



NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Meet the Women of the Academic Festival
- NCC Stall Street Journal
- YES Award Winners
- Diversity Quiz
- Understanding Diversity- People of Color

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Diversity Newsletter

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Academic Festival 2018

By: Hannah Moeckel-Rieke & Andres Aluma-Cazorla

In 2017, Canada announced the Elsie Initiative on Women in Peace Operations, which aims at increasing the number of women in peace operations and is named after Elsie MacGill, the first female aeronautical engineer who build her own airplanes during World War II. In March 2018, this initiative acknowledges the trend that women are increasingly taking on agency in intra- and international conflicts. Sadly, women have become more prominent as combatants and perpetrators. On the other hand, they are adopting increasingly visible leadership in mediation, peace building, diplomacy and now also peace operations. As Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland explained at the 26th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, claiming that, “When women are included in governance, states are more stable.[...] When women are included in our collective security, everyone is safer. When women are included in peace processes, peace is more enduring” (Tsalikis).

While this year’s academic festival does not primarily focus on women, some of our speakers at this year’s Academic Festival represent that change.

It takes a lot to be a peace builder, most of all courage, patience and creativity, and all our esteemed contributors to the Academic Festival have proven track records of those qualities. As a tribute to Women’s History Month, this NCC Newsletter of-

“I truly believe the only way we can create global peace is through not only educating our minds, but our hearts and our souls.”
- Malala Yousafzai



Amada Benavides is a Colombian teacher; a wife, mother and a grandmother. She is the President of Schools of Foundation Escuelas de Paz, an organization based in Bogotá Colombia. Escuelas de Paz mission is to stimulate and carry out training, dissemination, information and research activities to promote the construction of Peace Cultures through an interdisciplinary team that works in stimulating environments that strengthen networks of youth, teachers and schools. She carried out this enterprise during the most violent years in Colombia, with the sole objective that Peace could be possible thanks to education. Last 2016 the Colombian government and FARC signed an agreement to ensure that their peace accords will be binding on future governments of Colombia. For Amada, “peace is too important to be left alone in the hands of the national government. What is

important is that it is being taken up by people at all levels in Colombia. A key role is played by teachers and the movement for peace education... there will be no peace unless there is peace education to transform the culture, and this requires a renewal of pedagogy.”



Sonja Ahuja specializes in organizational development, strategic planning and institutional change initiatives.

Currently a Capacity Building and Training Partner for Co-creating Effective and Inclusive Organizations (CEIO) in New Haven, Sonja works with community based organizations to reach their transformational goals in increasing diversity and equity to achieve results and increase their impact. She is currently leading the CEIO partnership with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. In addition, she supports CEIO's Organizer's Path conducting skill building and leadership development sessions and coaching grassroots community organizers. Sonja Ahuja's career includes being a senior executive in regional and community based non-profit organizations, social services and anti-poverty programs. She has served as Interim Executive Director of organizations undergoing transition or initiating significant new program efforts.

Sonja holds an MBA in Management and Organization from the University of Connecticut; her BS degree in Education is from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Luisa Kenaus is a Herbert J. Scoville Jr.

Fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, where her work focuses on nuclear arms control, U.S. nuclear weapons policy, North Korea and Iran. She is also engaged with public education and outreach efforts relating to nuclear weapons and arms control.

Luisa received her B.S. in nuclear science & engineering and political science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June 2017. As a student, she co-founded MIT Students for Nuclear Arms Control and helped organize events and programming to raise awareness of and interest in nuclear arms control issues among the MIT community. After graduation and before coming to the Center, Luisa worked on the Nuclear Weapons Education Project at MIT.

She is also the daughter of Professor Jeff Kenaus!



NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE STALL STREET JOURNAL

"MENTAL HEALTH IN A MINUTE"

**NCC's
Fresh Check Day!
MENTAL
HEALTH AND
WELLNESS FES-
TIVAL** will take
place on Wednes-
day April 18th in
the West Campus
Cafeteria from
11am -3pm.

There will be:

Food

Prizes

Music

Giveaways &

During the event you
canHELP SUPPORT
NCC'S FOOD BANK

BY

**BRINGING ANY
CAN DONATION
OR NON-
PERISHABLE
FOOD OR TOI-
LETRY ITEM TO
FRESH CHECK
DAY AND EX-
CHANGE IT FOR
A DELICIOUS
CUPCAKE!!!!**



**PROFILE
OF AN
OPIOID
ADDICT**

MALE OR
FEMALE

YOUNG
OR OLD

COLLEGE
DEGREE,
H.S. OR
NON-GRAD

WEALTHY,
MIDDLE
CLASS OR
POOR

LIVES IN
CITY, SUB-
URBS OR
RURAL AREA

WHITE,
BLACK,
BROWN,
ASIAN OR
OTHER

NEEDS HELP



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Make a difference

WHO GETS HOOKED ON OPI- OIDS?

There is no way to tell who will become hooked on opioids. Addiction is a complex disease brought on by many reasons such as genetics or lifestyle. There are some people who may be at greater risk of becoming addicted. If you struggle with...

**Chronic Pain, Emotional Pain, Alco-
hol, Tobacco, Marijuana or Other
Drugs ...You could be at risk for addic-
tion!**

**Talk to A Counselor At NCC!
Mental Health Counseling
East Campus, Room E-107
For Appointments Call
203-857-6870**

Please look out for
future issues of NCC's
Stall Street Journals
located in an NCC
restroom near you!

People who are addicted to...



ALCOHOL

are

2x



MARIJUANA

are

3x



COCAINE

are

15x



Rx OPIOID PAINKILLERS

are

40x

...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

GET HELP IN CONNECTICUT!!

If you or anyone you know is struggling with
opioid addiction...

**Call 211 or The Connecticut Opioid Hotline
1-800-563-4086, 24 Hours A Day**

**78
PEOPLE
DIE EACH DAY
OVERDOSING
ON PAINKILLERS**

SOURCE: CDC





YES AWARD WINNERS

The STRIVE committee sponsors the YES “You Make a Difference” Award, an employee recognition award program, that acknowledges NCC Faculty and Staff whose contributions have a positive impact on the NCC community and students; offers extraordinary efforts above and beyond the standard duties of the position; and performs significantly beyond expectation on a specific assignment, task, or goal.

The purpose of an employee recognition program is to recognize and reward work, contributions, and behaviors that support/further the mission, goals, values, and initiatives of NCC. Nominations can be an example of or represent one or all of STRIVE’s *values*: leadership, diversity, networking, community, development, and empowerment. The YES Award is given to four different recipients in four different categories: full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, staff, and community member. Recipients receive a plaque, gift bag and letter of appreciation from the college president to go into their professional file.

Congratulations to our fall 2017 YES Award recipients:

Full-time Faculty- Andrea Pizone (Mathematics Department)

“She is the reason I passed Math. I am not a Math person and she teaches in way so you understand Math. She really cares about her students and wants to see everyone pass. She is a beautiful person inside and out.” - NCC student

“You’ve given me a chance to be better in Math. You truly care about your students and my grades show it. I believe that I’ll be great in business as I’ve accomplished one of my biggest fears” - NCC student

Adjunct Faculty- Valerie Cooper (Communications & Speech)

“She’s so involved and worried about how we are doing on our work and she is great at what she does. She is very enthusiastic in all of her lectures and tries to find other ways in how she can entertain our classes and make us want to show up. She never gave up on any student, even if they weren’t always the best.” - NCC student

Community Member- Harold Winston (NCC Security)

“Always friendly and helpful. He takes the time to get to know you and makes me feel safe. He seems to be here morning, noon, and night.” - Anonymous

Staff- Diane Donovan (Tutoring Services Center)

“When I had to take last Sp17 off due to medical issues, Diane kept in close contact with me to see how I was doing. Also she gathered donations to help provide for my family. In the tutoring center she excels in keeping everything moving smoothly.” - NCC student

“She helped me understand my major and all of the requirements. She guided me on directions on how to meet those requirements. She is very helpful and passionate. She is an amazing advisor. She motivated me to continue to pursue my dreams and goals with one conversation. She definitely makes a difference. We need more Diane Donovans!” - NCC student

Ballot boxes will be out for nominations March 19 – April 20th in the West and East Campus Atriums. We are looking to have a STRIVE luncheon in the first week of May to honor fall 2017 and spring 2018 YES Award recipients, the NCC Foundation, and community partnerships.

Executive board

Co-Chairs- Courtney Anstett and Javon Noblin , Communications Officer- Stefanie Ortiz, Events/Programming Officer- Colleen Osborne , Recorder- Wendy Mendes, Treasurer-Pracilya , & Spirit Chair- Karla Lara

Diversity Quiz

Test your knowledge and take our Diversity Quiz!

1. Out of the 100 United States senators, how many are women?

- a. 13
- b. 22
- c. 34
- d. 50

2. What year did American women gain the right to vote?

- a. 1963
- b. 1825
- c. 1920
- d. 1896

3. Who was the first internationally recognized African American fashion designer?

- a. Ann Lowe
- b. Tracy Reese
- c. Romeo Hunte
- d. Maxwell Osbourne

4. What color did St. Patrick wear?

- a. Red
- b. Blue
- c. Green
- d. Brown

5. Who was the first African American Fire Chief in Norwalk, Connecticut?

- a. Sanford Anderson
- b. Tonya Boyd
- c. Patrick Raymond
- d. Crystal Yates

6. On Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Sirens all over Israel sound at 10am for two Minutes.

True _____ False _____

Diversity Quiz Answer Key 1. B 2. C 3. A 4. B 5. A 6. True



Understanding Diversity

Understanding Diversity is a new section in the Diversity Newsletter that aims to tackle questions and different understandings around topics of diversity.

To whom does the term “people of color” refer to?

I have yet to meet a colorless person. The phrase “people of color” commonly refers to those who have historically, categorically and systematically been discriminated against or denied the same opportunities and protections under the law that those of another color, mainly white, have enjoyed. Albert Memmi (2000) wrote in his book, *Racism*. (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis), that: *racism is the generalized and final assigning of values to real or imaginary differences, to the accuser’s benefit and at its victim’s expense, in order to justify the former’s own privileges or aggression.* The extent to which the color of people in America who are described as Black have been defined and used by others at the *expense* of Black people is racism. This form of oppression as described above by Memmi goes beyond a black and white dichotomy. It also applies to other groups of people whose color, character, gender, sexual identity and culture have been distorted and devalued at their detriment and to their oppressors advantage. The experiences of various groups of people in America who have been victimized in this manner can be qualified and better understood by knowing the particular history and nature of their suffering.

*“An individual
has not started
living until he
can rise above
the to the
broader
concerns of all
humanity.”*

-MLK

It is essential to understand the meaning of diversity that one must seek to know, recognize, acknowledge and equally value the real histories, cultural and ethnic differences between and similarities of people. This requires going beyond our assumptions about another person or group of people based upon how we have been conditioned to give meaning to the color of their skin from which we derive a very narrow and potentially dehumanizing view of what we think about them as persons.

Answered by Professor Frederick J. Streets. He is the first person to teach the introductory African American History course at NCC.

Do you have a question aimed at understanding diversity? Please email us at ptitus@norwalk.edu . You may see it answered in our next issue.

What does Diversity mean to you?



The March 24 2018 March for Lives in Washington, DC. Different people came together for a common cause: improving U.S. gun laws to make schools safer.

Photo Credit :Craig Ruttle / AP

All are invited to attend Committee for Diversity and Inclusion meetings. Meetings are scheduled for 2:30pm on the 3rd Monday of every month.

Location: Center for Multi-Cultural Affairs E-215

Upcoming meetings : April 16, 2018

May 14, 2018

Diversity Newsletter is brought to you by the Committee for diversity and Inclusion Newsletter Subcommittee Karla Lara, Wendy Mendes, Denise Rawles-Smith and Pracilya Titus.

Special Thanks to Andres Aluma-Cazorla, Hannah Moeckel -Rieke , Dr. Frederick J. Streets, & Lisa Slade for their contribution to the Diversity Newsletter . NCC student Cristian Pimienta is the designer behind our wonderful Academic Festival cover page.



Committee for
Diversity and Inclusion

If you would like to contribute or if you have any questions, please email Pracilya Titus at

