

# “The Mentor”

Fall 2019

**CAMPUS  
CONNECTIONS**

**UCCS**

College of Education

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



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Campus Connections is a wellness and resiliency-oriented service-learning program that pairs UCCS students and youth from the community in mentor-mentee relationships. Youth are referred through our El Paso County community partners and are matched with a UCCS student who provides one-on-one therapeutic mentoring throughout the semester.

Mentors spend four hours once a week with their mentee providing academic support, career planning, and promoting positive social skill development.

UCCS mentors support youth in building goals while providing a supportive environment to help them achieve those goals. Campus Connections takes place on UCCS's campus, giving participants exposure to university life and the potential to explore the possibilities of lifelong learning.



# Director's Dispatch



Dear Campus Community and Community Stakeholders,

On behalf of the team at Campus Connections and the Department of Counseling and Human Services, I would like to thank all of you for the support of this innovative program. Campus Connections officially launched its inaugural group of mentors in the spring of 2019 and continues to be a growing success. We would like to especially acknowledge our gratitude to our founding partners at School District 11 for their continued support. It is clear that the D11 leadership is committed to the development of the 'whole child'. At Campus Connections we focus on high-quality experiences for mentors, mentees and families. Our focus on evidence-based mentorship and ongoing improvement will ensure the program continues to enhance and evolve.

Campus Connections is committed to creating a strength-based learning community that honors the core philosophies of diversity and inclusion. We seek to promote opportunities for everyone with both our mentors and mentees. Through this philosophy, we believe we are not only strengthening the future for UCCS but the community as well.

To my UCCS colleagues: Regardless of the discipline, if your students want a supportive and professionally developing service-learning experience, please send them our way! We believe our UCCS mentors learn high quality skills and gain leadership experiences that can be leveraged in any future professional endeavor.

Sincerely,

Joe Wehrman, Ph.D., Co-Director of UCCS Campus Connections



**UCCS**

Department of Counseling  
& Human Services

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

# Campus Connections Staff & Mentors

	Staff	Mentors	Major
	Joe Wehrman Co-Director	Peyton Chipman	Marketing, International Bus., Minor- Philosophy
	Diane Stutey Co-Director	Peyton Drake	Nursing
	Kim Severn Instructor/Co-Director	Skylerann Gorgonio-Wong	Sociology/WEST, Minor- Human Services
	Molly Cammell Program Manager	Natalia Hart	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Kodi Enkler Graduate Assistant	Lillian Houghton	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Melanie Folkerts Graduate Assistant	CurDesia Hudson	History
	Laura Hunt Graduate Assistant	Emily Johnson	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Samantha Archuleta Counseling Intern	Allie Lindahl	Sociology
	Abigail Solis Counseling Intern	Brooke Marshall	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Jeff Walters Counseling Intern	Anna Murray	Communication
		Clare Williams	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
		<b>Mentor Coaches</b>	
		Hailey Gloden	MA Counseling: School Counseling
		Catherine Lawson	MA Counseling: School Counseling
		Leslie Reyes-Ortiz	Psychology, Minor- Human Services

# Halloween at Campus Connections

Before Fall 2019, Campus Connections had never been hosted at UCCS during the fall semester. Lucky for us, the program fell on Halloween this year so we had no choice but to plan some fun activities and events!

We started with a door decorating contest. The week before Halloween, the mentor-mentee pairs decorated doors in the faculty/staff office wing. Members of our UCCS campus community generously donated the Halloween decorations that the pairs used. The doors were then left up for the week so that people had time to vote on their favorite. The winning door was hand-painted by one of our mentors and decorated by her mentee. It depicts a scene from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

On Halloween, we were fortunate to have a visit from the Ghostbusters SWAT truck. One of our faculty members in the Department of Counseling and Human Services used to bring this setup to a charity event and offered it as a fun start to our Halloween festivities.

Throughout the night, the youth and mentors had plenty of opportunity to eat lots of candy and sweets. For our activities for the night, we offered a cake walk and sugar cookie decorating. Again, the cookies were donated by one of our Campus Connections Graduate Assistants who runs a sugar cookie business with her sister on the side (Sugar Sisters Cookies on Instagram).

To wrap up the night, the winning door decorators and costumed pair were presented with gift cards. The winning pair was dressed as Cruella de Vil and a Dalmatian.



# Mentor Spotlight



Emily Johnson

Senior

Major: Psychology

**What has been your favorite thing about Campus Connections so far?**

Making a meaningful and fun connection with my mentee! I also love watching my mentee recognize why we are talking about or working on different topics, and click with new concepts.

**Why did you join Campus Connections?**

It sounded like a great opportunity to get involved and meet new people.

**What have you found to be the most challenging part of Campus Connections?**

Figuring out how to balance the friend and mentor parts of the relationship. You have to figure out how to be a good balance of authority figure but also a friend that they are able to open up to.

**What has working with your mentee taught you?**

Working with my mentee has taught me how great it is for kids to have a non-parent adult to look up to. They are in a rough part of life right now, and are trying to develop their identity. Any help with this or positive influence can do wonders.

**Anything else you want to say about your experience?**

I've made a lot of new friends in other mentors, and picked up knowledge that will serve me well in my future career!

# Mentor Spotlight



**Skylerann Gorgonio-Wong**

**Senior**

**Major: Sociology/WEST,  
Minor in Human Services**

**What has been your favorite thing about Campus Connections so far?**

My favorite thing about Campus Connections is getting life updates from my mentee.

**Why did you join Campus Connections?**

I joined Campus Connections because I felt like this program makes a positive difference in the mentees' lives.

**What have you found to be the most challenging part of Campus Connections?**

The most challenging part of Campus Connections is navigating your role as a mentor, which is like a balance between parent and friend. And doing multiplication by hand.

**What has working with your mentee taught you?**

Working with my mentee has taught me that middle schoolers are so receptive to everything that's going on, and they just want to be listened to and feel like they have a voice.

**Anything else you want to say about your experience?**

I look forward to going to Campus Connections each week! I love that we get to help our mentee grow and figure out who they are.

# Youth Quick Take

Pseudonym: KS

Male

Age: 12

If your friends were to ask you what Campus Connections is, what would you tell them?

A really fun place- Cuz you get to do fun activities and there's really fun people like Anna [my mentor].

What has been your favorite part of Campus Connections so far?

Definitely Anna. She's nice. And fun.

At your intake appointment you said that some of your goals were anger and time management, coping skills, and helping to build confidence? Do you think Campus Connections has helped you meet any of those goals?

Yeah. Because 8th period is always really hard. I have homework from every other class and then I get to 8th period and I forget about it. I always have time for homework here.

If a friend asked you if they should do Campus Connections, what would you say to them?

Yes, cuz it's fun.

What is your favorite part about having a mentor?

She's really nice. And she's always herself. She told me "sorry if I'm not myself today."

What's something interesting you've learned about your mentor?

She's bad at math. [laughs]



# News & Events

## Photo Elicitation Project Receives \$250

Campus Connections has received \$250 of funding from the Faculty Minority Affairs Committee (FMAC) for a new research project. This project has been submitted by our faculty members in the Department of Counseling and Human Services, Cortny Stark, PhD and Diane Stutey, PhD.

According to the proposal, the auto-photography project includes the implementation of an innovative intervention with at-risk youth participants (ages 10-18) in the UCCS Campus Connections mentorship program. The project expands upon social justice experiential activities currently employed by Campus Connections, with the primary aim of enhancing the positive identity development of youth participants.

With support from their undergraduate student mentors, youth will utilize provided cameras to capture static images that they feel best represent their experience as relates to the "Big 8 Identities" (gender, race, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age, and ability). Once the picture-taking phase is complete, youth will participate in a guided processing activity, and have the opportunity to publicly display their work on campus.

Dr. Stark has also submitted for additional funding from the University through the Diversity Grant. With that funding, Campus Connections may be able to start this project in the Spring of 2020. The committee is expected to respond by January 2020.

A special **THANK YOU** to our generous Halloween decorations donors! Without you, the mentors and youth would not have had the abundance of selection that they had!

## Coming Up:

Fall 2019 Campus Connections Graduation

December 12th,  
6:30pm

Kettle Creek Room

Do you have unwanted arts/crafts supplies?

**Donate** them to  
Campus Connections!

Columbine 3010

**Tell your students** about Campus Connections! The program runs in the Fall and the Spring. We are always looking for students to act as mentors to our youth participants! Applications at [uccs.edu/campusconnections](https://uccs.edu/campusconnections)

**Support Campus Connections! Make a donation today!**

<https://giving.cu.edu/fund/campus-connections-gift-fund>





## Spring 2019 Outcomes

19 Mentors

18 Mentees

4 Counseling Interns

"What makes me excited to come to Campus Connections is getting to hang out with my friends... Also if I need to talk to someone, I can talk to the counselor and I can trust them."

- Youth Mentee

### Spring 2019 Youth Profile (Mentees)

61%

of youth participants on Free and Reduced Lunch

Between 11-15 years old

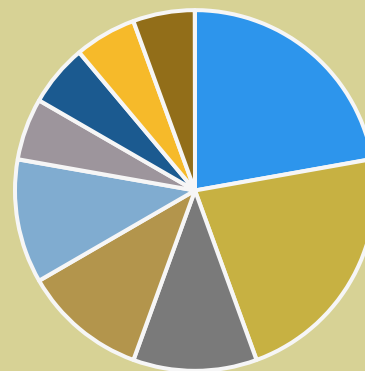
91%

attendance rate

100%

completion rate

#### Participating Schools:



- Russell
- West
- Swigert
- Jenkins
- Mann
- Galileo
- Tesla
- Holmes
- North



Weekly access to counseling support



198 family-style meals provided



Nightly pro-social activities



19 activities led by Mentors



11 "walk & talks" around campus



297 hours of individualized homework support

### Mentor & Graduate Student Profile

3.5

average GPA

9

Seniors

26

average age

40

hours of mentor training

#### Mentor Majors:

- Psychology, Sociology, Communication, English
- 16 Human Services Minors

#### Graduate Student Majors:

- 3 School Counselors
- 1 Clinical Mental Health Counselor
- 1 Student Affairs in Higher Education

#### Mentee Self-Identified Goals for Campus Connections:

67%

Help build confidence/self-esteem

72%

Decision making skills

56%

Anger management

67%

Academic performance: Grades

50%

Form positive relationships with peers