

# The Mentor

Spring 2020

**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 entire team at Campus Connections and the Department of Counseling and Human Services, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of this innovative program. This semester has brought some unique challenges with the University and K-12 schools moving to remote learning, but we continue to find unique and virtual ways to support youth as we finish out our second year and third semester of Campus Connections.

One change that we are very excited to introduce is that our Campus Connections team unanimously adopted using the term “at-promise” to describe the youth we mentor versus “at-risk”. The phrase “at-promise” is utilized by organizations such as the California penal code and Alexandria (Virginia) City Public Schools to describe youth who have the ability to reach their full potential with additional time and resources. We firmly believe that the time and resources provided by Campus Connections mentors, counselors, staff, and faculty is one resource that can help “at-promise” youth in Southern Colorado reach their full potential.

There are many people that continue to support our efforts that we would like to take some time to acknowledge and thank. First, we would like to 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’.

Next, we would like to thank the Colorado Health Foundation who awarded us the Supporting Healthy Minds and Youth Resiliency grant to help us continue to support youth and increase our outreach to include even more mentees, especially youth of color, LGBTQ youth, and youth from rural settings. This grant allows us to continue our mission of creating a diverse and inclusive strength-based learning community that will strengthen our mentors, mentees, UCCS, and the community.

Finally, we would like to thank our Campus Connections Advisory Board Members. The Advisory Board was formed and met for the first time in Spring 2020. The board discussed the vision and mission of Campus Connections, shared current success stories and highlights of the program, and brainstormed ideas for the future of Campus Connections. Thank you to the 2020 Campus Connections Board Members: Cory Notestine, Valerie Scates, Sarah Clapham, Dr. Kristen Myers, Dr. Joseph Wehrman, Dr. Rosenna Bakari, Kim Severn, Molly Cammell, Kodi Enkler, Melanie Folkerts, and Dean Valerie Martin Conley. If you are interested in joining our Campus Connections Advisory Board please reach out to us; we are always looking to add members with a vested interest in supporting the success of youth in Southern Colorado.

Sincerely,  
Diane Stutey, Ph.D., Co-Director of UCCS Campus Connections, Advisory Board Member



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# Campus Connections Staff & Mentors

	Staff	Mentors	Major
	Joe Wehrman Co-Director	Lauren Anderson	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Diane Stutey Co-Director	Halle Brimm	Criminal Justice & Human Services
	Kim Severn Instructor/Co-Director	Kathleen Caliste	Psychology
	Cortny Stark Research & Grants	Cassandra Clark	Inclusive Elementary Education, Minor- Human Services
	Molly Cammell Program Manager	Elizabeth Dombowsky	Psychology & Philosophy
	Kodi Enkler Graduate Assistant	Alex Dorland	Human Services, Minor- Psychology
	Melanie Folkerts Graduate Assistant	Donovan Durrough	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Hailey Gloden Graduate Assistant	BobbyJoe Esquibel	BioChem, Pre-Med
	Alanys Chavez Graduate Assistant	Anika Kwasny	Human Services, Minor- Criminal Justice
	Lisa Powers Counseling Intern	Jaylin Lobato	Psychology, Minor- Human Services
	Tyler Keidel Counseling Intern	Bree May	Human Services
	<b>Mentor Coach</b>	Morgan Mosby	IELM & Human Services
	Emily Johnson Psychology, Minor- Human Services	Mackenzie Perez	Human Services, Minor- Psychology
		Brezane Ruiz-Smith	Psychology, WEST, Human Services
	<b>Community Mentors from the Office of Inclusive Services</b>	Riho Sakai	Communication, Minor- Human Services
	Mia Barone ASL & Early Childhood	Kaila VanLieshout	Sociology, Minor- Human Services
	Nick Harmon Higher Education Certificate	Mae Williams	Psychology, Minor- Cognitive Studies
	Ashley Mabry Human Services & Advocacy	Chyla Middleton	Biology, Minor- Human Services

# Mentor On The Move



**Name:** Emily Johnson  
**Major:** Psychology, Minor in Human Services  
**Accepted:** University of New Mexico  
**Program:** Counseling, M.A.

*The Spring 2020 semester was my second time with the Campus Connections program, this time as a mentor coach. I am so grateful for the quality friends and knowledge that this experience added to my last year of undergraduate studies at UCCS. I was recently accepted to the University of New Mexico's Counseling MA program where I will pursue a career in School Counseling. The Campus Connections program was one of the strongest attributes of my Grad School application and I believe that the experience I gained from the program was one of the largest reasons that I was admitted. The kids that we work with in Campus Connections have taught me so much about life and my future career, and I am so excited to see the continued growth of the program at UCCS.*



# Research Update



**Project:** Auto Photography Photo Elicitation

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Diane Stutey, Dr. Joe Wehrman, Dr. Lori Notestine, Kim Severn, Molly Cammell, Kodi Enkler, Abigail Solis, and Dr. Cortny Stark

This spring our mentees participated in an exciting project that uses photography to explore how they see themselves, and what makes them, THEM. The project received funding from the Colorado University Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Grant, and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Faculty Minority Affairs Committee Diversity Grant.

All youth participated in the first portion of the auto-photography activity, taking pictures of those items and spaces around campus that were “about me” and “not about me”. Unfortunately, due to necessary precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, our mentees were only able to capture half of the images needed for the final phase of the project. We are unable to move forward with the auto-photography project during the spring semester, as students are unable to come to campus to access their disposable cameras and finish capturing images.

At this time, we plan to resume to project in the fall with both new participants, and those mentees who are able to return to the Campus Connections program or participate in the Teen group. We are so grateful for the time spent with our mentees and mentors during this spring session, and look forward to seeing new and familiar faces in the fall!

~Cortny Stark, PhD

# News & Events

## Campus Connections Switches to Online Format for Spring 2020

When campus leadership decided to close UCCS for in-person learning for the rest of the Spring semester, things became very uncertain for Campus Connections. For a program that relies on in-person interactions and relationship-building, this declaration felt like a premature end to the Spring 2020 program.

But now more than ever is the time for innovation. Following the example of our partners at Colorado State University, Campus Connections at UCCS implemented an online format on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

We invited the mentees to join us on Zoom at 4:30pm with a pre-lab for mentors preceding that at 4:00pm. At 4:30, mentees joined their mentor families in a “breakout room” and engaged in an activity led by our Campus Connections graduate assistants.

Around 5pm, the mentors and mentees were allowed to meet one-on-one and work on homework or catch up. Counseling interns would join mentees in breakout rooms for brief sessions or when TIME (Therapy In the Moment for Everyone) cards were submitted by mentors.

The mentors and mentees wrapped up their one-on-one time by 6pm and then joined the Campus Connections instructor and staff for a debrief without the mentees.

This format will continue through May 7<sup>th</sup> when we plan to host an online graduation ceremony.

~Molly Cammell

## 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)

## Coming Up:

Spring 2020 Virtual Graduation

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 5:00pm

Fall 2020 Mentor Applications

Priority Deadline: 4/17/2020

Final Deadline: 5/16/2020

Do you have unwanted arts/crafts supplies?

**Donate** them to Campus Connections!

Columbine 3010

**Campus Connections Board Members:** Dean Valerie Martin Conley, Cory Notestine, Valerie Scates, Sarah Clapham, Dr. Kristen Myers, Dr. Joseph Wehrman, Dr. Diane Stutey, Dr. Rosenna Bakari, Kim Severn, Molly Cammell, Kodi Enkler, Melanie Folkerts

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

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

# COMMUNIQUE

The official news publication for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs



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## Stutey, Wehrman and Stark receive Colorado Health Foundation grant for Campus Connections

🕒 January 31, 2020    👤 Jared Verner



**Diane Stutey, Joe Wehrman, Cortny Stark**

Diane Stutey, assistant professor; Joe Wehrman, chair and associate professor; and Cortny Stark, assistant professor; all from within the Department of Counseling and Human Services, received

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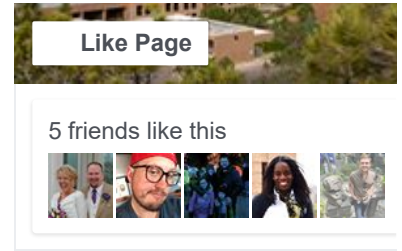
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a \$77,610 grant award for the Campus Connections Community Program. The award was provided by the Colorado Health Foundation.

During the 12-week program, children between 11 and 15 years old had access to counseling support, family-style meals and pro-social activities. Each youth is paired with a UCCS undergraduate student for mentorship, academic and career support. Faculty and graduate students were present throughout the experience to provide training and support. Youth were referred through community partners such as school districts and the juvenile justice system.



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## Fall 2019 Outcomes



Weekly access to counseling support



132 family-style meals provided



Nightly pro-social activities



15 activities led by Mentors



11 "walk & talks" around campus



132 hours of individualized homework support

### Mentee Information

50%

Male

50%

Female

45% White  
36% Hispanic/Latino  
27% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
27% Black/African American  
18% American Indian/Alaska Native  
18% Asian

\*Multi-racial/ethnic participants were able to select more than one category making the total greater than 100%.

### Mentor & Graduate Student Information

94%

Female

6%

Male

64% White  
21% Asian  
14% Black/African American  
14% Hispanic/Latino  
7% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

\*Multi-racial/ethnic participants were able to select more than one category making the total greater than 100%.

Between

11-14

years old



58%

of youth participants on Free and Reduced Lunch

24

average age

3.4

average GPA



### Participating Schools:

- Russell
- West
- Mann
- Holmes
- Achieve Online
- Out of District



### Mentor Majors:

- Psychology, Sociology, Communication, History, International Business, Nursing
- 6 Human Services Minors
- 2 School Counseling Graduate Students

### Counseling Intern Majors:

- 1 School Counselor
- 2 Clinical Mental Health Counselors