

DECEMBER 2020

WHAT'S AT THE CAT

PHYSICALLY DISTANT | SOCIALLY CONNECTED



Taking Commencement Outdoors

Our very first commencement was held in our Art Studio back in 2013 along with every other graduation to follow after that. This year our commencement tradition needed a little bit of re-imagining in order to adhere to physical distancing regulations.

ConnCAT's outdoor graduation was held on September 26, 2020 to celebrate graduates who completed their programs prior to March of 2020. "In her welcoming speech, ConnCAT Chief Operating Officer Genevive Walker highlighted the graduates' determination. 'Even in this day when we have this global pandemic, we have this national civil unrest, none of these things could stop us from celebrating you on this day,' Walker said."





Safe Space for Learning

When New Haven Public Schools announced that school would be exclusively distance learning for 10 weeks, ConnCAT responded with the creation of ConnCAT Safe Space Learning Hub. On mission, ConnCAT continued through COVID to support working families through the obstacles of virtual learning so that children could have a safe learning environment, with hot meals, and parents can go to work.

“

Safe Space is fundamentally and primarily about keeping kids safe, and giving them the tools they need to learn and grow.

Families in our community are facing a lot of uncertainty right now, and for many, distance-only learning presents a whole new host of difficult decisions to make. We wanted to do our part to solve some of those uncertainties by providing a setting where students' needs can be met physically, socially, and academically.”

— **ERIK CLEMONS**
President & CEO



ConnCAT

Adult Learners Still at Work

The benefit of our intentionally beautiful physical environment and whole person approach to workforce development were of little value during the initial period of quarantine. We were, however, able to pivot by creating virtual, hybrid and in-person instruction delivery methods for all enrolled students. In true ConnCAT form, students were consistently engaged by their instructors while we created virtual, hybrid, and in-person instructional delivery methods that met with the rigors of CDC and CT Office of Higher Education compliance.

ConnCAT is presently operating all adult programs in some form and preparing all adult learners for national certification and employment.





THIS SUMMER WAS ALL JAZZ & BRUNCH

This summer the outdoor patio at ConnCAT saw a number of covered faces. As Covid-19 limited the guests from gathering inside, Orchid Café opened its outdoors to welcome patrons and the soulful sounds of the William Fluker Quartet. "Past events at the café had included live jazz, 'but we wanted to, in the midst of a pandemic, bring community together,'" said Clemons. So the jazz brunch was born." Not only did the Sunday Jazz brunch bring the community together, it also brought musicians together. After a father experienced one of the brunches he told Fluker about his own budding musicians. Fluker invited them to come and play sight unseen and they blew everyone away! In addition to singing Sarai Jones, 12, and Darren Jones, 15 play the piano, guitar, flute, and saxophone. We hope Sunday Jazz Brunch makes another appearance in 2021.



ConnCAT Culinary Student Takeover

Enjoy 50% OFF

www.orchidcafenewhaven.com



Support These ConnCAT Graduates



CAMPBELL MEDICAL SOLUTIONS LLC

billing services/consultations

410 State Street Suite 5
North Haven, Connecticut
(203) 248-7000
campbellmedicalsolutions@yahoo.com



VEGAN AHAVA

vegan soul food

400 College Street
New Haven, Connecticut
(203) 747-5226
P.bentonevegan-Ahava.com



Together
we give.

GIVING
TUESDAY

Real change starts with
the decision to act