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## Updates from CSN

Dear CSN Community:

**We wish you and your loved ones a safe & happy holiday season!** 🌲 📺



This month, we take a look back at our accomplishments in 2022, while looking ahead to the exciting new programs and events that we have planned in the new year.

Scroll down to learn about CSN's virtual programs in 2023, new Spring & Summer opportunities for students, the return of in-person events, and more!

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### CSN Introduces a New Graduate School Program

CSN is getting ready for an exciting start to 2023 by delivering **3 virtual programs!**

In February, we will be piloting a new CSN program designed to support FGLI students and young professionals interested in pursuing **graduate school** – in the fields of humanities, law, business, medicine, STEM and more!

**Students enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to:**

- Speak with former FGLI students currently in graduate school

- Meet a range of professionals who can help with financial literacy and loans, identifying and selecting graduate schools/programs, the application process, work-life balance, writing a personal statement, and other key

Students who complete the entire program will be eligible for two months of mentoring with a professional and a reimbursement for a membership in a professional society, in their field of interest.

**Stay tuned for more information regarding the program's dates & deadlines.**

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## **Student Leadership Training and Certificate Program**

In Spring 2023, we will run our **Student Leadership Training and Certificate Program** for the third time. This unique program will allow students to assess their leadership strengths and participate in a sessions on various topics including Design Thinking, Mental Health, and more!

SPRING 2023

## ***Student Leadership Training and Certificate Program***

### **Students will have the opportunity to:**

- Assess their leadership strengths (through StrengthsFinder)
- Participate in sessions on Improv, Design Thinking, Meditation and Mental Health, and navigating Crucial Conversations

Program dates and deadlines TBA

At the conclusion of the program, each student makes and shares a mini Ted-Talk on a topic of their choosing. A \$500 stipend is provided for students who participate in the full program.

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## **The Return of Our Advocacy, Belonging and Career (ABC) Program**

Lastly, in Summer 2023, we will offer our **Advocacy, Belonging and Career (ABC) Program** for the second time. This program features a panel of former CSN students and sessions that explore the many different ways that students can become advocates!



## Advocacy, Belonging and Career (ABC) Program

**This program is designed to help FGLI students become advocates for themselves and others as they transition into the workforce.**

**The program features:**

- Panel of former CSN students with advice about professional success for FGLI students
- Sessions on speaking up for yourself and your co-workers, evaluating your performance and taking constructive feedback from your supervisors, and engaging in high stakes conversations about issues of race and equity

**To learn more about the program:**

Visit [collectivesuccess.org/programs](https://collectivesuccess.org/programs)



At the end of the program, students will write a short policy brief on a topic they want to advocate for. A \$500 stipend is provided for students who participate in the full program.

**Stay tuned for more information regarding the program's dates & deadlines.**

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**CSN is Seeking a Student Volunteer!**

# Volunteer Opportunity with CSN

## Who you are:

- CSN student in Informatics, Computer Science or Marketing

## What you'll do:

- Join the CSN Technology Task Force as a volunteer for a CRM project
- Witness the process of creating a custom database from scratch
- Provide input from a student's perspective

Deadline to apply is December 31st!

Send your resume to [info@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:info@collectivesuccess.org) and explain why you're interested in this project!



CSN is embarking on a project to consolidate our data in a relational database. A professional specialist has volunteered to help us design and implement the Salesforce platform to consolidate confidential student, volunteer and donor contact information and prepare aggregated reports to track our impact and facilitate communications.

**We are looking for a CSN student in Informatics, Computer Science or Marketing, to join the CSN Technology Task Force as a volunteer.** Through this project, you will witness the process of creating a custom database from scratch and provide input from a student's perspective. The project will take place through a few hours in virtual meetings over the next few months.

To apply, send your resume to [info@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:info@collectivesuccess.org) and explain let us

know why you are interested in this project!

**Deadline to apply: December 31, 2022**

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## **2023 EY Student Excellence Awards**

Once again, **EY is generously hosting the CSN year-end celebration** at their beautiful corporate facilities. They are also sponsoring another round of student excellence awards!

Last year, each applicant for the award program received a gift card to compensate for their time in preparing a video or essay in response to prompts regarding their own leadership development or how CSN has helped them in their journey through college. Four FGLI students were then selected for EY awards.

If you are a CSN chapter member or CSN program participant, be on the lookout - **the application form for the 2023 EY Student Excellence Awards will be shared soon!**

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## **The Importance of Demystifying the College Experience for First-Gen College Students**



CSN knows that First Generation college students need support to make the most out of their college experience. Recently, CSN's **Co-Executive Director Adrienne Tymiak** contributed to a Harvard Business Publishing: Education article, "The Support Your First-Generation Students Need to Be Successful."

Check out the article below for an overview of who should be considered "first-generation" and some recommendations on how to help those students thrive when they get to campus.

[Read the Article](#)

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## Summer Undergraduate Minority Research Program (SUMR)

**SUMR** is a a 12-week summer internship program founded by the **Leonard David Institute of Health Economics** at University of Pennsylvania. It introduces promising undergraduates to health services research and aims to increase historically underrepresented groups entering graduate schools in the fields of health economics, health care management, health policy, population

health, and clinical epidemiology.

The SUMR 2023 program will run for 12 weeks, beginning May 30, 2023 through August 18, 2023.

**Deadline to apply: February 1, 2023**

[Learn More About the SUMR Program](#)

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## **Get Experience in Aging Research Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP)**

SUMR has expanded the program to attract scholars who are interested in the demography and economics of aging and health care. The **Get Experience in Aging Research Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP)** is a 15-month sustained fellowship program for undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds who are interested in a career in aging research.

The GEAR UP 2023 program will run for 15 months concurrently with SUMR, beginning May 30, 2023 through August 17, 2024.

Those who wish to apply for GEAR UP should complete a SUMR application and indicate in the application form your desire to be considered for GEAR UP.

**Deadline to apply: February 1, 2023**

[Learn More About the GEAR UP Program](#)

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## **CSN Spotlight: Camellia Brown**





My name is Camellia Brown, and I am currently a Writer at Vanguard! I was born and raised in Philadelphia, and I have found many opportunities here in the city. Prior to Vanguard, I worked at some major agencies like Tierney, Brownstein Group, and Red Tettermar O'Connell + Partners. During my time at these agencies I did social media for some of their clients and also wrote blogs as well.

I got to know CSN through an organization at Temple University called Temple First. This organization works to empower first-generation college students to achieve their goals. I got started with CSN through the Leadership Development Program where they talked to us about the different aspects of the leadership. And for me I feel like being in the program has helped to expose me to what real leadership looks like, in real time, with real-life everyday leaders!

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**CareerSpring** has dozens of dozens of permanent positions and paid internships positions posted on its platform, with locations across the country. In fact, many companies in Philadelphia are seeking FGLI talent! For instance, Bernstein Private Wealth Management is hiring Private Wealth Interns for this Summer.

**On the CareerSpring platform you can:**

- Apply to jobs, internships, and more!
- Network with Advisors, who can provide you with job searching tips and insights on what it's like to work in certain industries/companies
- Find Candidate Coaches who can help you edit your resume or prepare for your next interview

If you apply for a position as a CSN student, let us know and we'll make sure your resume gets elevated! **Sign up below** for free access to the CareerSpring platform as a member of CSN!

**Join the CareerSpring Platform!**

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## **A Return to In-Person Events**

Our bowling party and networking event on November 13th, in honor of First-Generation Celebration Day, drew close to thirty attendees, including students from four different Philadelphia-area colleges, CSN staff, founders, and board

members.

We are now planning a hot chocolate social and “brunch and learn” sessions for financial literacy after the holidays. CSN looks forward to hosting more in-person events to bring together FGLI students and local professionals.

**Email us at [info@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:info@collectivesuccess.org)** with any ideas on what activities or events you would like to participate in!

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## Recap of CSN's Fall Mentorship Program



### Feedback from CSN's Mentorship Program

"It is precisely CSN's unique focus on FGLI students that attracted me to the mentorship program— I knew at the beginning of the college process that my future community had to include peers that understood a FGLI background. I see in CSN that support network. At my high school, I had a difficult time adjusting to a school of people with different socioeconomic standing than me, especially as a woman of color. In addition, my parents had no idea about higher education and could not provide that support."

**-Student Mentee**

As **CSN's Fall 2022 Mentorship Program** is wrapping up, we are proud that

we were able to provide mentors to **23 students** hailing from **nine universities**: Temple University, Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, Community College of Philadelphia, St. John's University, Swarthmore, Rutgers Camden, Chestnut Hill College, and Delaware County Community College.

The students in our professional mentorship program aspired to pursue careers in the fields of psychology, law, education, business & finance, STEM, and entrepreneurship.

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## GivingTuesday

**At this time of year, we give thanks for all the professionals who volunteer as mentors and program facilitators, and to those who believe in our mission and support us financially. You are the driving force behind CSN!**

**On GivingTuesday**, Facebook fundraisers were launched by CSN advisory board members, raising over \$1,600. These donations will help CSN host more social and networking events for local FGLI students and cover reimbursements for student travel costs to attend. Sincere thanks to our donors!

If you missed these fundraisers and wish to help us out, there is still time to make a difference before the year's end. As we plan for our 2023 programs in the areas of mentorship, career preparation, leadership development, advocacy and how to pursue continuing education, we welcome professional volunteers as mentors and program facilitators. **Interested in volunteering and joining our team? Email us at: [info@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:info@collectivesuccess.org)!**

Not ready to volunteer? Please consider a donation to CSN in your year end charitable giving plan. As a reminder, we are a fiscally sponsored nonprofit organization under the Urban Affairs Coalition (501c3), so any donation to CSN qualifies as a tax-deductible charitable IRS deduction and should be eligible for corporate employee matching programs. A gift of any amount will help us sustain our programs and reach even more deserving Philadelphia area FGLI college students.

**Make a Donation to CSN**

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**Wishing You Happy Holidays!**

**Happy  
Holidays!**

To: you and your loved ones  
From: everyone at CSN



**CSN wishes you and your loved ones safe a Holiday and a Happy New Year!**

We appreciate all the time and hard work that our amazing staff, volunteers, board members, and students have put into our programs and events this year. We hope to continue to build new experiences and opportunities for everyone involved in the upcoming year!

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