

MARCH 2021

WHAT'S AT THE CAT

CT CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S INSIDE

Ushering in a new CEO

Safe "Outer" Space

Adult programs push through the pandemic

ConnCAT collabs with City of New Haven to feed 1200

Setting a NEW tone together for Dixwell

Welcoming a New Leader while Saying Thank You to Another

New Chief Executive Officer and President, Genevive Walker, is not only loved but respected and welcomed with open arms to take the reigns. More like a relay runner who just received the baton from Erik to keep going, to continue the work.

Erik's new role with the ConnCAT community will be as Executive Board Chair for ConnCORP's broadened and deepened mission to drive economic development. Staff shared words of thanks and appreciation with Erik. Letting him know just how much his conversations and leadership have impacted the many lives here at ConnCAT.



I will achieve, approach, and perform at the highest level, according to my talents, gifts, and knowledge.



ConnCAT Stays True to its Mission

Our mission to inspire, motivate, and prepare youth through arts, is more relevant now than ever. It seems the more we advance technologically, the less we see our youth use their creativity to create new ideas. Leaving this thing they call imagination to dwindle. Students spend so much of their day with their eyes fixated on smartphones, computers, television, and/or video game consoles leaving technology to overshadow the arts.

The stars were in alignment when staff saw a need for a break from the screen and a half-day presented the perfect opportunity for creative artistic engagement. Venturing to take their eyes off the screens and minds out of this world.

ConnCAT's Safe Space Learning Hub has been running now since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Now, Safe Space is working with families to accommodate hybrid learning. Applications are still being accepted.





Compassion & Empathy leads ConnCAT to Feed in a new way

I will be
compassionate
toward others,
no matter their
circumstances.

1200 meals were prepared at the end of February by our very own ConnCAT Culinary Staff for a Black History Month Dinner Distribution sponsored by New Haven Youth and Recreation Department in collaboration with New Haven Police Department, New Haven Health Department, and ConnCAT. New Haven families in need were encouraged to visit one of six sites around the city to pick up their meals.

The ConnCAT kitchen came to life as Chef Jenna Martin, Chef Bjorn Byfield, and Chef Larry Murphy led the effort to fill the large order. As is the ConnCAT custom, all hands were on deck for the packaging and boxing.

Thanks to the New Haven Youth and Recreation Department ConnCAT was able to feed the community in a new way.



I will be fully committed to the transformative process of myself, through the efforts of this organization.

Commitment Carries MBC Cohort 9 through the Pandemic

Medical Billing & Coding (MBC) Cohort 9 walked through the doors of ConnCAT back in January of 2020. A program typically scheduled for eight months of learning was unforeseeably stretched to twelve months in lieu of the Covid-19 Pandemic.



The group started with adult learners ready to conquer the world of Medical Terminology, Disease Pathophysiology, and Health Information Management. Did we lose you? I may have lost myself writing those words. Medical Billing and Coding is a very intricate subject that prepares people to be healthcare professionals in charge of processing patient data. The need for medical billers and medical coders continues to increase with our aging population. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an 11% rise in jobs by 2028.

Medical Billing and Coding Instructor, Ernesha Gatling, shared, "...some of the biggest challenges were the constant changes due to COVID-19, and working to adapt to ensure a smooth transition [from in-person learning to online learning] for the students. She also said, "I have to give the students their credit for staying engaged. While I did my best to provide consistency with course material, they made the effort to show up every day, and adapt to the changes as needed. They followed through on their own goal of completing this program."

Coming to the end of the instructional period of their training at the beginning of 2021 seems to bring the cohort full-circle. Finishing with 10 students who stuck it out, stayed committed, and are ready to show 2021 exactly what they're made of.

Innovation Changes Externship to Internship

“Hands-on” learning during the externship component of ConnCAT Adult Programs is a crucial piece to putting our adult learners to work. With little to no externships available due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ConnCAT has innovatively transformed our phlebotomy learning space into a realistic professional laboratory.

Operating Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Phlebotomy Technician Cohort 18 is ready to draw your blood. ConnCAT phlebotomy students are ready to put to practice correct patient preparation, specimen collection, and specimen packaging and transportation. Volunteers are needed to lend a vein to help students reach the requirements to sit for the national certification. Volunteers are welcome to call the ConnCAT Phlebotomy Lab at (203) 823-9823 ext 201.

I will be visionary, creative, and think “out of the box,” neglecting methods of thought and practice that are not effective or impactful.



WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

ConnCAT celebrated Black History Month with an inside look into what community means.

For nearly 10 years, we've been committed to our New Haven community for reasons that are deeply personal to us. Those reasons obligate us to be stewards of opportunity wherever possible whether, in education, job training, entrepreneurialism, homeownership, or investing in Dixwell Avenue, we know that our future is as important as our past.

At ConnCAT, we want to celebrate Black history by building Black Futures. Visit ConnCAT.org/conncatplace to get the latest news about our investment in Dixwell.

