Food and Water Watch along with Stockton SOAN major Sarah Mount to understand the effects of water struggles, privatization, shut-offs in South Jersey. With the help of Food and Water Watch in 2017, Atlantic City organizers successfully halted the privatization of its' water system which has been shown to raise costs, lessen the quality of service and contribute to more job losses. Dr. Jackson plans on interviewing residents that were part of the water privatization movement in Atlantic City contributing to her larger project about the effect of structural changes on the city's low-income communities of color. She will also assist Food and Water Watch with reaching out to residents in Camden, who have recently had their water shut off to understand a state level story of environmental injustice. Dr. Jackson is excited about the role Stockton can play in addressing environmental injustices across the state.



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FAR AND AWAY, THE BEST PRIZE THE LIFE HAS TO OFFER
IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK HARD AT WORK WORTH DOING.

- TEDDY ROOSEVELT

COMMUNITY PARTNERS REFLECTIONS

Anthony Williams, Pleasantville Housing Authority

Since my start date on November 20, 2017 as the new Residential Service Coordinator for Pleasantville Housing Authority, there has truly not been one dull moment. I have been blessed with the opportunity to help revitalize and rejuvenate a group of people in their aging years to bring back the joy and happiness that most of them enjoyed in their youthful years. One of the best moves our Executive Director, Vernon Lawrence has done to enhance the level of this program was to allow the Stockton University students to work with our seniors in a recreational capacity.

Students report to our 140 North Main Street Community Room once a month where they engage in a variety of different games with our seniors: Yahtzee, checkers, backgammon, dominos and their favorite game of them all "Bingo"! Residents are rewarded with a prize as part of their winnings. Overall, by playing these games with our seniors, it promotes camaraderie and friendship amongst the tenants.

In the previous months, Ross Coordinator discussed with Dr. Colón the urgency of a Spanish and English Class in our facility due to an ongoing language barrier that has kept our residents from properly communicating with one another. Our first English and Spanish class began on August 29th, 2018 and the tenants have appeared to be motivated and excited about the class as evidenced by their ongoing attendance. Dr. Colón's method of teaching is simply brilliant. The tenants are seated across from one another with a list of Spanish and English words and they speak to each other in their own language. Dr. Colón stated she utilized this same method of teaching with her students and it was a success!! It appears that the class will continue on as the tenants' attendance grows on a monthly basis. All residents have been encouraged to participate and we hope that more and more will come.

SCCE SNAPSHOTS

Quick Notes from our Work

The SCCE participated in two quarterly community resource roundtable meetings on August 1st and October 18th where social service agencies across South Jersey come together to exchange information on services and resources. The next roundtable meeting will be held on January 17, 2019

After a successful pilot in 2017, two Pop-Up Pants Shop events were held at Buzby Homes Village and Stanley Holmes Village in Atlantic City. Over 100 pairs of khaki and navy

blue pants were collected from on- and off-campus donations and students in the SCCE homework programs had the opportunity to choose school uniform pants and a new backpack with school supplies. The SCCE wishes to thank Sgt. Santiago of the Atlantic City Police Department and Alex Marino for their contributions to this project.

Following the spring data analysis of our Impact of Engagement surveys, the SCCE conducted focus groups with five community partners to

better understand their perceptions about their relationship with Stockton. Responses were overwhelmingly positive and several partners' ideas and suggestions are being formulated into new or more comprehensive SCCE programs this fall.

SCCE Student Fellows contributed to the success of Stockton's first annual Coast Day event held on the Atlantic City campus on Saturday, October 20, 2018. Our Student

Fellows administered surveys, tended informational tables, and guided guests through the event.



SCCE social work intern Shaun Stebbins spent Coast Day on the Atlantic City boardwalk directing guests to the event.

The SCCE wants to acknowledge and thank Stockton staff member Carole LoBue for her donations to our homework programs' Halloween parties. Carole continued her tradition of sending treat bags for every child to enjoy. This year's parties also featured arts and crafts including a mask station where the youth created their own Halloween masks.

On November 2018, the SCCE launched a fourth homework completion program at the Atlantic Marina community room in Atlantic City. The program is a partnership among Stockton University, the Atlantic City Police Department, the Michaels Organization, the Boy Scouts of America and Better Tomorrows. The program will operate on Mondays and

Wednesdays from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

In December 2018, the SCCE will begin a new pilot initiative with the Volunteers of America and their Safe Return Program. The initiative stems from suggestions made during the SCCE partners' focus group which was held in the summer. Beginning with an interest meeting, we will be facilitating a series of workshops to help the program participants explore their educational interests and future career paths. Presentations and discussions will include career aptitude testing, information on earning a GED, applying for college, and applying to join a trade union.

Responding to a request from participants of our Game Day with Older Adults events in Pleasantville, Merydawilda Colón created a series of educational sessions for residents of the Pleasantville High-Rise. These residents, who speak only English or just Spanish, wanted to learn the basic vocabulary to talk to each other in the building. Dr. Colón has been facilitating this process on a monthly basis since August 29, 2018.

The SCCE is again looking forward to partnering with Amy-Lynne Camilli and 4ACxAC for the homework programs' holiday celebrations in December. As in past years, 4ACxAC will be raising funds to buy toys for the youth in our programs to be distributed at the December

holiday parties and we appreciate their support.



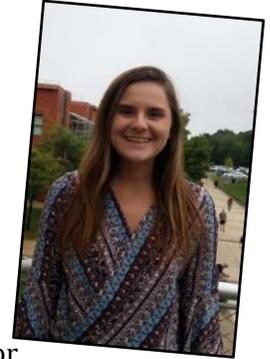
SCCE Student Fellows Christine Whaley and Gianna Nitti, and Trish Collins, AC Community Engagement Liaison (Pictured above), contributed to the success of a community baby shower held by the Southern New Jersey Medical Center on Thursday, November 9, 2018 at the All Wars Memorial Building. The event provided families living in and near Atlantic City with an opportunity to learn about maternal and health care for infants, as well as educational workshops. Families also received supplies for newborns.



Happy Halloween from Sam Adelman, Sarah Delicio and Christine Whaley, our Student Fellows at the Buzby Homes Village Homework Completion Program!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN SCCE STUDENT FELLOW

8 Questions with Sarah Delicio



What does a typical day as a Fellow look like?

As a Fellow at the Stockton Center for Community Engagement, I work at the Homework Completion Program at Buzby Homes Village. Starting at 3:00 pm, the children come into their neighborhood community room where we help them with their homework. As the senior Fellow, I oversee the volunteers, check in on how the children's days were, help them complete their homework, and make the children feel safe in a comfortable environment with the help of the police officer on site.

What are examples of projects you are working on?

This year at our Homework Completion Program, my main focus was to work on school subjects that the children were struggling with in the previous year. We are able to check their progress through grades they receive on homework as well as their report cards. This helps us to understand what subjects the children excel in and what they are struggling with so we can focus on improvement.

What are the skills and experiences you use daily?

As a Fellow, it is extremely important to have patience with the children and show them kindness and compassion. I try to remind the children that they are important and they can do anything they put their minds to. Our purpose is to help the children succeed as well as showing them that there is more to life than what they see.

What are the biggest challenges that you face in your work?

A challenge you can face in this position is in trying to understand what another person is going through. Each child has their own story and battles that may affect their behavior. It is important to be an open listener and not to jump to conclusions or judgement. Each child is unique and has a huge heart and it is important to be an active listener.

How could you use this experience for advancement or professional development?

As an aspiring social worker, this has been a great experience for me to not only make an impact on these children's lives but to also see the social influences that affect their daily life. I have gained so much knowledge on how to work and collaborate with my team to make our program the best it can be. Through this experience, it has shown me my love for helping others and working in an urban community.

Why did you come to this project?

I had the privilege of taking one of Dr. Colón's classes where she told me about the SCCE. I fell in love with their mission and I knew I wanted to be a part of this amazing family that we have. My purpose in life is to make a difference and help others and this was the perfect place to do so.

What's your favorite part about working here?

My favorite part about being a Fellow is seeing the children's smiling faces when they see us. There is no better feeling than having 20 children yelling my name because they are so excited to see me. After three years of working at the Center, I have had the privilege to see the children grow to become intelligent, kind, and hardworking individuals. I am so thankful for all of the opportunities that this experience gave me and I wouldn't change it for the world.

What gets you most excited about the SCCE's future?

As a center, we are gradually expanding and opening more programs in Atlantic City to make a difference in our communities. This gives us the opportunity to touch more children's lives and show them that they can do anything they put their mind to and become successful individuals.

SCCE PROGRAMS IN REVIEW

What We Have Been Doing This Semester

HOMEWORK COMPLETION PROGRAMS

The Homework Completion Programs at **Stanley Holmes Village**, **Buzby Village**, and the **Pleasantville Public Library** continue to be well attended and successful in helping our youth.

The programs are held from Monday to Thursday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. For the fall semester, we have an overall increase in neighborhood youth participation as well as Stockton volunteer and social work program intern tutors.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS CLASSES

ELL classes continue to meet at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church: 118 West Bayview Ave., Pleasantville, 08232 on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm and at Ministerio Por Gracia Sois Salvos: 111 North 3rd St., Pleasantville, 08232 on Fridays from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.



AFTERNOON TEA AND OLDER ADULT GAME DAY

The SCCE has maintained the number of program days in Atlantic City and Pleasantville and is now bringing a larger team of Stockton volunteers, Student Fellows, faculty and staff to five Housing Authority residential complexes in Atlantic City, Community Havens, an older adult housing facility in Atlantic City, and the housing authority high-rise in Pleasantville. These programs are well-received by the residents and the number of Stockton volunteers keeps growing!

NATURALIZATION CLASSES

Taught by Jessica Perez in conjunction with Dr. Merydawilda Colón's course "The Paths the US Citizenship", the SCCE's Naturalization Classes meet at the Atlantic City Campus Academic Building every Tuesday from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The program had its 15th graduate in October 2018 as one more students passed the Naturalization exam to become a US Citizen.