

CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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Association
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Director's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope you had a safe and relaxing break and that this year is off to a good start! Thank you for your continued dedication to instilling and developing student leadership at your schools.

A couple items of interest for everyone::

Association Website:: The association's website (ctstuco.com) has been updated and revamped for easier access and useability.

Next advisor get together:: Our next advisor's night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17 from 7-7:40PM. You will be receiving an email on this Wednesday with zoom information. Topics for the meeting will be:: Awards, Applications/ Elections as well as Convention.

Registration for Convention is open! You can register your delegation today, we are also looking for presenters for breakout workshops.

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of CASC and its mission of building up student leadership in Connecticut. Remember to stay above the line!

Christopher Tomlin
CASC Executive Director

Upcoming State Important Dates::

JANUARY

January 17:: Advisors Virtual Get Together Series (HS/MS)

This is the second in our virtual event series. We will be focusing on CASC Awards, Officer Applications and Convention.

January 25-28:: NatStuCo LEAD Conference, Washington D.C.(HS/MS)

Leadership, Experience, And Development for students and advisers—that's what LEAD conferences are all about. The premier national conference for student leaders and the educators who support them, LEAD is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). <https://lead.nassp.org/>

FEBRUARY

February 15:: NatStuCo Council of Excellence application award deadline. (HS/MS)

February 15:: CASC Student Executive Board applications due. CASC Award applications due. (HS/MS)

Council of Excellence, Top Ten Project, Dale Hawley Award, The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award.
<https://www.ctstuco.com/recognition>

CASC CONVENTION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Friday, March 8, 2024 10:00AM to 5:00 PM,
Woodland Regional High School, 135 Back Rimmon Road, Beacon Falls, CT 06403
(Check ctstuco.com for schedule and more details)

About Convention

CASC member high school and middle school Student Councils/ Governments are sending delegations to convene at Woodland Regional High School on March 8th for their annual Spring Convention.

This full day event of motivational speeches, workshops, recognitions and elections—is a rewarding experience for all student leaders.

WORKSHOPS:: In addition to the general sessions, Convention offers a wide array of 21st Century Skill specific workshops designed to strengthen student and advisor abilities. Delegates will participate in large and small group sessions which will look at topics on:: Citizenship, Training, Recognition, Inspiration, Service, Engagement and Spirit! All designed to help students and advisors learn to communicate clearly, collaborate with others across barriers and in diverse groups, and think creatively and work creatively with others. Each school attending Convention is strongly encouraged to present one workshop. By presenting a workshop, students can share their knowledge and experiences with other students and also improve their own leadership skills.

RECOGNITION:: Councils, Students and Advisors are recognized for their outstanding work throughout the year.

ELECTIONS:: The election and installation of new Executive Board officers will take place during the afternoon session.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:: Each year CASC sponsors a different service project at Convention, stay tuned for more details about this exciting project!

Registration

Each school's delegation is limited to a maximum of 12 delegates (adults and students combined). If more space becomes available we will notify schools closer to the convention date. **2024 Registration Rates:** \$35.00 per person. Registration closes February 22, 2024 (No refunds after this date)

[REGISTER HERE ...OR](#)



CONVENTION PRESENTERS WANTED!

Workshops are 40-minute long and are scheduled during three session times.

Presenters are usually only scheduled for one session to allow them the opportunity to attend other workshops. CASC may also limit the number of workshops accepted in each category in order to offer a wide selection to attendees.

CASC is looking for a diversity of workshops centered around the strands of CTRISES:

- Citizenship [Global Citizenship, School Climate, Voter Registration, Rights & Responsibilities, Forums, Advocacy, Elections]
- Training [Officer Training, Bylaws, Officer Training, Meeting Management]
- Recognition [Respect, Ceremonies]
- Inspiration [Teambuilding, Communication]
- Service [Community Service, Charitable Fundraising, Environmental Awareness, Mentoring, Tutoring]
- Engagement [Diversity, Accessibility, Ethics, Anti-Bullying, Mental Health]
- Spirit [Homecoming, Pep Rallies, Social Events, Spirit Programs, etc.]



From the Executive Board

Officer Applications now open

Applications are now being accepted for students wanting to serve on the association's Executive Board. Applications must be submitted on our website <https://www.ctstuco.com> and received on or before midnight, February 15.

Contact the Executive Director with any questions ctomlin@casciac.org

The following positions are open on the board::

- President/Host convention school (1 year position)
- Secretary Treasurer (1 year position)
- Middle School Member at Large (1 year position)
- District Leadership::
 - Northern District (2 year school position)
 - Southern District (2 year school position)

Staff

- Parliamentarian (1 year position)
- Historian/Archivist (1 year position)
- Student Workshop Coordinator (1 year position)
- Legislative Affairs Coordinator (1 year position)
- Service Coordinator (1 year position)
- Mental Health Affairs Coordinator (1 year position)

State Awards Program

Applications are now being accepted for all CASC Awards. If your Student Council/Government, or a member of it, has shown a commitment to *Citizenship, Recognition, Inspiration, Service, Engagement, and Spirit*, now is the time to celebrate their accomplishments and hard work by applying for one of CASC's awards.

As an award recipient, you will receive:

- An official certificate from CASC
- School name announced at Convention, as well as published in the advisors newsletter and on the CASC website.

Applications must be submitted on our website <https://www.ctstuco.com/recognition> and received on or before February 15.

Contact the Executive Director with any questions ctomlin@casciac.org

Awards for SCG's::

- **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 Projects Award.** 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.

Awards for Students::

- **Dale Hawley Award** Individual student leadership contributions at the state level will be recognized this year through the Dale Hawley award. Dale 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. Two students are recognized by this award, one to a high school student and one to a middle school student.

Awards for Advisors::

- **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.

State President

Hey, Connecticut!

I have been working closely with this year's convention chair to lead Woodland Regional High School's Student Government in preparing for this year's convention: Leadership Out of This World. We have been planning everything for this experience, which will invite all student councils and governments in Connecticut to take their leadership out of this world on March 8, 2024. Whether it's decorations, workshops, or technology, we are hard at work to ensure that students will walk away with a lot of valuable skills from Convention.

Until then, all students should get involved in our committees, which are a low-commitment opportunity for students to be involved in state-level projects. We have committees for all interests, including Service, Mental Health, Workshops, Legislative Affairs, and Social Media!

If you have any questions or would like to connect, please do not hesitate to reach me at presidenttctstuco@gmail.com

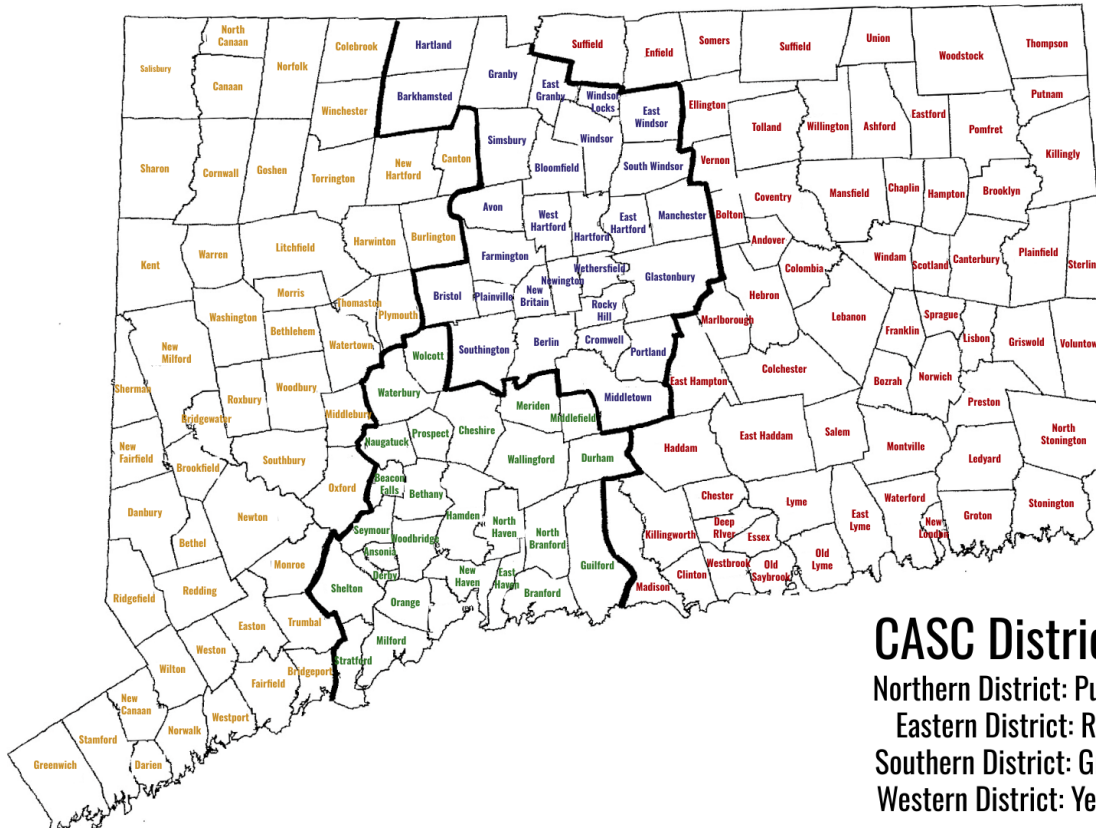
Yasmeen Galal '24
Woodland Regional High School

Student Workshop Coordinator

For those interested in presenting a workshop at the CASC Convention, the sign up google form is now live! Please sign up if you are interested in presenting a workshop. Just a reminder that you must attend both virtual trainings. If you cannot please email me at: workshopsCASC@gmail.com. I am excited to meet those who will be presenting!

Jenaris Belgrave
CIBA

Districts in Action



CASC Districts

Northern District: Purple

Eastern District: Red

Southern District: Green

Western District: Yellow

Highlighting the work of local SC/Gs

Southern District - Notre Dame High School, West Haven

*Mickey Dowd '24, Vice President;
Matthew Prato '24, District Coordinator;
Casey LaMonaca, Advisor*

Notre Dame's SGA, led by the senior class, held a successful holiday toy drive to benefit the families of a local middle school.

CT RISES:: Ideas for January and February

Remember to be focusing on your **C**(citizenship), **T**(training), **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.

CT RISES:: Ideas for January

CITIZENSHIP

RSVP (Raising Student Voice & Participation)

National Student Council (NatStuCo) promotes student voice on high school and middle level campuses as an essential responsibility of student council leaders—but what is student voice, and what does it look like?

Student voice is the sharing of suggestions, ideas, and opinions of the student body, and the Raising Student Voice & Participation (RSVP) program provides the opportunity to take that collective voice and effect real change in schools and the community. <https://www.natstuco.org/leadership-development/raising-student-voice-participation/>

RECOGNITION

Apply for Awards

CASC as well as NatStuCo offer a number of awards to recognize both individuals as well as Student Councils/Governments. Be sure you are taking advantage of these opportunities! Visit ctstuco.com or natstuco.org for more details.

INSPIRATION

Council/Government Retreats

If you didn't do anything in December to bring your group together to reconnect, January is a great time. Consider trips to the bowling alley, arcade, laser tag, or other indoor activities where your members can laugh and reconnect.

SERVICE

Class Council Volunteer Commitment

Submitted by:: Farmington HS

For each class to establish a strong connection with a local charity by committing to fundraising and volunteering at the same charity for all four years of high school.

Each class chooses a charity during their freshmen year and works with the charity by providing hours of volunteer work and monetary donations from dedicated fundraisers each year.

We have had amazing results with this policy, as it has made a difference in the lives of both our students and community members. Our senior class has adopted the Farmington Services for the Elderly and the class has provided funds and volunteer hours for three plus years now. The community members look forward to their visits and truly appreciate the money donated through the multiple fundraisers dedicated to the charity.

ENGAGEMENT

Schoolwide Mental Health Activity

Consider hosting school wide Mental Health Activities in preparation for Exams. Put positive affirmation cards notes on student's lockers, play soothing music between exams, set up a zen room for students to use between exam periods to study or decompress.

SPIRIT

Restaurant Percentage Nights

Have a restaurant pass out special school coupons that immediately donates a percentage of that profit to the school.

CT RISES:: Ideas for February

CITIZENSHIP

Attendance at local town meetings

Attend a meeting of your town council or of your Board of Education. Check the agenda ahead of time and see if there is a topic of interest that you think would benefit the student body.

RECOGNITION

Apply for Awards

CASC as well as NatStuCo offer a number of awards to recognize both individuals as well as Student Councils/Governments. Be sure you are taking advantage of these opportunities! Visit ctstuco.com or natstuco.org for more details.

INSPIRATION

CASC Convention

Be the inspiration for change by signing up to present a workshop session at Convention to share the amazing work that your Council/Government does.

SERVICE

Valentines Day Activities

Get together and make Valentines for the elderly. Then go deliver them to your local senior centers. Consider selling Valentines and delivering them to students with carnation flowers

ENGAGEMENT

Raise Money for Local Family in Need

February is the depth of winter and when people need the most help with heating bills and snow removal.

SPIRIT

Basketball/Volleyball Tournament

Some schools host yearly "Three on Three Tournaments." Others host "Teacher vs Student games." Encourage teams to sign up and consider including awards for Teams with the most original name and best jersey. You can use these games as fundraisers or as Charitable games.

Coffee House With Open Mic/Poetry Reading

This is a great way to reach out to the diverse groups within your school to increase school participation. Set up a mic and some stools, try to get couches or comfortable seating for the audience. Consider having relaxing background music playing during the night. Don't forget the food and refreshments!

***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

Twenty-Five Involvement-inducing Activities.

Adopted from "FOCUS" January 1987

We all get in the rut of running the same events and activities every year. There is nothing wrong with that if your Student Council/Government continues to find success and excitement in that. However if you are looking to add something to your schedule, below is a list of activities which have proven to be initiators of a high degree of student participation::

1. **Special Events Weeks::** Winter carnival, Spring Fling, etc. Have dances, fun contests, special assemblies, appreciation days, etc. within the week's events.
2. **School Olympics::** Homeroom or class based. Athletic events, non-athletic events such as bridge, chess, checkers, etc. Special games such as ring toss, cornhole, etc. Give ribbons, have prizes for top class or room, pizza parties, award assemblies., etc.
3. **Movie Nights::** Take over your school auditorium and show movies after school or in the evening. Pick a different theme each month.
4. **Road Rally::** Host a Color Run, OR not a race, but a time-speed contest with mystery routes, clues to routes given in form of questions or riddles which must be answered, be sure to check out legal questions before holding this one!
5. **Organize special interest clubs::** Snowmobilers, ski club, etc.
6. **Leadership Banquet::** dinner and awards for non-athletic leadership.
7. **Organize a Local Leadership Workshop::** Your own school alone or perhaps invite your crosstown rivals, surroundings schools, etc.
8. **Run a coffeehouse after school::** Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cookies, student talent show, etc.
9. **Sponsor an Open Gym Night::** have various sports activities available, strictly non-competitive in nature, let the non-athletic people shine for an evening.
10. **Publish a School Literary magazine::** An alternative to the school newspaper that highlights original student work such as short stories, poetry, drawings and photographs.
11. **Sponsor a Free Community Service Program::** provide free leaf raking, snow shoveling, window washing, for the elderly or infirm who cannot afford to hire such people to do these jobs from them.
12. **Sponsor an All-School Charity Carnival::** Have each homeroom or club sponsor a booth game.
13. **Special Event dances::** Mardigras, hoe-down, polka-fest, good as a break from traditional routine.
14. **Organize a Caroleer Squad::** Have groups of students serenade teachers, the community, the elderly , hospitals, etc.
15. **Roller Skating parties::** Old Fashioned, corny. But still fun!
16. **Sponsor a Party for underprivileged kids::** get local stores to donate toys, passes and food certificates.
17. **Have an Old Folks Day at School::** Invite the elderly and have them follow a student schedule, have a student guide for each visitor. You'll be surprised at how much retired people enjoy seeing what a school day looks like.
18. **Sponsor an Exchange Day with a Near-by School::** Where you send your council members to the school for the day and vice versa.
19. **Run an Alternative Education Program with Faculty Assistance::** mini courses in non-academic subjects, out of school trips, one day occupational experiences, etc.

20. Student Faculty Evaluations:: Course offerings, school spirit, etc. Find out what both the faculty and students think about the school situation.

21. Appreciation Day for Faculty:: Have your officers take honored persons out to lunch, or prepare a special menu for them.

22. Sponsor a penny war:: Students vote with pennies, while silver and paper counts as negatives in their denominations.

23. Toboggan parties:: with social afterwards in the warmth of the school with hot chocolate, games and music.

24. Sponsor mini-seminars:: on contemporary topics after school or during lunch periods.

25. Sponsor an all school banquet or picnic:: at a local park or on the fields.

CASC Calendar

Be sure to check the CASC Website (CTStuco.com) for more information!

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MARCH

March 8:: CASC Convention (HS/MS)

This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. More details to follow as we get closer.

APRIL

April 10:: Advisors Virtual Get Together Series (HS/MS)

This is the third and last in our virtual event series. We will be focusing on end of year ideas and summer activities.

April 17:: CASC's 72nd Birthday

MAY

May TBD - CASC "Adventures in Leadership," (HS/MS)

Ropes course designed to allow your newly elected leaders an opportunity to come together and begin to work as a team, while meeting leaders from across the state. More details to follow.

JUNE

June 21-23 - 2024 VISION National Student Leadership Conference (HS/MS)

<https://stucovisionconference.org/>