

# CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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### CASC Hosts Presidents' Symposium



On September 23, the CT Association of Student Councils (CASC) kicked off the new school year with its 3rd Annual Presidents' Symposium. This virtual event featured a keynote address and Q&A with Bayan Galal, president of the Yale College Council. [Watch it now!](#)

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## Director's Corner

And with that, fall is here! Happy Autumn. I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families in good health. It feels like we just started school and just like that we are in the second month of the school year!? Some of us have already had Homecoming dances, others of us are in the thick of planning them right now! So I will keep this brief.

**Presidential Symposium UPDATE** Thank you to all of the schools who were able to join us at this year's virtual Presidential Symposium. The Student Board shared out a number of new initiatives for this year that I hope you share with your local SCG. More details can be found in the "FROM THE STUDENT EXECUTIVE BOARD" Section.

**CASC Convention 2022.** This year's theme as announced at Symposium is "*Unlocking the Keys to Leadership.*" The date for Convention has been set for Friday March 11th. At this time we are planning for all possibilities, we will be making a final decision on live vs Virtual in December.

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of Student Leadership in Connecticut.

Christopher Tomlin  
CASC Executive Director

### Upcoming State Important Dates::

#### **October:: CASC/NAWD Advisors Workshop - VIRTUAL.**

*This will be a 2 hour evening clinic geared towards providing an opportunity for advisors to connect and trade best practises. The time is 7-9 PM.*

#### **November 8-12:: CASC District Conferences "The Art of Compromise." - VIRTUAL.**

*We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 3 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.*

## From the Student Executive Board

### CTRISES

CT RISES is a great way for your SCG to establish goals and create plans for the year. Each SCG should attempt at least one project in each of the CT RISES areas.

**CT - Citizenship::** Projects that promote student voice in the school and community.

- Election with elements found in US Elections
- Get out the vote campaign
- School forums
- Attendance at local town meetings
- Voter Registration Event
- Council/Government Operations

**R - Recognition::** Projects that recognize students and staff.

- Teacher Appreciation baskets
- Teacher of the month
- Support Staff of the Year
- Student Birthday announcements
- Student of the Year
- Wall of honor

- Write "Thank You" Letters for Custodians
- Student Spotlight

**I - Inspiration::** Projects that teach and promote student leadership.

- CASC President's Luncheon attendance
- CASC District Meetings attendance
- CASC Spring Convention attendance
- CASC "Adventures in Leadership." attendance
- Council/Government Retreats
- Leadership days
- Community leader guest speaker
- Student Leadership Awards

**S - Service::** Projects that serve the needs of the school and or community.

- Cards for Hospitalized Children/ nursing homes
- Blankets for Babies
- Blood Drive
- Food Drive
- Town wide cleanup
- Activities with retirement homes
- Cancer Awareness Week

**E - Engagement::** Projects that teach students and make the school a better place.

- Anti-Bullying Program
- Mock car crash
- Ban the "R" word
- Memorial Plaque
- Kindness Campaign
- Raise Money for Local Family in Need
- Anti-Drug Campaign
- Schoolwide Mental Health Awareness Activity

**S - Spirit::** Projects that improve school climate.

- Movie night
- Freshmen Welcome
- Pep Rally
- Themed dress up days
- Exam survival kits
- Flower sales
- School dance
- Field Day

## Caring for Connecticut - State Service Project

### Abby Messina, CASC Service Project Director

Caring for Connecticut is an initiative to make 3,000 blankets by our March Convention. Every month, about 3,000 babies are born in Connecticut hospitals, so our goal is to make a blanket for every one. Blankets will be going to hospitals around Connecticut, and they will go to infants, babies, and children. Blankets can be made using only fabric and scissors, and they do not take long to put together. If your SCG stays after school one day for about an hour, you should be able to make a ton of blankets! Not all hospitals are taking blankets for infants at the moment, so there will be more information on distribution of completed blankets after the symposium. Our goal is to have local SCG's give blankets to local hospitals.

We will also have some additional, monthly projects- such as a friendship bracelet making project for children in hospitals and an appreciation card project for frontline healthcare workers. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year!

## State Awards Program

### CASC Council of Excellence Award.

Has been designated to recognize and reward the achievements of outstanding Student Councils or Student Governments in our state association. This award has been created as a way of providing encouragement and support to SCGs, as well as to provide standards of effective student leadership. To be eligible, your school must provide information related to your SCG operations, fundraising, communications, service learning, etc.

### **Top 10 Projects Award.**

The top 10 project awards recognize Student Councils/Governments across Connecticut that have established a group project to better themselves, their community, or other communities. If your SCG is selected as a Top 10 Project, your SCG will be invited to present at our Spring Convention and receive recognition for your project. Submissions for this award will include a simple application, description of your project, and a 300 word essay about why your project should be considered for the award.

### **Dale Hawley Award**

Individual student leadership contributions at the state level will be recognized this year through the Dale Hawley award. Dale D Hawley's life was dedicated to youth, service and the development of student leaders, as a principal and director of the National Association of Student Councils. This award is given based on nominations. If you have a student leader who exemplifies these values be sure to nominate them for this award.

### **The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award**

This award is given in memory of the former Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Student Councils. Mr. Nedovich recognized the importance of leadership education, and development for all students. This award is to be given to one outstanding advisor, and will recognize the many contributions that advisors have made all over the state.

### **The District Project Award**

This award was created to further foster collaboration among the districts. This award centers around district collaboration on projects related to service. It will function on two levels: first level will be a competition against schools within districts to choose a service project idea. The winning school will be the representative of the district on the next level where districts will compete to win the district project award title. Districts MUST work together to complete this project and should show proof. The winning district project and overall winning district will receive recognition.

## **CASC Crest Redesign Contest**

To help celebrate 70 years of CASC, we are looking for your help in designing a new Crest that will be used by CASC in a variety of mediums. The design must have a reference to Connecticut. It must also incorporate the phrase "CASC" or "Connecticut Association of Student Council." We want to stress that the design cannot violate copyright laws or include any watermarked logos, quotes or images. It also does not matter if the design is computer generated or hand drawn. This design must fit on t-shirts, pins, flyers, and social media platforms. If you are interested in submitting, you must submit it digitally with your name, school, advisor, and a brief description of the design. The winner of the contest will be voted on at the 2022 ASpring Convention. We hope that you consider sending in your designs!

## **Districts in Action**

The District schools have worked all summer to develop plans for increased communication between the student councils/governments in their district whether this communication is virtual or in person.

### **Eastern District - Bacon Academy**

*Matthew Kranc Vice President; Laney Barrett, District Coordinator; Thomas Frickman, Advisor*

**Newsletter update:** The district conference will take place from 9:15 to 10:30. Attendants will be placed in several breakout rooms and asked to use their negotiation skills to work together and compromise in order to achieve specific tasks, such as deciding on



one menu item to order or to build one dream house with a set number of rooms that will satisfy each group member's wants and needs.

**School Spotlight:** Bacon Academy will be having a spirit week from 10/11 to 10/15. Monday 10/11 will be Sports Day (wear your favorite sports team/attire), Tuesday 10/12 will be America Day (wear Red, White, and Blue), Wednesday 10/13 will be Class Color Day (each class will wear their assigned color - Blue, White, Black, Yellow in order from grades 9-12), Thursday 10/14 will be Throwback Thursday (dress like people from past decades), Friday 10/15 will be Bacon Academy Day/School Color Day (wear blue and gold).

**The District:** Bacon Academy, Bolton, Coventry, East Hampton, East Lyme, Ellington, Ellis Tech, Enfield, EO Smith, Fitch, Grasso Tech, Griswold, Haddam-Killingworth, Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication, Killingly, Ledyard, Lyman Memorial, Montville, Morgan, Nathan Hale Ray, New London, NFA, Norwich Tech, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Parish Hill, Plainfield, Public Safety Academy, Putnam, RHAM, Rockville, Somers, St. Bernard, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Tolland, Tortellotte, Valley Regional, Waterford, Westbrook, Wheeler, Windham, Windham Tech, Woodstock Academy

## Central District - Northwest Catholic High School

*Anna Callendrillo, Vice President; Lauren Armstrong, District Coordinator; Lorraine DeCrescenzo, Advisor*

**The District:** Achievement First, Aerospace & Engineering, Amity, Ansonia, Berlin, Bloomfield, Branford, Bristol Central, Bristol Eastern, Bulkeley, Bunnell, Career Magnet, Cheney Tech, Classical Magnet, Coginchaug, Conard, Connecticut IB Academy, Cooperative Arts and Humanities, Cromwell, Crosby, Daniel Hand, Derby, East Catholic, East Granby, East Hartford, East Haven, East Windsor, Emmitt O'Brien

Tech, Engineering & Science University Magnet, Foran, Gateway To College, Gilbert, Glastonbury, Granby Memorial, Guilford, Hamden, Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, Hartford Public, High School in the Community, Hill Regional Career Magnet, Hillhouse, Holy Cross, John F. Kennedy High School, Jonathan Law, Kaynor Tech, Luralton Hall, Lyman Hall, Manchester, Mercy, Metro Learning Center, Metropolitan Business Academy, Middletown, Naugatuck, New Haven Academy Magnet, Newington, North Branford, North Haven, Northwest Catholic, Northwestern Regional, Notre Dame-West Haven, Parker Farms School, Platt Tech, Portland, Prince Tech, Riverside Academy, Rocky Hill, Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart Academy, Seymour, Sheehan, SMSA, Sound School, South Windsor, Southington, St. Paul Catholic, Stratford, University, Vinal Tech, Waterbury Career Arts Magnet School, West Haven, Wethersfield, Whitney Tech, Wilbur Cross, Wilby, Windsor Locks, Woodland Regional High School, Xavier.

## Western District - Thomaston High School

*Mel Shkrepi, Vice President; Hannah Lawlor, District Coordinator; Terri Franzi, Advisor*

**The District:** Abbott Tech, Avon, Bethel, Bridgeport Central, Brien McMahon, Brookfield, Bullard Havens Tech, Canton, Cheshire, Danbury, Darien, Fairfield Ludlowe, Fairfield Prep, Fairfield Warde, Farmington, Goodwin Tech, Greenwich, Housatonic Regional, Immaculate, Joel Barlow, Kolbe Cathedral, Lewis Mills, Litchfield, Maloney, Masuk, New Britain, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Nonnewaug, Norwalk, Notre Dame-Fairfield, Oxford, Plainville, Platt, Pomperaug, Ridgefield, Science & Innovation, Shelton, Shepaug Valley, Simsbury, St. Joseph's, Stamford, Staples, Sunnyside, Terryville, Thomaston, Torrington, Trinity Catholic, Trumbull, Wamogo, Watertown, Westhill, Weston, Wilcox Tech, Wilton, Wolcott, Wolcott Tech.

## CT RISES:: Ideas for this month OCTOBER

Remember to be focusing on your CT(citizenship), R(recognition), I(inspiration), S(service), E(engagement), S(spirit). Looking for a new project to run this month in your student council/government? Think about incorporating some of these suggestions into your calendar.

### **CITIZENSHIP**

#### **Get out the Vote activities**

*Inspiring young leaders to participate in the democratic system of our country is at the very heart of why Student Councils were first founded in the 1800's.*

*Contact your local registrars to try and hold a voter registration day for your seniors. Pass out information about local ballot questions, candidates and the major issues. (The important part is to be unbiased in all of your materials.)*

### **RECOGNITION**

#### **Custodian Recognition**

*October 2 is National Custodian Day, show your appreciation to the custodians who clean the school through either food, baskets, or student made cards of appreciation. Encourage students to take ownership of the cleanliness of their school.*

### **INSPIRATION**

#### **Community leader guest speaker**

*October is a great month to bring in a speaker to keep your SCG's excitement up.*

### **SERVICE**

#### **Trick or Treat for Canned Goods**

*Submitted by:: Bolton High School*

*Highland Park market donated 500 paper bags, StuCo members deliver bags with a note saying they will pick up the weekend of Halloween. Students then pick up*

*bags, we go through them to remove expired items, then deliver to local food shelters.*

#### **Leaf Raking**

*Submitted by:: Bolton High School*

*Student Council rakes leaves, does yard work for those in the town who need the service.*

#### **Pink October**

*Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School*

*October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Consider running fundraising charitable projects. They can be as simple as selling pink ribbons, or more complex school wide pink spirit days. Try reading facts and figures at the morning announcements every Wednesday. You may want to work with your sports teams and advertise their "Pink" games or cosponsor "Pink Outs"*

### **ENGAGEMENT**

#### **National Bullying Prevention Month**

*October is World Bullying Prevention Month! During this month students, schools, and communities all over the world go BLUE together against bullying.*

### **SPIRIT**

#### **Homecoming Dance**

*Many high schools host their Homecoming Dance and Spirit Dress Up days this month.*

*\*\*We are always looking for new and exciting projects or events to highlight, if your council has a project that you would like to see highlighted in a newsletter please submit it [here](#).*

## Tips and Tools

### GROUP DYNAMICS

by Christopher Tomlin

Last month you were encouraged to set goals and standards for your SCG. This month we will look at improving Group Dynamics. Of all the tasks that we have to complete as advisors, setting aside parts of our limited contact time with our SCG's for training the student leaders to work with diverse groups is something that usually gets overlooked. Sure we work with them and coach them to face adversity when they run into difficult situations, but how often do we sit them down and explain that adversity is a natural part of the process in developing successful groups?

The following is taken from the NatSTuCo Distinguished Student Leader Program, if you have never checked it out I highly encourage you to take some time and read through the pages.

#### Group Development

*(Based on the model developed by B. Tuckman, 1965)*

While the precise dynamics of a particular group are determined by many factors, to a large extent all groups undergo five basic stages of development:

#### Forming

A group goes through this initial stage when its members first come together as a collection of individuals unfamiliar with other group members. At this stage, you are instrumental in providing opportunities and a positive environment for initial group interactions.

Start by encouraging group members to introduce themselves. Never assume that people are acquainted, and when you are introducing people, try to think of one or two facts about them that others may find interesting.

#### Storming

Once the group has become acquainted, conflicts may arise over such issues as power, leadership, goals, and attention. These potential problems can be minimized by setting standards and modeling the desired behaviors. Often group members look to each other as guides for standards of behavior, particularly in terms of the acceptable levels of criticism and conflict and the ways in which disagreements are handled.

Make sure that the message you are sending is consistent. Your body language should not encourage behavior that you verbally discourage.

#### Norming

During the third stage, conflicts are resolved and the group begins to function smoothly as a unit. These functions include working out compromises, encouraging participation, maintaining a conducive environment, and handling individual problems.

#### Performing

In the fourth stage, the group experiences maximum productivity and involvement. The group members recognize each other as being important components of the group.

#### Transforming

In the final stage, members come to terms with the end of the task/exercise and must decide whether or not to apply their experience to work with other groups in which they may belong and with future activities of the current group.

## Upcoming Leadership Opportunities for you and your Students

### **October:: CASC/NAWD Advisors Workshop - VIRTUAL.**

*This will be a 2 hour evening clinic geared towards providing an opportunity for advisors to connect and trade best practises. More details to follow.*

### **November 5-6:: NatStuCo LEAD Fall - VIRTUAL.**

*The LEAD Fall Conference will be a **FREE live virtual event** that brings together and inspires NHS, NJHS, and NatStuCo member students and advisers from all over the world to make a difference in their schools and communities. Discover new leadership skills as you navigate the conference sessions exploring new ways for doing things with your chapter, council, and school and enhancing your personal leadership skills. Mark your calendars for this exciting event, November 5 and 6 and make sure to register by November 1. **Advisers must register their student leaders.***

*<https://www.leadconferences.org/lead-fall/>*

### **November 8-12:: CASC District Conferences "The Art of Compromise." - VIRTUAL.**

*We are proud to introduce our first annual District Conferences. Each of Connecticut's 3 districts will hold its own 2 hour conference that will allow for local students and advisors to connect, build relationships and share ideas. More details to follow.*

### **December 3-5:: NAWD Annual National Conference on Student Activities - VIRTUAL.**

*A live conference at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston on December 3-5, 2021. Check [www.nawd.com](http://www.nawd.com) for more details as we get closer to this event.*

### **March 11:: Annual CASC Spring Convention "Unlocking the Keys to Leadership"**

*This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. At this time we are not certain if this will be live or virtual but are planning for all possibilities. More details to follow as we get closer.*

### **May TBD:: CASC "Adventures in Leadership," Held at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT**

*We are holding off on a date for this event until we can determine if it will be live or virtual. More details to follow as we get closer.*



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