

Community Engagement Report for March 2020

Before closing the Center for the COVID-19 pandemic, we had scheduled several art workshops and publicity events for the Creating Community Arts Festival. Unfortunately, the festival has been postponed, but we hope to reschedule the festival when it is safe to do so. In addition, the reverse job fair was canceled, however we continued offering preparation classes for the event while the Center was open. We had 5 participants on average for these classes.

Since Truman State University suspended in-person classes for the spring semester, the Disability Studies projects that we planned had to be converted to digital events. We worked to coordinate with the students at the end of March, and two of the groups will be altering their projects so that we can still offer their content to people. We are so grateful that the students have been flexible and dedicated to supporting our mission.

Even though the Center is closed, we are still offering community engagement through Facebook live videos and posts. They have been well received so far, and we will continue to offer them through April. We've created a very inclusive online community that allows people who don't typically get to interact with each other the chance to connect and engage. We will most likely continue to offer some online community engagement even after the pandemic is over.

Youth Employment Program information and applications were sent to area families on March 2nd. Notification in regards to the families on their caseloads was sent to Service Coordinators so they could do follow-up in the next few weeks. Notice of Hiring was posted as well. The notice was sent to the following locations for posting: Missouri Career Center, MACC Career Center, TSU Career Center, administrative assistants at TSU including HES, Nursing, Education, Psychology, Communication Disorders, among others. There has been one employment application submitted so far and no youth applications.