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Updates from CSN

Dear CSN Community:

Welcome back! We hope you had a fun and relaxing summer ☀️

As the beginning of a new season is approaching, we have some exciting news! CSN pilots a new ABC Program, a return of our Fall Mentorship Program, First Generation Celebration, webinars, and more!

Continue reading to learn more about our new and returning programs & how you can stay informed about upcoming events and opportunities!

Advocacy, Belong, and Careers (ABC) Program

This summer, CSN piloted our new **Advocacy, Belonging and Careers (ABC) program** with 25 students from over ten schools, including Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Penn State University, Lock Haven University, Villanova University, Haverford University, Arcadia University, Bryn Mawr College, Community College of Philadelphia, and St. John's University.

The program, which was funded through a generous contribution from RSM US LLP, focused on how FGLI students could successfully make the transition from college into the workforce. Sessions included a range of DEI issues in the

workplace, including how to navigate Crucial Conversations about topics like race and equity, how to give and receive constructive feedback to coworkers, and how to write a policy brief.



Elliot Felix, Founder and CEO of BrightSpot Strategy and author of *How to Get the Most out of College*, was the keynote speaker. Felix shared tips with students for advocating for themselves in the workforce, such as networking and overcoming imposter syndrome, and engaged students in a design thinking exercise about what they value most and should look for in a future workplace. The program also included a panel of former CSN students who provided near peer mentoring.

Some of the students evaluations from the sessions:

ABC Program

What Students Thought of the Sessions:

"Knowing there are a lot of passionate people like me made me feel confident about my safety and future. Whether it be people of my skin tone, or low-income, seeing so many students have a dream with ambitious plans has helped me shape my context in success, I am limitless."

"Prior to this session, I never realized that the heated conversation about tough issues I had with those around me were coined as "crucial conversations." Being aware of this term will make me more cognitive during these conversations that I might engage in the future."

"This program is really important for students in our background to know that you have our back and want us to achieve what we want."



We want to thank all of the professional volunteers who contributed to the program, and especially our board member Sudhir Kondisetty who is a Principal at RSM US LLP.

This program was sponsored by a generous grant from RSM. If other companies are interested in sponsoring a CSN program and supporting FGLI students, please reach out to Chenora Burkett, CSN Co-Executive Director, at chenoraburkett@collectivesuccess.org.

Spotlight: Vivian Chen

Marketing Director of CSN's new Consortium Chapter



My name is Vivian and I act as a liaison between Temple University and the CSN Consortium Chapter. At Temple, I am also an active part of SNAP, also referred to as the Student Nursing Association of Pennsylvania, and a member of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Outside of being a student majoring in nursing, my other interests include volunteering and spending quality time with friends and family.

My journey as a CSN member began purely out of curiosity and blossomed into something bigger. After attending a networking event held by CSN, I realized how connected I felt around the students also present despite being from different colleges. The fact that there had been a community of first-generation low-income students empowering one another intrigued me as I always treated this part of my identity as a personal problem. Wanting to be a part of an inclusive space where I could foster my confidence as an FGLI college student and also take part in helping other students realize their potential, I decided to not only join CSN but become a liaison between Temple and the Consortium Chapter. Given the opportunity of having this role has become an eye opener to new possibilities and new learning experiences that I will forever cherish. I look forward to expanding our connections within the consortium chapter by hosting more events and activities.

CSN Mentorship Program

CSN Fall 2022 FGLI Mentorship Program

HOLISTIC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Freshmen & Sophomores

Gain big picture perspective on how college years fit into a larger life journey

How to navigate college, choose a major, find your voice, own your narrative, and advocate for your needs

CAREER FOCUSED MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Juniors & seniors entering workforce / continuing education

Gain practical and concrete knowledge on entering workplace from professional in chosen field

Help with resumes, LinkedIn, internships, interviews, networking, and more

Program is free to join and gives students the option to meet in-person OR virtually with their mentor during the semester.



This fall, CSN will be offering our signature program: Our **FGLI Mentorship Program**. The program matches FGLI students at colleges across the Philadelphia and surrounding area with volunteer professional mentors, many of whom also come from FGLI backgrounds.

The program has two tracks:

- 1) *Holistic Mentorship Program* covers all aspects of navigating college
- 2) *Career Focused Mentorship Program* is designed for juniors and seniors who will soon be in the workforce and are seeking a mentor in their field of interest

The program is free to join to join. Students and mentors have the option to

meet in-person or virtually approximately 3-5 times during the fall semester, with the option to continue meeting into the Spring.

To learn more about the mentorship program, visit our website or contact Alice Ginsberg, CSN Director of Programs, at aliceginsberg@collectivesuccess.org.

Apply to Become a Mentee!

Spotlight: Alice Ginsberg

CSN's Director of Programs, Partnerships and Strategy



Alice joined CSN in March 2020, as the first (part-time) paid employee. Starting just as the pandemic hit, Alice was instrumental in helping CSN to raise funding and organize services for FGLI students who had to leave campus with short notice. With Alice's assistance, CSN helped students get laptops, internet access, and storage space, among other necessities. Over the past two years, Alice has transitioned CSN's programs into a virtual format, expanded CSN's Mentorship Program, and created two new programs: CSN's Student Leadership Training and Development Program and CSN's Advocacy Belonging and Careers (ABC) Program. Alice has also worked closely with

CSN's Co-Executive Directors and Board Members to expand our funding sources, which now include generous grants from The Seybert Foundation, The Eagles Social Justice Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, The Patricia Kind Family Foundation, RSM and Radian.

Alice holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania and has taught in the urban teacher education and higher education programs at both the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers University. Alice is the author of eight books, including *Gender and Urban Education*, *Embracing Risk in Urban Education*, *Transgressing Teacher Education*, and (forthcoming) *For the Love of Teaching: How Minority Serving Institutions are Diversifying and Transforming the Profession*. In addition to her job at CSN, Alice is a Senior Research Specialist at Rutgers University's Samuel Proctor Institute for Leadership, Equity and Social Justice.

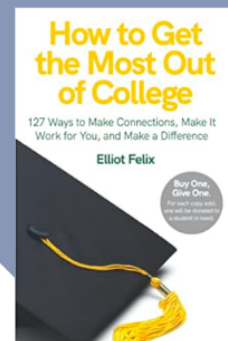
How to Get the Most out of College Webinar with Elliot Felix

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF COLLEGE

Webinar



Elliot Felix



Stay tuned for more information regarding an upcoming Webinar on ***How to Get the Most out of College with Elliot Felix***, sponsored by CSN's new Consortium Chapter. Students who attend will receive a free copy of Elliot's book!

Webinar on Financial Literacy

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Webinar



Learn How to Plan, Save, and Invest

DATE TBA



Connect with us on social media to stay updated with news about upcoming events like our webinar on **Financial Literacy**, where we explore the different ways you can plan, save, and invest for your future.

First Generation Celebration

Collective Success Network (CSN) invites you to a celebration for First Generation students and professionals this upcoming November! 🎉

How would you like to celebrate? Let us know! Email Alice Ginsberg, CSN Director of Programs, at aliceginsberg@collectivesuccess.org with any ideas!

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



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