What is Campus Connections?

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.
Dear UCCS Campus Community and Community Stakeholders,

We had another great semester with Campus Connections and are enjoying being back on the UCCS campus with our amazing youth and their mentors. This semester we had 11 mentors and 11 mentees from across District 11. Youth and their mentors enjoyed the annual traditions of making tie-dyed Campus Connections t-shirts, the Halloween door decorating contest, and attending an end of semester graduation with their families.

This semester the UCCS Family Development Center sponsored us so that we could partner with the Colorado Department of Education’s Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). We appreciate that Roaring Forks continues to host our mentors and mentees every Thursday evening at the dining hall. This continues to be a highlight for the youth on our UCCS campus.

We continue to collect and share data on the effectiveness of our Campus Connections program. Youth and their caregivers fill out a pre and post survey each semester and we collect similar data with our UCCS mentors. In addition to this long-term data collection, we have now published six qualitative research articles about Campus Connections and have two more under review. We appreciate all of the youth, caregivers, and mentors who have consented to participating in this research and sharing about their experiences with Campus Connections.

On behalf of the entire team at Campus Connections and the Department of Counseling and Human Services, we would like to take a moment and thank all of our wonderful partners who make this program such a success. We are so thankful for our partnership with School District 11, Inside Out, UCCS dining services, UCCS Faculty Development Center, and our other community partners. We look forward to adding additional partners and opportunities for growth in the future.

Sincerely,
Diane Stutey, PhD
Associate Professor and Department Chair for the Department of Counseling and Human Services
Campus Connections Co-Director
Campus Connections Advisory Board Member
## Campus Connections Staff & Mentors

### Staff
- Diane Stutey: Co-Director
- Joe Wehrman: Co-Director
- Kim Severn: Co-Director & Instructor
- Cortny Stark: Co-Director Research & Grants
- Molly Cammell: Program Manager
- Amanda Bonnot: Graduate Assistant
- Luke Slayback: Graduate Assistant
- Dani Dickey: Graduate Assistant
- Molly Lange: Graduate Assistant
- Ian Hathaway: Counseling Intern
- James Scott: Counseling Intern

### Mentors
- Kandice Salinas
- Yuki Li
- Kade Nordyke
- Courtney Agee-Keys
- Mya Guerra
- Alyssa Langness
- Kimberly Burriesce
- Abigail McAnally
- Josiah Cole
- Clair Marquardt
- Sarah Elling
FROM THE GRADUATE ASSISTANT PERSPECTIVE

AMANDA BONNOT
This was my second semester with Campus Connections, but my first semester as a graduate assistant. Being able to see relational growth in both the mentees and mentors is an incredibly heartwarming experience. I am so glad Campus Connections exists in our community and I'm so grateful for everybody that helps make it happen.

DANI DICKEY
Previously being a mentor, I learned so much from the experience and how much it means to just show up each week and be present with my mentee.

As a GA, I really enjoyed being able to see the mentee and mentor relationships grow each week. I loved leading activities that would get the mentees thinking more.
Every Halloween, Campus Connections mentors and mentees gather around to decorate faculty office doors!

The winning door!
MENTOR RECRUITMENT

We are always looking for outstanding mentors!

MENTORING AT-PROMISE YOUTH THROUGH CAMPUS CONNECTIONS IS A GREAT WAY TO:

- Build your resume
- Earn 3 credit hours
- Gain useful experience
- Change the lives of local youth
- Build leadership skills
- Experience a wellness & resiliency-based program

CONTACT US

cconnect@uccs.edu
uccs.edu/campusconnections
719-255-3891
Contact Molly Cammell (mcammell@uccs.edu) for more information
FALL 2022 OUTCOMES

SERVICES
CAMPUS CONNECTIONS PROVIDES:
- 12 WEEKS OF THERAPEUTIC MENTORSHIP
- COUNSELING SUPPORT
- MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES
- 90 FREE MEALS

MENTEE INFO
Age Range: 12-14
- Male: 54.5%
- Female: 36.4%
- Non-Binary: 9.1%

MENTEE DEMOGRAPHIC
- White: 36%
- Hispanic: 18%
- African American: 36%
- Other: 9%

MENTOR DEMOGRAPHIC
- Hispanic/Latino: 18%
- White: 45%
- Black/African American: 9%
- Asian: 9%
- Multiracial: 18%
- Other: 9%

MENTOR INFO
- Male: 2
- Female: 9
- Age Range: 19-28

PARTICIPATING MIDDLE SCHOOLS
- Sabin Middle School
- West Middle School
- Swigert Middle
- Achieve Middle School

Activities
- Mentor Led
- Social Justice
- Digital Wellness

STUDENTS QUALIFIED FOR FREE/REDUCED LUNCH
88%