



## Updates from CSN



**We wish you the best of luck as you embark on this new semester!**

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## **2024 ABC Program** **(CSN's Advocacy, Belonging and Career Program)**

In mid-August, CSN concluded another highly successful offering of its

summer Advocacy, Belonging and Careers (ABC) Program. The program is designed to help students – especially those who will soon be graduating and entering the professions – with skills for networking, self-advocacy, self-branding, identifying their ideal work environment, giving and receiving constructive feedback, working with teams, facilitating “crucial conversations,” and writing a public policy brief.

This year we received 49 applications for 25 spots. The diverse cohort includes students from seven different Philadelphia-area colleges and universities.

Program facilitators and professionals included: Kamina Richardson (Assistant Director of Administration, College of Public Health, Temple University), Anthony McCain (President, InfraSource), Shari Mayo (Financial Planning and Analysis Manager at Ballard Spahr, LLP), Elliott Felix (Author, Founder and CEO of bright spot Strategy), Chenora Burkett (CPA, Co-executive Director, Collective Success Network), Dr. Tanya O'Neill (Director, Organizational Development- Temple University Health Systems) along with a panel of CSN student alumni.



After multiple successful sessions, students shared how much they've learned:

- "Advocating for yourself is extremely important. If you don't speak up for yourself no one else will."
- "It's okay to be unsure of what path you want to take."

- "I learned how to analyze what I would like for myself in my future work environment."

We're looking forward to the growth and discoveries yet to come as we continue fostering belonging and career readiness at next summer's 2025 ABC Program!

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## CSN Now Accepting Applications for the Fall 2024 Student Leadership Program

Thanks to a generous grant from the Philadelphia Foundation, this year CSN is able to offer its most popular program – The Student Leadership and Development Program – in both the Spring and the Fall. Applications for the Fall 2024 program are open now until September 25<sup>th</sup>. The six-session virtual program (plus Orientation) includes sessions on identifying your leadership strengths through StrengthFinders2.0; public speaking through Improv; and innovative program solving through design thinking, among others. The program ends with students producing and sharing a mini TED Talk on a topic of their choice. Students who complete the entire program are eligible for a \$500 stipend. To apply for the program, click the button below or scan the QR code with your camera app:

Apply for the Student Leadership Program Here:



If you have any questions, please reach out to Alice Ginsberg at [aliceginsberg@collectivesuccess.org](mailto:aliceginsberg@collectivesuccess.org)

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## **CSN's Holistic and Professional Mentorship Program**

This fall, CSN will once again be accepting applications for its yearlong Mentorship Program – which has both a holistic and a professional track. The holistic track is designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores and covers all aspects of navigating college, while the professional track is aimed at juniors and seniors who will soon be applying for professional jobs and want to work with someone in their specific sector of interest. This year the program will also include a series of bi-monthly webinars on a range of important topics, including networking, organization and time management, self-advocacy, and professional etiquette, among many others, and in-person panels with industry professionals who will share their wisdom and career advice. Of course, we'll also have some fun events, like a virtual improv night. Look for a link to applications coming soon on our website and in our next newsletter.

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## **FGLI Early Career Professionals - CSN Wants to Hear From You!**

Starting in February of this year, CSN began inviting local employers to “Business Roundtables”, to raise awareness about the relatively untapped talent pool of local FGLI college students. At the June Roundtable, we discussed how to empower early-career FGLI professionals and ensure that they realize their full potential. Now, we will take a look at the same question with input directly from early career FGLI professionals.

If you identify as first-generation and/or low-income and are now in the workforce, we would appreciate hearing your views. Below is a link to a brief anonymous survey where you can share thoughts on your career journey. The survey will remain open until Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

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## Campus Buzz: Welcome Back!

The return to campus is in full swing, and the energy and excitement is strong! Temple First's tabling event for first-gen and lower-income students was packed and lively! We look forward to carrying this dose of camaraderie and collective support throughout the year and keep the momentum of our collective success going strong!



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## CSN Spotlight



Say hello to CSN's new Co-Executive Director, Geena Asiedu. Geena joined Collective Success Network initially as a volunteer at the beginning of 2024. As an attorney, Geena worked for Maryland's judiciary system and transitioned to international corporate practice in Beijing, China. Geena has a comprehensive legal background, including experience providing legal guidance to clients on global investment opportunities. After 12 years in Beijing, Geena is now a dedicated advocate for FirstGen/Low-Income college students and is driven by a passion for enhancing educational opportunities and student well-being.

"As Co-Executive Director, I am fortunate to be supported by a passionate CSN team, resourceful board members, enthusiastic volunteers, and motivated student leaders, all of whom consistently contribute to the collective success of our FGLI community."

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# There is Still Time to Register to Vote!

If you are a PA resident and have not yet registered to vote, there is still time before the November 5th, general election. Click the button below to see how PA Youth Vote can help out:

## PA Youth Vote

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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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