

Central Connecticut
State University

Department of Educational Leadership, Policy &
Instructional Technology

CCSU Alumni Association

I7TH ANNUAL
Networking
Reception

FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

Wednesday - March 27, 2019

Central Connecticut State University
Alumni Hall, Student Center
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut

The Networking Reception Committee

The Department of Educational Leadership, Policy
& Instructional Technology

The School of Education & Professional Studies

The Alumni Office & Institutional Advancement

For Further Information, Please Contact:

Dr. Maria Mongillo

860 - 832 - 2133

maria.boeke.mongillio@ccsu.edu

Dr. Jeremy Visone

860 - 832 - 2134

visone@ccsu.edu

Dr. Olusegun Sogunro

860 - 832 - 2131

sogunroo@ccsu.edu

Administrative Assistants

Ms. Rouzan Kheranian
Ms. Stacy Tallberg

The *Networking Reception* is an annual event organized by the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Instructional Technology to honor faculty, current students, and graduates of our programs (Master's Degree, Sixth-Year Degree/Intermediate Administrative Certificate, Superintendent Certification, and Doctoral) who have excelled in various capacities as teachers and/or educational and community leaders. The first Networking Reception was in 2003. To date, over 60 professionals have been recognized.

Purposes of the Networking Reception include the following: to recognize the accomplishments of both students and faculty and celebrate individual and collective successes; to extend the University's engagement with the school leadership community across the State of Connecticut; to increase networking opportunities for experienced and successful educational leaders to mentor and serve as role models to future leaders; to maintain the University leadership position in preparing quality teachers and administrators for Connecticut and beyond; to continue to maintain healthy relationships between the University community and school district leaders across the state; and to encourage social and important interactions among professional colleagues.

The Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Instructional Technology is exceedingly proud of the achievement of graduates, particularly for their work with children and youth in schools and with teachers, parents, and adults across Connecticut, United States of America, Jamaica, and the global world. The *Networking Reception* is just one way to acknowledge the accomplishments of our students' (graduates and present), honor the accomplishments of our faculty, as well as appreciate the contributions of our retiring faculty!

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Maria Mongillo

*Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership,
Policy, & Instructional Technology,
Central Connecticut State University*

Opening Remarks

Dr. Zulma Toro

*President,
Central Connecticut State University*

Greetings

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis

Interim Dean of the School of Education & Professional Studies

Dr. Christopher Galligan

*Vice President for Alumni & Development,
Institutional Advancement*

Recognition of Faculty & Staff

Dr. Sheldon Watson

*Associate Professor & Department Chair Elect of the Department of
Educational Leadership, Policy, & Instructional Technology,
Central Connecticut State University*

Adjunct Professors

Ms. Sally Biggs
Dr. Maureen Brummett
Dr. Kathleen Carter
Mr. Paul Cavaliere
Dr. Thomas Cronin
Ms. Michele Cirillo-Murray
Ms. Elizabeth Cole
Dr. Claudia Cousins
Dr. Doreen Crawford
Mr. Brian Czapla
Dr. Charles Dumais
Dr. Joseph Erardi
Dr. Michael Frechette
Dr. Teresita Galarza
Dr. Samuel Galloway
Ms. Kristin Heckt
Dr. Charles Hewes
Dr. Mary Beth Iacobelli

Dr. Jeffrey Kitching
Ms. Sarah Labins
Dr. Ruth Levy
Dr. Penelope Lisi, Emerita
Mr. David Miller
Dr. Anthony Rigazio-DiGilio, Emeritus
Ms. Tina-Marie Rivera-Rowe
Mr. Steven Roccapiore
Dr. Thomas Russo
Ms. Kesha Ryan
Dr. Paula Talty
Ms. Maria White
Dr. Adrian Wood
Dr. Mark Zito
Ms. Jan Perruccio
Dr. Stacey Williams

Professors Emeritus / Emerita

Dr. Lynda George
Dr. Nancy Hoffman
Dr. Penelope Lisi
Dr. Danel Mulcahy
Dr. Anthony Rigazio-DiGilio
Dr. Barry Sponder

Awards & Reflections from Honorees

Dr. Olusegun Sogunro

*Professor of Educational Leadership, Policy, &
Instructional Technology,
Central Connecticut State University*

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis

*Interim Dean of the School of Education &
Professional Studies*

Dr. Sheldon Watson

*Associate Professor & Department Chair Elect of the Department of
Educational Leadership, Policy, & Instructional Technology,
Central Connecticut State University*

Roundtable Discussions

Dr. Jeremy Visone

*Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership,
Policy, & Instructional Technology,
Central Connecticut State University*

Closing Remarks

Dr. Jeremy Visone

*Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership,
Policy, & Instructional Technology,
Central Connecticut State University*

Special Recognition

Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, & Instructional Technology

Dr. Penelope L. Lisi

Professor Emerita,
Central Connecticut State University



Dr. Penelope L. Lisi is Professor Emerita at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). Between 1994 and 2018, she taught in CCSU's graduate level programs in educational leadership, served as director of the doctoral program between 2014 and 2018, and taught in CCSU's master's degree program in Montego Bay, Jamaica, for 20 years. In her faculty position at CCSU, Dr. Lisi served for 20 years as Director of the Center for Multicultural Research and Education. As director, she implemented professional development projects to support faculty in addressing equity issues in the university classroom. She directed the Diversity in Teaching Network (DITN), a federally funded three-year project to recruit diverse students into CCSU's teacher preparation program. The Center for Multicultural Research and Education was a primary sponsor of and collaborator for the annual New England Conference for Multicultural Education (NECME) for 18 years, which attracted more than 500 attendees each year. In these various positions, Dr. Lisi was the primary investigator, or a member of the grant writing / project team that brought more than \$1.8 million to CCSU to support department and university work.

Dr. Lisi's scholarly work focuses on leadership for social justice, leadership for teaching and learning, and leadership in international school settings. In 2000, Dr. Lisi received a Fulbright Scholar Award to the University of Iceland. Over the next 16 years, she received 12 research grants and made more than 25 trips to Iceland to investigate educational leadership in a changing environment, and conduct professional development on teacher evaluation for Icelandic school leaders. Dr. Lisi has delivered 50+ peer-reviewed papers in the United States, Ireland, Cuba, England, Finland, Portugal, Hungary, Switzerland, Jamaica, Iceland, and Ukraine. Since 2005, she has been an adjunct professor for The College of New Jersey's Global Studies Program, teaching in Palma de Mallorca, and Cairo.

Prior to her work at CCSU, Dr. Lisi taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in the United States and for 3 years, in international schools in Norway and Denmark. For 5 years, she served as Executive Director of the Connecticut State University Center for Educational Excellence, a system-wide faculty development resource. A primary outcome was the initiation, development, and implementation of Project IMPACT, a professional development project to support faculty on the four state university campuses in transforming university-level courses to include diverse perspectives and content. Dr. Lisi received her bachelor's degree in education and French at DePauw University, her master's degree at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and her doctoral degree at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Between 1998 and 2018, Dr. Lisi served as Senior Editor of *Multicultural Perspectives* for the National Association for Multicultural Education, and currently serves on the Editorial Board. Her textbook, coauthored with Dr. William A. Howe, *Becoming a Multicultural Educator: Developing Awareness, Gaining Skills, and Taking Action*, 3rd ed. (2019, SAGE) won the 2013 Philip C. Chinn Multicultural Book Award from NAME, and has been translated into Chinese. Dr. Lisi serves on a variety of boards, including as a Trustee for the Watkinson School.

Full - Time Professors

Dr. Farough Abed
Dr. Aram Ayalon
Dr. Linda Clark
Dr. Judy DeLeeuw
Dr. Pauline Wangari Gichiru
Dr. Ethan Heinen
Dr. Nancy Hoffman, Emerita
Dr. Yan Liu
Dr. Kurt Love
Dr. Maria Mongillo
Dr. Antoinette Ryan
Dr. Olusegun Sogunro
Dr. Barry Sponder, Emeritus
Dr. Jeremy Visone
Dr. Sheldon Watson
Dr. Jacob Werblow

Honor Roll

Dr. Samuel Galloway

2018 UConn Neag School of Education Outstanding School Administrator of the Year

Leanne Maguire

2018 Semifinalist for Connecticut State Teacher of the Year

Ryan Cornelius

2018 Lindgren Family Scholarship

Jeanine Rose

2018 Beyard-Ellis Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship

Stephen Miske

2018 Beyard-Ellis Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship

Emily Melzen

2019 Graduate Academic Award

Dr. Leah Forlivio

2019 Graduate Academic Award

Allison Garris

2019 Graduate Academic Award

Awards

Michelle Failla



Connecticut Association for Health,
Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
(CTAHPERD)
2018 Professional Merit Award

Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Physical Education (2002 and 2006 respectively), as well as cross-certification for Health Education at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). While an undergraduate student at CCSU, she resurrected the Majors Club, served two terms as Club President, and offered professional development seminars to her peers. She was awarded Departmental Honors and a Presidential Citation prior to graduation.

She also represented CCSU as their Outstanding Future Professional. Michelle, an avid bodybuilder and soccer enthusiast, wrote her Master's thesis, "Perceptions of Weight Training in Division I Collegiate Male and Female Soccer Players" on those two passions. Michelle has many strengths especially her leadership and advocacy skills. Michelle earned her Sixth Year Professional Diploma of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership in 2017 from CCSU. During her administrative internship at Newtown High School, she advocated for the District to have a policy for Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Youth. Michelle has tirelessly advocated for health and physical education to be included in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It was! Michelle spent years petitioning to get politicians to "Vote no" on S.B 378 (a bill that would have eliminated a half credit health education graduation requirement) and several years advocating to make health and physical education one full credit each and that each subject would be a graduation requirement. Starting with the graduating class of 2023, it is!

Michelle began her professional teaching career as the Health Educator in the Collaborative Summer School program at Conard High School in West Hartford, CT. She is now in her 16th year as a health and/or physical educator in Newtown, CT. Along the way, Michelle received the "Outstanding New Professional Award" and two "Outstanding Program Awards" from CTAHPERD as well as a nomination as the Eastern District Association (EDA) Health Teacher of the Year. Michelle aspires to be a secondary school administrator and to complete an Educational Doctorate degree. Michelle has a passion for writing and art history especially the Impressionist/Post-Impressionist period. After eight years of research of the Van Gogh Family, Michelle co-authored and published the book, *Theo's Dream* with her husband, the artist, Pino.

Michelle believes that, "Education at all levels, should be designed to meet the cognitive, affective and psychomotor needs of all students in a caring way. When all learning domains are consistently addressed, in all disciplines, and the students are held to high expectations, students will become well-rounded, knowledgeable and compassionate lifelong thinkers and learners. Education should emphasize the fact that every student is an important individual and his or her rate and style of learning are different from others. All differences should be fostered and celebrated in order to maximize the potential of all learners and to promote an inclusive community. Ultimately, schools should prepare students for life outside the confines of a classroom or gymnasium, thereby creating productive members of a global society."

Shannon Gagne

Connecticut Art Education Association
2018 Outstanding Art Supervisor/ Administrator



Shannon M. Gagne is the Supervisor of Visual Art Education K-12 for Simsbury Public Schools, and an Art Teacher at Simsbury High School. She received her B.F.A. from Maryland Institute College of Art with a concentration in sculpture and ceramics. Shannon has a masters of arts in liberal studies from Wesleyan and received her teaching and administrative certificates from Central Connecticut State University. She serves on the board of the Connecticut Art Education Association representing art administrators. Shannon is also an active member of the Connecticut Association of Arts Administrators. Shannon has led numerous workshops and curriculum projects. Most recently she has directed the Simsbury Arts Academy which offers arts enrichment programs in visual art, music, and theatre to students in the summer. Shannon is an exhibiting artist and most recently participated in a group show with her visual art colleagues from Simsbury.

Shannon began her teaching career in 1999 in Enfield CT. teaching elementary art. One year later she was hired in Simsbury, grades 7-12 in the Visual Art Department. She is in her 19th year teaching at the High School level. She has designed and implemented programs at the Wadsworth Atheneum New Britain Museum of American Art, Multicultural Arts & Technology Program, and Neighborhood Studios in Hartford CT.

Four years ago Shannon Gagne stepped into the leadership role with a clear vision. She immediately began to address the issues she recognized- the need for a comprehensive digital platform to promote the arts in Simsbury; greater inclusion and more skilled differentiation; and expanding the art program to include relevant course offerings. She has also reached out to other districts in the spirit of collaboration to enhance the content knowledge of faculty.

Shannon created a Unified Art course at Simsbury High School, bringing together special needs students with their typical peers. She recognizes that the special needs community is an important component of any arts program. She is completely focused on inclusion, directing her faculty in the process of developing effective techniques in differentiation.

Leadership for Shannon Gagne is a year-long effort. She is the director of Simsbury Arts Academy, a summertime and after-school program that unites music, performing arts and the visual arts. Students from surrounding towns, as well as Simsbury, spend an exciting 3 weeks in the summer learning from arts professionals in a studio environment. These experiences lead directly to a deepening relationship with the arts in these children's lives.

Dr. Zandralyn Gordon

Connecticut Association of School Administrators
2018 Administrator of the Year



Dr. Zandralyn Vinetta Gordon attended Shortwood Teachers College and the University of the West Indies where she obtained her teaching credentials in math education and her Bachelor's degree in math and economics, respectively. She taught high school mathematics before obtaining a leadership position as vice-principal of Titchfield High School.

In Connecticut, she attended Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) where she earned two masters degrees, one in mathematics education and the other in computer education. Dr. Gordon joined the CCSU staff as an adjunct in the Department of Mathematics and later as a full time instructor in the Department of Information Systems.

For six years, Dr. Gordon worked as a programmer at Aetna Life and Casualty before returning to work in education as a math teacher at Weaver High School. She completed both a 6th year and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at CCSU and was immediately hired as assistant principal/scheduler and later principal at Hartford Public High School. She led the school through a major renovation project, regained its accreditation and developed learning communities which are now small schools. Dr. Gordon was transferred to Classical Magnet School and is currently director of the Adult Education Center in Hartford.

Dr. Gordon has served the students in Hartford for over 22 years and continues to work tirelessly to help adult learners. She was influenced by her high school Literature teacher who verbally underestimated her ability to be successful. Her mantra is best explained in the words of Adler, "the best education for the best is the best education for all." An assiduous advocate for students; she always keeps them at the center of all decisions.