



Everybody Wins!



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
AND FAMILY STUDIES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Introducing a program built for colleges and universities that benefit:

- ☑ Your local youth in need of extra support
- ☑ Your faculty
- ☑ Your clinical graduate students
- ☑ Your undergraduate students
- ☑ Your university
- ☑ Your community

Introducing Campus Connections

Everybody wins when Campus Connections is offered at your university:

- undergraduate and clinical graduate students;
- faculty seeking a fundable and community engaged research program;
- the university and its departments looking to increase student retention and recruitment; and
- youth from the community who need extra support.

Campus Connections is an award-winning and high-impact community program that serves local youth who have experienced adversity and offers research opportunities for faculty. Campus Connections was developed in 2010 by faculty in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program at Colorado

State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Campus Connections is licensed to other universities, where faculty leaders are securing grants to support research and program operations; publishing research on data efficiently collected from youth, parents/guardians, and student mentors; and, most importantly, seeing impressive outcomes for both college students and community youth.

Campus Connections brings local youth and students together in a highly unique and effective mentoring program and service-learning course. Both mentees and mentors experience a sense of belonging, mattering, and support. Clinical graduate students provide on-site mental health services, which are integrated into the program for youth and their families.

Implementing the Campus Connections program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs has been an outstanding experience. It not only gives our program the opportunity to give back to the community but helps enhance hands on experience for students and scholarship opportunities for faculty. Given the ongoing need for youth support, Campus Connections is a perfect fit for youth, the university and community.

—Joseph Wehrman Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair, Department of Counseling and Human Services, University of Colorado Colorado Springs



How everyone benefits

Your local youth

Campus Connections supports youth in need of extra support. Local youth who have experienced poverty, substance abuse, mental health issues, involvement in the justice system, family issues, academic challenges, and other risk factors can benefit from the Campus Connections program. Youth outcomes include:

- increased school attendance;
- reduced alcohol and marijuana use;
- improved attitudes about drugs and alcohol;
- enhanced emotional well-being; and
- fewer behavioral problems at home and school.

Your clinical graduate students

Campus Connections provides invaluable clinical training experiences for graduate students in clinical programs such as Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, Counseling, Psychology, and other related graduate programs. Clinical graduate students improve skills in:

- crisis management;
- engaging with larger systems, such as schools, social service, and courts; and
- facilitating stronger parent-child relationships.

Your faculty

Campus Connections provides faculty members opportunities to excel in research, teaching, and service, thereby building a successful and meaningful career. Campus Connections provides faculty leaders with:

- a rewarding, high-impact course to teach;
- a platform to secure funding for research tailored to the faculty's interests;
- an efficient means for collecting multi-informant, multi-method, and longitudinal data; and
- opportunities to meaningfully engage with the community to advance service goals.

At CSU alone, over \$2.2 million in funding has been secured from 22 different sources, including federal and state government entities, local and national foundations, contracts with various community organizations, and donations.

Your undergraduate students

Institutional research shows that student participation in Campus Connections is associated with:

- higher persistence rates toward graduation,
- higher graduation rates;
- faster degree completion; and
- higher cumulative GPAs.

Compared to non-participants, Campus Connections participants are also better able to include diverse perspectives in course discussions, to understand someone else's views, to connect their learning to societal problems, and to have discussions with people of a race/ethnicity or socio-economic background other than their own.

Your university

Campus Connections helps universities achieve student success goals, including retention and graduation rates of students, particularly first-generation and minoritized students. Campus Connections also helps universities achieve community engagement goals through offering meaningful services for local families. Universities have received several local, regional, and national awards on behalf of the Campus Connections' student success and engagement achievements.

Your community

Campus Connections can be adapted to meet the unique needs of your community. For instance, mentoring can be provided specifically to youth from military families, or youth who are engaging with specific systems, such as the juvenile justice system, alternative schools, foster care, or human services. The program is an innovative option to help guide youth to realize their potential and take advantage of life changing opportunities.



The Campus Connections experience brings together research, teaching and community service in a way that is nothing short of transformative for everyone involved. Over the 5 years that we have spent developing and delivering the program in the New Zealand context, we have observed profound changes in the way our students view and engage with marginalized youth. They tell us no other course they have taken at the University of Auckland has created the sense of connection, contribution and community they have experienced in Campus Connections. Our youth mentees talk about the value of coming to a place where people are kind and create space for them to talk and feel listened to. And being welcomed into our campus community helps them see new possibilities for their futures. As an academic staff member, being able to contextualize the theory and research I have engaged with for many years and supporting student to make theory-to-practice connections within a live practice setting has deepened my own understanding of the scholarship I teach and it has made me a better teacher.

– Dr Kelsey Deane, Campus Connections Aotearoa Co-Director

Campus Connections Awards

2019 – National Award Finalist C. Peter Magrath
Community Engagement Scholarship Award from the
Association of Public Land-Grant Universities

2019 – W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community
Engagement Scholarship Award from the Engagement
Scholarship Consortium

2019 – Distinguished Engagement Scholarship Award
from the CSU Office of Community Engagement

2018 – Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP)
Universities Award from the Association of Public
Land-Grant Universities

2018 – Excellence in Community Partner Engagement
Award from the Engagement Scholarship Consortium

2015 – High Impact Practice Recognition from the CSU
Institute for Learning and Teaching

2014 – Community Engagement Award from the CSU
College of Health and Human Sciences

2013 – Outstanding Engagement Award from the CSU
College of Health and Human Sciences

2012 – Exceptional Innovation in Service-Learning Award
from the CSU Institute for Learning and Teaching

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Bring Campus Connections to your University

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