#### CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY // DECEMBER 2018

# CHAT'S AT THE CAT



# KEEPING UP With the Cohorts

To date, we've had 27 cohorts pass through our ConnCAT doors, serving approximately 300 students. This past September, ConnCAT graduated its largest class yet, with 35 participants successfully completing one of our 3 adult training programs. Culinary Arts Cohort 4 is currently out on externship completing their 80 hours at restaurants like Zinc New Haven and Trattoria 'A Vucchella in Bridgeport. Cohort 5 is well underway and in their 5th week of classes. While out on externship, 3 students from Medical Billing & Coding cohort 7 have successfully passed the CPC exam

and are now certified coders. Preparation is being made for MBC cohort 8 to begin January 2019 with a full class of 17 students. The Phlebotomy cohort 15 also passed a full class of 17 students through academy. This is the first time since the implementation of academy that all 17 participants have completed.

#### BECOME A GIFTED WINE TASTER

ConnCAT is excited to present a new class! Educate your palate and learn great tips on pairing wines with food. Grab a friend or come solo to swirl, mingle, and sip your way to becoming a wine connoisseur. We are hosting our first class this December. A twenty dollar donation per person is required to attend.

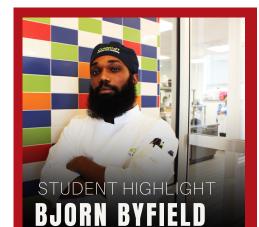
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Cohorts Update

**ConnCAT Feeds** 

After-School is back in session

> New Wine Tasting Class



Affectionately called Chef B, Bjorn Byfield started off in Culinary Cohort II and experienced some unfortunate family issues which forced him to withdraw from the program. A persistent and determined Byfield soon re-entered the culinary program's next cohort. After a stellar performance while in the program and while awaiting graduation from Culinary Cohort III, Byfield was offered a position to join the ConnCAT staff as Assistant Chef. He has since been a valued addition to the ConnCAT staff and seeks to improve himself and his impact on his community. ConnCAT salutes Chef Bjorn Byfield.

## DECK THE Conncat Halls

Fa-la-la-la may come to your mind as you walk through the ConnCAT space this December. There is certainly an atmosphere of holiday wonder and cheer. The after-school program has recently held it's first Family Share Night of the school year where parents got a chance to see the wonderful projects they've completed in the fall session. New artwork and STEAM projects can be located throughout the ConnCAT building. With Farmer D in agriculture, students have learned all about micro-greens and dehydrating vegetables from our garden. In art, all hands were on deck for a geometric abstract group mural where students experimented with different colors and spatial relationships between various compositional parts. With Ms. V in STEAM, students worked on community site planning and future outlook to 2050. Using topography and Google Earth, a computer program that renders a 3D representation of Earth based on satellite imagery,



students recreated their existing neighborhoods taking into account architecture, technology, green spaces and transportation. Breakfast recipes for students to take back to their families like snickerdoodle pancakes and omelettes were demonstrated in cook-ology. In Graphic Arts students are working on their Honey I Shrunk the Kids miniature project; taking images of themselves and placing them in new photos creating special effects that involve altering the scale of objects to create changes in visual perceptions.



### 'TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE

Many of us tend to think of hunger around this time of year. The idea of a family in our community spending the holiday without a decent meal can be heartbreaking. The sad part is that hunger does not subside after the holidays have passed. Hunger is a global epidemic that we can begin to address right here at home in the city we love. Planning has begun for an event we are calling "ConnCAT Feeds." Our intent is to feed the hungry but also to create a culture of compassion and community stewardship. This event is being planned for March 2019.



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