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## Updates from CSN



**Wishing Everyone a Happy April!**

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## Join us for the CSN Year-End Celebration!

**Last chance to register!** You won't want to miss the CSN Year-End Celebration at EY Headquarters at 2005 Market St on Saturday, April 27, from 11:30 to 1:30 pm (arrive by 11:15 to be escorted up to the floor). In addition to networking with students and professionals, we'll hear from CSN Advisory Board member and EY Consulting Partner Jenny Chan, celebrate the 2024 Student Excellence Award winners, and enjoy lunch, and cake.



## 2024 YEAR END CELEBRATION

- Free Lunch
- Student Excellence Award Winners
- Networking
- Students, Alumni and Volunteers invited!



Featured Guest Speaker **Jenny Chan**  
Consulting Partner, Pan-Asian Leader EY



Register by 5 PM Tuesday, April 23

Hosted by EY  
2005 Market Street, Philadelphia

April 2024  
**27TH**  
Saturday

**11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM**  
(arrive by 11:15 to be escorted to the floor)



<https://bit.ly/CSNApril2024>

Join us in person or sign up to hear the keynote address by Zoom.  
Register by 5 pm Sunday, April 21 at: <https://bit.ly/CSNApril2024>

Register by 5PM, Sunday, April 21!

## Creative Career Design Event

We thank Dean Ron Kander of Thomas Jefferson University East Falls Campus

for hosting the “Creative Career Design” event on Saturday, April 6th. The event kicked off with a fun team-building exercise that gave insights into team problem-solving.



After a delicious build-your-own lunch “bowl”, we heard career stories and priceless advice from 4 accomplished first-generation professionals. They touched on many important topics for CSN students: mentors, risk-taking, perseverance, reframing "failures" as "learnings", financial literacy, strategic career choices, and finding support team from family, colleagues, and/or friends.



Missed the session? Check out the Q&A video [here!](#)

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## **Update on CSN's Student Leadership Development and Certificate Program**

CSN's 2024 Student Leadership Program is well underway, with over twenty students from diverse colleges and universities across Philadelphia and surrounding areas. As usual, we had a waiting list, and we hope to be able to offer the program twice a year to accommodate everyone interested.

The first session focused on Improv, with Rick Horner. The second session focused on StrengthFinders2.0 with Keith Willis. The third session, which was facilitated by CSN Co-Founder Nancy Li, taught students about mindfulness and non-violent communication. This past week, students engaged in a session on Design Thinking. After next week's session on Crucial Conversations, students will make and share their own mini-Ted Talks on a topic of their choosing.

## **Here's a snapshot of student feedback about the value of the program!**

### **About Improv:**

- “As a leader, you have to be able to adapt. Leaders can look different and do things differently and you have to find your own style of being a leader.”

### **About StrengthFinders2.0:**

- “I think what was important about this session for FGLI students was knowing that they don't have to ignore their weaknesses. Any weakness can be useful in a situation, and knowing your weaknesses can help you overcome and improve them.”

### **About Mindfulness and Non-Violent Communication:**

- “Nonviolent communication requires the practice of empathy and active listening instead of assigning blame to others. Possessing this skill set is crucial for leaders to effectively address situations and achieve constructive outcomes rather than resorting to blame.”

### **About Design Thinking:**

- “As students from first-generation, low-income (FGLI) backgrounds, we're already defying expectations with the ideas and actions we bring forth. This session emphasized that, despite not seeing ourselves as major change agents, we're already breaking barriers and achieving things that might seem impossible.”

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## **CSN's Mentorship Program**

CSN is wrapping up its signature Mentorship Program, which we have expanded to be a year-long program as opposed to a single semester. We hoped this change would give participants more time to build trust with their mentors and to create lasting relationships. Students who participated in the program who are still enrolled in school in the Fall can sign-up again. You can

work with your existing mentor or ask for a new one. Keep a lookout in the next newsletter for more information about the program and how to sign-up for Fall 2024.

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## **Announcing: ABC Program this Summer**

This summer, CSN will be offering its Advocacy, Belonging, and Careers Program (ABC) Program for the third time. This six-session virtual program is designed to help students successfully make the transition from college to career, and to teach them about different ways to be effective in the workplace, to be valuable team members, and to serve as advocates for causes they feel passionate about. Look for an upcoming flyer and application form in the next newsletter or on our website.

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## **Save the date: June 13, 2024 CSN Alumni Reunion and Community Mixer!**

After last year's success, we are working out the details for another gathering of the CSN community to enjoy a delicious dim sum meal and hear a special guest speaker on "Courage". More details to come soon!

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## **CSN wants to help you find summer internships**

There are life sciences companies in the Philadelphia area that are looking specifically for FGLI talent to fill open positions for the summer and beyond (they appreciate the many assets that FGLI students bring to the workplace!).

Students and recent graduates are invited to submit their resumes and career interests to "CSN Talent". If you tell us your areas of interest and upload a copy of your resume, CSN will notify you if a suitable opportunity arises and give you the choice of whether to apply.



ARE YOU A FIRST GENERATION  
AND/OR LOW INCOME COLLEGE  
STUDENT OR RECENT GRADUATE?

Jobs and internships in the  
**Philadelphia** area are looking for you!

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Share your resume and interests and let  
CSN connect you with opportunities



<https://bit.ly/CSNtalent>

There is no obligation for you to accept if you are invited to schedule an interview or if you receive an offer of employment. And all along the way, CSN is available to coach you through the process and to help with any issues or questions. If you are searching for a job, what do you have to lose?

**Sign-up is open!**

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## AmeriCorps

The application for the full-year Serve Philadelphia VISTA Corps is now open! Serve Philadelphia VISTA is an AmeriCorps program that serves as a career pathway for individuals interested in local government. To learn more, click [here](#).

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## CareerSpring

CareerSpring provides job search assistance and posts internships and full-time jobs for FGLI students and early career professionals. To join the CSN cohort on the CareerSpring platform, scan the QR code below or sign up at: <https://bit.ly/CSNcareerspring>



Many employers within the CareerSpring Network are seeking motivated and driven interns for summer positions (both 2024 and 2025) and for full time positions. All of the Employer Partners are interested in FGLI talent from the CareerSpring Network—so don't miss out on these opportunities.

**Sign up to join the CSN cohort on the CareerSpring platform and get access to these job and internship opportunities!**

Besides job postings, CareerSpring also hosts many webinars just for FGLI students and early career professionals. Check out this upcoming session:



## Lunch & Learn: Financial Responsibility - Preparing for the Real World

Thursday, April 21st @ 12:30pm CST / 1:30pm EST

Sign up for a CareerSpring webinar here

## Girl Scouts of South Eastern PA are looking for FGLI talent for summer jobs



# Come Work at Camp!

**We are hiring at Girl Scout camps throughout the council! Working at camp is an opportunity to meet new people, broaden your horizons, and learn how to be a leader!**

Working at camp, you will become a role model for girls aged 5-17 and grow as an individual. While caring for campers, staff become proficient in time management, problem solving, public speaking, crisis management, and more! Gaining practical skills and forming lifelong friendships are just two reasons why working at Girl Scout camp is a great way to spend your summer.



camp experience complete with a lake, high ropes course and a zip line!

- **Camp Wood Haven**—Pine Grove, PA: Just minutes away from a hike on the Appalachian Trail, this camp offers a barn with 16 horses, a variety of unique places to camp, and a quirky collection of staff!
- **Camp Laughing Waters**—Gilbertsville, PA: Located in Montgomery County with lots of land to explore, this camp offers both horseback riding and high ropes!
- **Camp Shelly Ridge**—Lafayette Hill, PA: Just a 30-minute drive from Philly, this camp offers both day and residential camp. This small camp has a rock wall, hiking trails, and a nice pool!

## Jobs at Camp

- General Counselor
- Adventure Staff
- Equestrian Staff
- Kitchen Staff
- Aquatics / Lifeguard—Lifeguards at GSEP camps require an American Red Cross certification. This certification can be obtained upon arrival to camp.
- Managers—Each area of camp offers manager positions that are available to staff over the age of 21. These staff are usually experienced in camp operation or leadership.

## Our Camps

**Sleep-Away Camps** run weeklong sessions where campers stay overnight from Sundays to Fridays. Staff are provided with three meals a day, access to laundry facilities, specialized training, and a place to stay for the entire summer.

- **Camp Mosey Wood**—White Haven, PA: In the Pocono Mountains, this camp provides a rustic

**Day Camps** run weeklong sessions Monday through Friday. Campers are dropped off and picked up every day. Staff work 8-hour days with the option to work early and after care for additional compensation.

- **Camp Valley Forge**—Valley Forge, PA: This camp runs for 10 weeks throughout the summer. Campers spend their summer earning badges, swimming, and making tie dye!
- **Camp Mountain House**—Allentown, PA: 8 week program starting mid-June!
- **Philly Camp**—Roaming locations in Philadelphia. Summer 2024 will be hosted at the Community College of Philadelphia!

Visit [gsep.org](https://gsep.org)  
to learn more  
about our  
camps!



If you have never been to a summer camp, this is an opportunity to experience the magic of nature, make new friends, get training in soft skills and get paid.

There are opportunities to work as a general counselor, adventure staff, equestrian staff, kitchen staff, aquatics/lifeguard and even as a manager at either a day camp or a sleep away camp in the Philadelphia area. GSE can provide transportation if needed.

Apply by selecting Sleepaway Camp Staff or Day Camp Staff

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## Feeling stress or anxiety?

As the academic year progresses, it is important to be aware of potential stressors and to manage them effectively. Check out this free resource for wellness and meditation!

Free Guided Meditation (Audio & Video)

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## Financial Aid information for FGLI Students

CSN partnered with Rise First to host a webinar on the New FAFSA and Scholarships just for First-Generation and/or Low-Income students. Six financial aid professionals described the process and shared some valuable tips (including how to use AI!).



If you missed the webinar, you can view a YouTube recording here.

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## Interested in being an active member of the CSN community?

For more information, email us at [info@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:info@collectivesuccess.org) or sign up to:

- **Join a campus chapter:** [bit.ly/CSNchapters](https://bit.ly/CSNchapters) (left QR code)
- **Volunteer:** [bit.ly/CSNvolunteering](https://bit.ly/CSNvolunteering) (middle QR code)
- **Donate:** [bit.ly/CSNdonation](https://bit.ly/CSNdonation) (right QR code)



**Join**



**Volunteer**



**Donate**

Have any questions, suggestions or interest in joining our team? Email us at:  
**[info@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:info@collectivesuccess.org)**

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