

Community Engagement Report

October 2020

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the community, the Community Learning Center (CLC) has remained closed to help protect the health and safety of the people we support and area community members. While closed we continue to offer classes and activities virtually in addition to interactive videos, resources, and information through our Facebook page. We have also been able to continue our collaboration with three TSU capstone projects, the TRU 100: ENABLE class, and the Community Mentor Project with ATSU-KCOM.

The Community Learning Center was able to assist the Community Mentor Project with locating and signing up 20 people to participate as mentors and five people have been placed on their waiting list in the event another mentor is unable to continue. These mentors have been matched with their mentees (KCOM medical students) and are preparing for their first meeting. Throughout the project, not only will the mentors be assisting the mentees to learn about how to best communicate with and care for people with disabilities, they will work on a presentation to be given at the end of the project about the things they have learned from one another. In addition, the CLC assisted the grant project with identifying eight people to apply for the 10 available positions as standardized patients and continues to reach out to more people to fill the remaining two.

On October 9th, Melissa met with a group from Dr. Lochbaum's TRU 100: ENABLE class at TSU to discuss their project piece for the FLATS Trail collaboration and things to consider regarding accessibility and inclusiveness. This group is working on creating resources to help educate the community about the trail, inclusive activities to do while using the trail, and other possible inclusive and interactive activities along the trail such as fun fact signs with Braille, texture stations, and more. One of the group members is also working with the FLATS Annual Marathon to adapt their materials so they are inclusive for people with disabilities and people who speak English as a second language.

The CLC has also worked with three TSU students on their capstone projects. For one project, two students led 15–20 minute Facebook Live exercise and active movement sessions on Wednesdays and posted pre-recorded sessions on Fridays from October 7th – 30th. The other project began on October 19th and will finish on November 13th. This project has included posting pre-recorded sessions on topics related to mental health and nutrition during COVID-19 on Facebook with Zoom question and answer sessions regarding the information on Fridays. Both activities have been well received on the SB40 Facebook page. The third project is still being worked on and will be provided in the near future. This project will have researched information and sources regarding sexuality and people with disabilities.