



MAKING THE GRADE

IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR STUDENTS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 has brought numerous challenges, but challenges also bring opportunity. As families we've had the opportunity to slow down and spend real time together. In our communities we've had the opportunity to check on our neighbors, lend a hand where we can and keep our spirits bolstered.

School closures and online learning brought tremendous challenges to our students and staff. Again, there have been opportunities. We looked at the way we work, engage our community and raise the necessary funds to continue to provide our students the direction and hope they need in this moment, to keep their dreams alive.

Inside this newsletter you will learn about our very busy summer preparing for the school year. You will see that once again, what makes Chester County Futures successful is you, our community. You provided the resources and encouragement we needed. You'll also find changes in our board and exciting new partnerships.

In this difficult year, all at Chester County Futures have pushed ourselves to be innovative, collaborative and most certainly grateful despite the circumstances. Chester County Futures proudly continues to be the place where learning continues.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Maria McDonald
Executive Director



Matthew B. Rovi
Board Chair



Board of Director News

- **Matthew B. Rovi**

SVP, National
Philanthropic
Trust
CCF's New
Board
Chairman



- **Luis Colmenares**

Customer
Success
Executive,
SAP America
New Board
Member



**Thank YOU for
making our
Laptop Campaign
a huge success!**



Special Delivery

By Kim Dickinson

On Friday, October 2, 2020 CCF Student Services Coordinators made a special delivery for the current CCF students in the program. The students received a Chester County Futures 2020/2021 Student Planner for the school year. They also received a variety of snacks for the month of October.

Snacks are a staple at our after-school meetings, so it was important that we continue to provide our students with a snack during our virtual programming. Everyone has had to make adjustments during these unprecedented times. When we made plans for the 2020-21 school year, we felt it important to keep some familiarity to our program delivery. It is our hope the students will understand CCF will continue to provide throughout the pandemic.

Parents and students alike appreciated the delivery. Some students shared their excitement about the periodic table of elements within the planner.

Monthly snack delivery will continue the first Friday of every month this school year.



Kutztown's Dynamic Donroy

By Kim Dickinson

Donray Bennett, Assistant Director of Admissions at Kutztown University, expressed an interest in helping Chester County Futures (CCF) students as part of his summer outreach. During a spirited conversation with Executive Director, Maria McDonald and Director of Student Programs, Kim Dickinson, Donray shared his experience working with similar student populations and his willingness to collaborate in order to deliver college success strategies to our students.

Donray shared his enthusiasm with our 11th and 12th grade Student Services Coordinators at the beginning of the school year. He made time to virtually present Kutztown University to our senior students across all four districts in the last week of September. In preparation of these presentations, staff member, Tori Springfield shared the academic profile and interest of each 12th grade student. The result was a presentation that felt uniquely suitable for each school district, reflecting the needs and interests of that class to create meaningful interactive dialogue. To date, four students have applied to Kutztown University.

Thanks to Donray Bennett, Kutztown University will be represented in Chester County Futures Instant Decision Day in November. We are also in conversation to schedule a college overnight visit to Kutztown University, post-pandemic. Donray Bennett is now known as Dynamic Donroy to our students and staff because of his passion for academic equity and opportunity. Thank you Kutztown University and thank you Donray!



Virtual Mentoring: Cultivating Connectedness

By Mary Williams

Our dedicated mentors are maintaining their mentee connections while remaining socially distant because mentoring matters now, more than ever before. Remote mentoring delivers powerful and positive effects for our student mentees, and our mentors know that investing in our mentor program improves morale, performance and motivation for our students. These benefits are even more tangible during this unprecedented period of anxiety and isolation.

While our mentors look forward to a time when they can reconnect for fun monthly outings, they are hard at work cultivating relationships with their mentees via technology. This shift to virtual mentoring preserves the mentor-mentee relationship and allows the mentor to continue to play an active and consistent role in the life of their mentee. We are committed to supporting our mentors as they adapt to their virtual role and dedicated to connecting our students to caring adults throughout this school year.

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a student, please contact Program Advocate, Mary Williams at mwilliams@ccfutures.org

Student Profile: Valeria R.

My name is Valeria R. and I graduated from Chester County Futures in 2018. I am currently studying Mechanical Engineering at Delaware County Community College and plan to transfer to Temple University in 2021. Chester



County Futures prepared me for the transition from high school to college by exposing us to the environment early on. We would go on college visits as well as have visitors come into the classroom and talk about what it is like to be a college student/professor.

During my time at DCCC, I have had the pleasure of having work-study through CCF as they have a partnership. This I believe was the key to my transition to college. This opportunity allowed me to stay in close contact with all the CCF Staff and not worry about finding a job while going to school. Having a direct line of communication made the transition easier as I did not have anyone else I could ask questions to about college. CCF always made it easy to communicate with them, but having that work environment also allowed me to understand what I want in a job during college. They are very understanding and really, work with me to make sure my education always stays my top priority.

I am currently going through some rough times, as I am sure we all are and CCF has always been there to talk through whatever may be going on. I honestly think that CCF is the reason I am going to college. Without them, I would have no support when it comes to the whole college process, as I am a first generation student. They really are like a second family and I know that they are only a phone call away.



THANK YOU

to Northwestern Mutual &

John Van Grinsven, who donated

12 refurbished laptops with Microsoft

365 personal licenses for our

CCF students.



20th Annual Golf Classic

By Lisa Rainey

Coronavirus may have delayed our 20th Annual Golf Classic, but we finally got it in on September 8, 2020! Our record turnout of eighty six golfers converged on Applebrook Golf Course to get a day in on the links and raise money for CCF at the same time. Not only did we have a beautiful sunny day, but with a few social distancing guidelines in place, we were able to have our silent auction and our laptop campaign. Thank you to our major sponsors, Stradly Ronon, West Pharmaceuticals, and John Van Grinsven. Thanks to these enthusiastic golfers, Chester County Futures exceeded our goal and had a great time doing it!



Quaker Houghton Grant Answers Program Delivery Challenges

By Maria McDonald

As we began to realize the long-term impact of the global pandemic, we knew we needed to be proactive and well prepared for a school year that would be different in every respect. Thanks to the generosity of Quaker-Houghton and the ingenuity of the people at FuelBot, Inc., Chester County Futures was ready to delivery curriculum to our students through our new student portal when students went back to school. The portal will increase our ability to gather data, communicate with students and parents, deliver lessons, and engage virtual volunteers. We now have a tool that will help us grow our programming well beyond the current crisis.

Classroom Presenters—Virtual and In-person Opportunities Available

By Clarence Johnson

The students at Chester County Future mirror a lot of the same dreams and aspirations that we adults had when we were young. We had questions about life and career. Do any of the below questions sound familiar:

- * What will I be when I grow up?
- * Who will I be when I grow up?
- * Where will I be?
- * How will I get there?

This is where you come in: the adage *"If I only knew then what I know now"* is

the driving force behind the value of being a Classroom Presenter. Students need to hear successes and failures, good decisions and false starts. All of these are important building blocks on the life path to having a meaningful career.

Determination and a plan are key characteristics that we want to instill in CCF students. You have an opportunity to share your career and education journey with knowledge thirsty students. Come and join us. We have an open presentation slot waiting for you.



Pictured above: Jessica Sibley- Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs, Comcast-serving as a Virtual Classroom Presenter



ABOUT US

Chester County Futures works with economically at-risk youth to give them the academic support and life skills needed to succeed in school and in life. We support our students with academic enrichment, adult mentoring and scholarship support. We serve students in the Coatesville, Kennett, Oxford, and Phoenixville Area School Districts.