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Updates from CSN

Dear CSN Community:

Wishing all students good luck on finishing the spring semester! 📚

This month, we are taking a look into CSN's accomplishments this Spring, upcoming opportunities to network with other FGLI students, and more!

Scroll down to save the date on some upcoming events to end off the 2022-2023 academic year, as well as a recap of some of our Spring programming and chapter events!

Register for CSN's Year End Celebration!

It's almost time for CSN's Year End event, held in-person at EY headquarters on Saturday, May 13th from 11am-1pm!

All CSN students, alumni, volunteers and sponsors are invited to attend. The agenda will include a review of the year, recognition of this year's Student Excellence Award winners and an address on leadership from our own CSN Advisory Board member Jenny Chan!



We will be offering free headshots for students who attend in-person, as well as lunch and cake to round out the celebration! We hope you can join us in-person but if that's not possible, there will also be a zoom session available for the first hour.

[Register to Attend!](#)

[Aramark: Feed Your Potential 365](#)



Aramark, as part of its **Healthy for Life® initiative**, is proud to be working with the **American Heart Association** to improve the health of all Americans.

Sign up below to get free expert advice on healthy eating from chefs & dietitians, as well as article on how to mind your health while getting through finals!

[Sign Up Now!](#)

[6 Tips to Get You Through Finals](#)

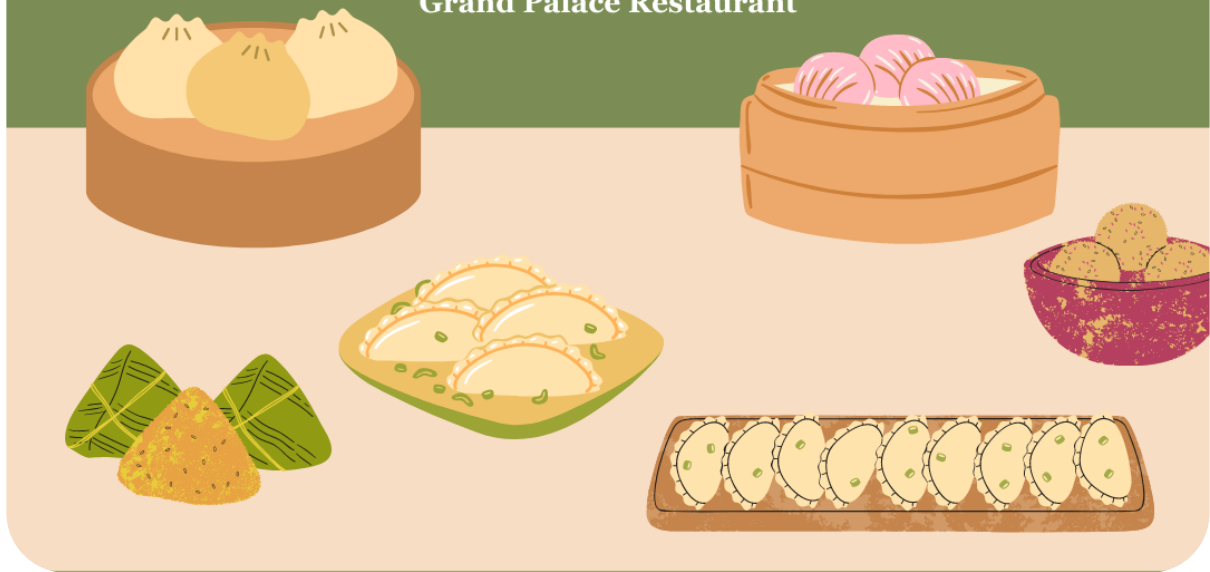
[CSN Reunion 2023!](#)

JOIN CSN FOR A

COMMUNITY MIXER & REUNION

Networking over some dim sum!

Sunday June 4th
2 PM - 5 PM
Grand Palace Restaurant



It's time for us to reconnect in person!

Join us for a **CSN Community Mixer & Reunion** - open to all CSN students, alumni, volunteers and sponsors! Network over a dim sum feast on Sunday, June 4th from 2-5 pm!

Meet us at:

The Grand Palace Restaurant
600 Washington Ave #3B
Philadelphia, PA 19147

RSVP for the Event!

2023 Woman's Way Operational Grant Recipient



CSN is honored to be one of the 13 organizations chosen to receive this year's **Women's Way Operational Grants!**

All the awardees are organizations led by women of color that are helping to advance gender and racial equity in the Philadelphia area.

CSN Alumni Spotlight: Michael Lam
Customer Success Specialist at Salesforce



Culture, college, career:

I am a first-generation college student that graduated in 2021 with a BS in Finance and Business Analytics at Drexel University. During that time, I co-founded and helped lead the Drexel chapter of CSN, called Dragon's First.

How were you involved with CSN during college and how did you benefit from it?

During Drexel's Welcome Week (orientation week for freshmen), I attended a seminar that Due Quach (co-founder of CSN) had at the University of Pennsylvania. There, I met Due and a fellow Drexel student at the time and was introduced to the challenging landscape that first generation college students, especially minority groups, had with achieving their academic and professional goals in college. Through my freshman year, I worked with the original founding CSN team (students and professionals) and by my sophomore year, Dragon's First was recognized as Drexel's first and only student-run student organization dedicated to the success of first generation and/or low-

income (FGLI) college students.

I led Dragon's First for two years as its President during the 2019 and 2020 academic years. The growth from being involved in and surrounded by like-minded students and professionals pushed me to be a better leader for myself and those around me. I was able to learn and understand how best to deliver valuable engagements by learning from our failures. To this day, the connections I've made through CSN are still going strong and I owe a lot of my self-improvement and self-confidence to CSN.

Any special interests or accomplishments?

I have accomplished a goal I had set for myself a few years ago of becoming certified in Personal Training. With that certification, I am able to work with the general population and give them guidance in their fitness and health journey. I am currently a coach at Orangetheory Fitness in the Willow Grove studio in addition to driving my career in technology at Salesforce as a Customer Success Specialist.

Easter Egg Painting with Temple First!



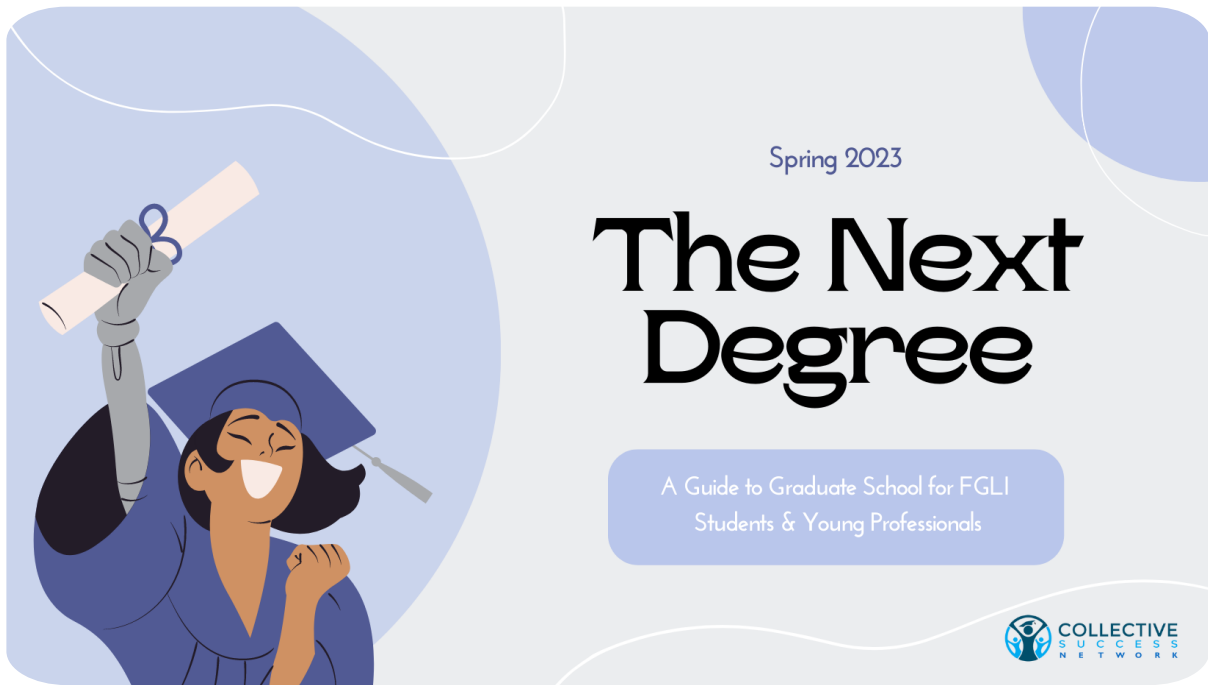
CSN helped fund the Temple First Easter Egg Painting Event held in the Howard Gittis Student Center on April 21st!

It was a great opportunity for FGLI students and Temple First's E-Board to connect with each other, relax, and enjoy pizza & painting!

CSN Pilots "The Next Degree" Program

This spring CSN ran a new program: **"The Next Degree,"** with participants hailing from Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Community College of Philadelphia, La Salle, Villanova, and Haverford College!

The six sessions included information on selecting graduate programs, the application process, financing graduate school, and writing a personal statement. The program also included a panel of FGLI graduate students, which resonated with some participants.



Here is what they shared about their experience:

- "I think the student panel was particularly relevant to me because it was helpful to hear from other FGLI students about the obstacles they had to deal with while in school. After this session, I felt more confident in advocating for myself and knowing where to get support."
- "I enjoyed the panel with other FGLI professionals that attended grad school because I felt represented and heard. The panelist gave raw and honest truth about their experiences navigating grad school, especially touching on social and emotional aspects while in school."

Other comments about the program included:

- "After attending these sessions, I feel that I have a better idea as to what it takes to apply and sustain myself within a graduate studies program, whereas before it felt a bit out of reach and outside of my scope of understanding."
- "I think the most important thing I learned in this program was the intentionality of the process. You need to want this, to know what you want, and try to be as sure as you can."
- "I am not an expert in grad school, but I do feel more informed and more comfortable with knowing where to start, how to ask questions, and understanding that this process is incredibly different from that of undergrad."

Students who participated in all of the sessions will be given a two-month mentorship with a professional in their field and will be reimbursed for joining a professional society!

Our "Student Leadership Development & Certificate Program" was Back by Popular Demand!

From March to April, CSN ran our "**Student Leadership Development and Certificate Program**" for the third year!

As always, participants enjoyed the interactive sessions that included StrengthFinders2.0, Improv, Design Thinking, Mindfulness, Crucial Conversations, and ended with students doing their own mini-Ted Talks.



When asked what they learned about leadership, students shared:

- "As a leader, we have to lead others and hold ourselves to a higher expectation than others. We have to look out for each other and connect the bridge."
- "Being a good leader starts with the individual. Essentially, you can't lead if you can't take care of yourself first."
- "Focus on your strengths rather than your weaknesses (I never heard this before so it was interesting to view it from this perspective)."

Students who attended all sessions of the program were also eligible for a \$500 stipend!

Keep a look out for applications for CSN's Advocacy Belonging and Careers (ABC) Program this Summer, and our signature Mentorship Program taking place Fall 2023!

Lunch & Learn: A Virtual Webinar with CareerSpring!

If you are currently preparing for a new job or internship, **CareerSpring** is hosting a virtual webinar on Thursday, May 4th from 1:30-2:30 pm EST!

This power hour will help you feel prepared, purposeful, and polished for your new chapter in life, with tips on how to transition from being a college student to thriving as a young working professional.

Email jobplacement@careerspring.org to RSVP!



CSN community members are invited to join the CareerSpring platform to:

- Apply to over 100+ jobs, internships and more!

- Network & connect with over 1,000 Advisors for job search tips, insights on industries/companies, and general advice on your career journey
- Find Candidate Coaches who can help you edit your resume or prepare for an interview
- Explore the Career Video Library to hear from real world professionals about their job experiences

Join the platform by signing up for the CSN cohort & registering for the webinar below!

Join the CareerSpring Platform

RSVP for the "Lunch & Learn" Webinar

Free Headshots & Resume Review

**HEADSHOTS
& RESUME
REVIEW**

Free headshots & resume review
at The *Business Resource &
Innovation Center (BRIC)* at
Parkway Central Library!

Thursdays, May 4th & 18th
1-3 pm | Ground Floor | BRIC

Headshots + Resume Review services will be available at the Business Resource and Innovation Center (BRIC) at Parkway Central Library, on Thursday, May 4th & 18th from 1-3 pm!

BRIC is offering this unique service for entrepreneurs, nonprofit professionals,

job seekers, and more! Take this opportunity to enhance your professional portfolio and make your LinkedIn profile stand out among other candidates!

We are also excited to partner with [Dress for Success Greater Philadelphia](#) to offer resume review services during headshots! Resume reviews will be offered on first-come-first-served basis, so show up early to learn some tips and tricks from experienced professionals!

Location:

[Parkway Central Library](#)

1901 Vine Street (between 19th & 20th Street on the Parkway)

Philadelphia, PA 19103

[Business Resource and Innovation Center](#)

Ground Floor

215-686-8663

Pay It Forward

A gift of any amount will help us plan more programs and events, and reach even more deserving Philadelphia area FGLI college students!

Make a Donation to CSN

Have any questions, suggestions or interest in volunteering and joining our team? Email us at: info@collectivesuccess.org

Make sure your loved ones and friends know about these resources.



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