

THE STOCKTON CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE-LEARNING



SCCESL Engagement Leadership Team Members Present at the EngageNJ Thrive Conference

(L-R): Azra Mahisa, Nathalie Valladeres, Olivia Lovett
(Back), Shayna Achamizo (Front), Greg Rothschild, and
Madelyn Sacco

IN THIS ISSUE

**STUDENT LEADERS
PRESENT AT THE THRIVE
CONFERENCE**

**SPRING EVENTS AND
ACTIVITIES**

**SERVICE-LEARNING AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
BY THE NUMBERS**

**MLK DAY OF SERVICE
WRAP-UP**

Saturday, February 24, 2024, student leaders from the Stockton Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning (SCCESL) attended the EngageNJ 5th Annual THRIVE Student Conference and Opportunity Fair at Middlesex College in Edison, New Jersey.

Engagement Leadership Team (ELT) members Azra Mahisa, Olivia Lovett, and Madelyn Sacco, supported by Greg Rothschild, Shayna Achamizo, and Azra Mahisa, hosted a panel discussion on how community engagement can further students' professional and career development and impact personal growth. After their presentation, the ELTs held a question-and-answer session where the attendees could ask more questions about the presentation. The panel discussion was informative and gave attendees a new outlook on the importance of community engagement.

Third Annual Community Day and Party in the Park



Merydawilda Colón and Dr. Joe pose with Stockton volunteers at the Community Day

On April 27, 2024, staff and ELT members from the SCCESL volunteered at Stockton's Community Day and Party in the Park. Staff members Taylor Coyne, Trish Collins, Shawn Cooper, Heather Swenson Brilla, and Merydawilda Colón were spread across the city, supporting the event by registering participants and helping to clean the streets and beaches.



2024 Student Leader Graduates



Nathalie Valladeres
Ariana Ramirez

Madelyn Sacco
Lauren Whaley

Kristine Garcia
Azra Mahisa

Olivia Lovett
Lina Garrido

Frank Arce
Annika Luz



L-R: Azra Mahisa, Ariana Ramirez, Lauren Whaley, Olivia Lovett, Madelyn Sacco, and Nathalie Valladares

A special congratulatory toast to all the Engagement Leadership Team members of the Stockton Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning who graduated this year. We thank each of our Student Leaders for their commitment and for utilizing their skills in service to communities on and off campus, and we wish all of them the best in their future endeavors.

-Merydawilda Colón, Shawn Cooper, Trish Collins, Taylor Coyne, and Heather Swenson Brilla

The SCCESL continued to support the monthly food distribution for the Westminster Christian Worship Center in Atlantic City. In partnership with Dr. Thelma Witherspoon and Thelma Rice, Shawn Cooper supervised SCCESL ELT members and Stockton student volunteers at five distribution events, providing over 1,000 meals, fresh produce, hygiene, and clothing items. This spring, they also distributed dog beds and shopping bags handmade by Stockton students and volunteers during Stockton's 2024 MLK Day of Service



SCCESL Hunger Initiatives



Shawn Cooper poses with Stockton volunteers and the shopping bags and dog beds that were made at the MLK Day of Service in January

Youth from Stanley Holmes Village Visit Stockton's Galloway Campus

On April 4, 2024, four youth from the Homework Completion Program at Stanley Holmes Village visited Stockton's Galloway campus. They toured the SCCESL office, met Dr. Ian Bouie, Dr. Donnetrice Allison, and Jovin Fernandez, and participated in an open discussion with EOF Stockton students about their college experience and overcoming challenges as students of color. The youth learned about leadership roles in various organizations and the importance of being involved in campus life. ELTs Damaris-Anne Spring, Olivia Lovett, Will Smith, Azra Mahisa, Tiffani Keen, and Mackenzie Tierney supported the event. Trish Collins coordinated and supervised the trip. Dr. Merydawilda Colón and Dr. Terricita Sass, Stockton's Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, also attended and spoke with the youth. Officers White and Dabney from the Atlantic City Police Department transported and chaperoned the youth from Atlantic City to Galloway.

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Facebook: Stockton Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning

Successful 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

On January 15, 2024, Stockton held its 20th Annual MLK Day of Service. The event was held at the Galloway, Atlantic City, Hammonton, and Woodbine campuses. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service brings together over 500 students, community members, and community partners with projects both on- and off-campus. The goals of Days of Service are to provide an intensive, community-wide experience for students and to introduce them to partners where they can serve long-term and develop an ongoing relationship.

This year's event featured 31 projects across all campuses. It included community partners such as Stories of AC, Church by the Bay, Pine Barrens Birding Club, Our Lady Star of the Sea, MudGirls Studio, Allies in Caring, and The Branches.

742 people participated in the day, including students from six local public schools.



MLK Day of Service High School Panel Discussion

Trish Collins and Shawn Cooper served on the committee of Stockton University's 8th Annual High School Discussion that was held on February 22, 2024, at the John F. Scarpa Academic Building in Atlantic City. Six local high schools (Absegami, Atlantic City, Egg Harbor Township, Hammonton, Oakcrest, and Pleasantville); over 115 high school students attended. The discussion theme was "Come and Discuss the Importance of Developing Strong Leaders of Tomorrow, Today." High school administrators, teachers, Stockton students, staff, faculty, and community members also attended.

Service-Learning's Celebration of Service

On April 23, 2024, the Spring Celebration of Service was hosted during the Center for Teaching and Learning Design's Scholarship, Teaching, and Research Symposium Week (STARS). This semester, nine students received a Civic Engagement Micro-grant, a grant given to fund a student project within a Service-Learning course, and in total, fifteen Service-Learning projects were displayed for attendees to learn more about their service.



Students Jocelyn Gonzalez, Caitlin Stevenson, Melody Pugliese, Jasmine Oquendo, Angie Valenzuela, and Erika Davis worked with Voorhees Animal Orphanage. They identified that the orphanage needed additional supplies. The students worked together to create donation boxes and hosted them around the Stockton Galloway campus to collect the necessary items.



Students Simar Janjua, Chloe D'Aloisio, Jissel Perez Manzano, Heather Blanchard, Amanda Khalil, Kailah Caplan partnered with the non-profit Flow Forward and they created feminine personal care kits for women who experience period poverty.

Spring Day of Service

In partnership with Military & Veteran Services and Jewish Family Services, on Tuesday, April 16th, 27 students were able to assist in putting together a distribution mailing for Jewish Family Services and create over 80 cards to be distributed to JFS elder community members and deployed military personnel.



SCCESL Homegrown Programs

54

Youth participated in the Homework Program at Stanley Holmes Village

23

Youth participated in the Homework Program at the Pleasantville Library

290

Stockton Students Volunteered in the Homework Programs

9

Atlantic City and Pleasantville Police Officers and Fire Fighters Volunteered in the Homework Programs

11

Youth participated in the Homework Program at Brigantine Homes

100%

of the parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the homework completion programs benefitted their children

14

People participated in the Naturalization classes this year and one participant became an American citizen

Youth participated in the Homework Programs up to 81 times