



THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY  
DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

# SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

**PROGRAM GUIDE  
2024**

**REV. 11/18/2024**

# SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

**9:30**

## **WELCOME & KEYNOTE**

**BROWER STUDENT CENTER (BSC) 100**

**10:25**

## **ACTION SESSION 1**

**BSC 104 | 222 | 224 | 225E | 225W**

**11:25**

## **ACTION SESSION 2**

**BSC 104 | 222 | 224 | 225E | 225W**

**12:30**

## **LUNCH & SERVE**

**BROWER STUDENT CENTER 100**

**1:35**

## **ACTION SESSION 3**

**BSC 104 | 222 | 224 | 225E | 225W**

**2:35**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**BROWER STUDENT CENTER 100**

ALL SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO ANY ATTENDEE BUT  
THESE DESIGNATIONS ARE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR WHO MAY BENEFIT MOST:



STUDENTS &  
STUDENT LEADERS



PROFESSIONAL  
STAFF & FACULTY



FOR BOTH  
AUDIENCES

# SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

**9:30AM**

**WELCOME & KEYNOTE**  
*BROWER STUDENT CENTER (BSC) 100*

## **OPENING ADDRESS**

*INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE & CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT*

## **IN GOOD FAITH:**

*A DISCUSSION OF HOMELESSNESS, POVERTY, & ADDICTION*

This moderated conversation will tackle the biases and misassumptions we may carry about homelessness, poverty, and addiction. Our panelists feature people whose lives have been impacted by these issues or have aligned their careers on serving those that have. Their sharing of real-life stories and firsthand accounts will outline the triumphs and tragedies for those navigating challenging circumstances and crises.

### **Moderator:**

- Dr. Tacquice Wiggan Davis, Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence

### **Panelists:**

- Nikki Johnson-Alfano, Esq.
- Bernadette Trapp, Director of Community Schools, Mercer Street Friends,
- Shariq Marshall, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator, Arm in Arm
- Deserie Hill, Manager of Community Engagement, Rescue Mission of Trenton

# 10:25AM **ACTION SESSION I**

**BSC  
104**

## **ADVANCING ACCESSIBILITY: LEARNING TO HARNESS BONNER VALUES TO BECOME AN INCLUSIVE ADVOCATE**

*WITH HANNAH KEYS & EMMA MOHANTY*



In this session, the Bonner Abilities team, will share insights from their work advocating for individuals with disabilities at TCNJ and ARC Mercer. Participants will explore practical ways to promote accessibility and cultivate an inclusive mindset in their service and daily lives. Join us to learn how to harness your unique strengths to advance accessibility and empower communities.

**BSC  
222**

## **LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR A NEURODIVERGENT BRAIN**

*WITH ALLISON LARTHEY & KARTIKA KUMARI*



In this session, students will learn strategies for improving their educational practices. Specifically we will cover focusing in class, studying, test taking, and other challenges facing neurodivergent learners. Students will leave with practical tools they can start using now!

**BSC  
224**

## **ITERATIVE UNCONFERENCING FOR CHANGE**

*WITH VINISHA PATEL*



Traditional conference sessions agendas don't always meet the needs of participants by not capitalizing on the knowledge in the room. By using the unconference approach and calling in the expertise and lived experiences of participants, the session becomes a powerful tool to build community and deepen connection. They will leave the session ready to build initiatives with a better understanding of stakeholder views.

**BSC  
225E**

## **COME AS YOU ARE: REFLECTIONS ON CARE, AGENCY, AND BEGINNING AT YOUR BEGINNING**

*WITH DR. MICHAEL SMITH*



In Beverly Tatum's 2007 book "Can We Talk about Race?", she asks a simple and provocative question about our good faith participation in difficult conversations: "Can we get beyond our fear, our sweaty palms, our anxiety about saying the wrong thing, or using the wrong words, and have an honest conversation about racial issues?" In this interactive session, we take this as our departure point for exploration and insight. Participants will engage in an activity designed to explore the dimensions of care in education. Then, we will engage in collaborative analysis to gather the collective wisdom of the group and discuss what is required to "begin at your beginning."

**BSC  
225W**

## **CHALLENGING ABLEISM: APPLYING A DISABILITY LENS TO SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK AT TCNJ**

*WITH DR. JUDI COOK & MEL KATZ*



This workshop explores the intersections of disability and social justice, inviting participants to examine ableism as a form of discrimination. Through interactive discussions and small-group reflection, attendees will identify and challenge ableist assumptions within social justice frameworks, recognizing disability as an essential aspect of diversity. The workshop will also cover strategies for growing inclusivity in campus programs, policies, learning environments, and physical spaces to further disability justice at TCNJ.

# 11:25AM **ACTION SESSION 2**

**BSC  
104**

## **GUATEMALAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: JOURNEY AND EXPERIENCE CREATING AN RSO AS AN UNDERREPRESENTED CULTURAL GROUP**

*WITH THE GUASA EXECUTIVE BOARD & FOUNDERS*



Cultural diversity is crucial for any college campus, especially for underrepresented communities whose voices and identities often struggle to be seen and heard. GUASA's mission is to highlight the cultural contributions of Trenton's prominent Guatemalan community, one of the largest in the city. Starting this org was a vital step in celebrating our heritage. It provides representation for Guatemalan students and helps to educate others about our rich culture and traditions. Additionally, GUASA encourages Trenton students to pursue higher education through accessible opportunities. By doing so, we honor the identity of our city and its people while building a more inclusive campus environment.

**BSC  
222**

## **SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT LEARNERS**

*WITH ALLISON LARTHEY & KARTIKA KUMARI*



In this session, faculty and staff will learn strategies for improving their awareness and support for neurodivergent learners. We will explore sensory and executive function challenges and how they may manifest in a classroom setting. Faculty and Staff who attend will leave with practical tools and strategies they can start using now!

**BSC  
224**

## **RECOVERY & HEALING THROUGH TRAUMA: CONVERSATION WITH THE FACES OF HOMELESSNESS**

*WITH DR. DEBORAH GILBERT WHITE AND MR. JAMES DAVIS*



Join two representatives from the DC-based National Coalition for the Homeless to talk about individual and larger efforts to tackle a major growing issue within our nation's capital.

**BSC  
225E**

## **REAL TALK: ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES IN SUSTAINABILITY**

*WITH ROSALIE MORILLO*



Sustainability and climate change can often feel disconnected from the challenges in our communities. In this session, I'll share my story of growing up in a Latino neighborhood with little exposure to environmental issues—and how my perspective changed when I saw people from my own community involved in sustainability efforts. We'll explore how the Sustainable Jersey program supports local sustainability, and focus on practical ways to make these topics relevant and impactful. I'll also discuss how to break down complex climate issues for those without a sustainability background, making them more accessible and meaningful.

**BSC  
225W**

## **FOOD INSECURITY AND THE COLLEGE STUDENT**

*WITH NICOLE HARRIS*



Food insecurity is becoming more prevalent across college campuses. The Office of Student Wellbeing & Health Promotion at TCNJ has endeavored to establish partnerships with on and off campus resources to de-stigmatize and help community members overcome this burden.



# SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

**12:30PM**

**LUNCH & SERVE**

**BROWER STUDENT CENTER (BSC) 100**

**LUNCH**

**SPECIALLY CATERED BY TCNJ DINING SERVICES**

Salad with Greens, Tomatoes, Avocado, Blue Cheese,  
Bacon, & Parmesan Croutons with Horseradish Dressing

Red Beans & Rice  

Shrimp & Chicken Jambalaya 

Maple & Thyme Roasted Delicata Squash  
& Red Onions  

Grilled Jerk Chicken Thighs 

Black Sticky Coconut Rice Pudding  

Build Your Own Andouille Po'Boy with Jalapeno Slaw 

Classic Beignets 

**SERVICE PROJECT**

**PACKING JOYS, HOPES, & DREAMS SNACK BAGS FOR HOMEFRONT**

Help us pack 200+ snack bundles to donate to school-aged children via HomeFront! You can assist in packing the snack items into bags and/or decorating the bags with words of encouragement, support, and joy. Thank you to the Center for Community Engagement staff for coordinating this project for us today!



THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY  
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT



HomeFront  
Helping families break the cycle of poverty

# 1:35PM

# ACTION SESSION 3

**BSC  
104**

## **BUILD YOUR IMPACT BLUEPRINT: FIND AND APPLY YOUR CHANGEMAKER STYLE**

*WITH VINISHA PATEL, ODANE DALEY, & SARA SURI*



Building grassroots coalitions is critical to success when facing adversity in community work. A key component of building coalitions is understanding the motivations and skillsets of different stakeholders and keeping them engaged within the process. This workshop stems from the best practices learned and developed by the Bonner Community Scholars Recruitment Team throughout the last three years and is formatted for individuals interested in grassroots-level action.

**BSC  
222**

## **MAKE A "SEED BOMB" WORKSHOP & SUSTAINABILITY @ TCNJ**

*WITH DR. MIRIAM SHAKOW*



In this educational and hands-on learning workshop, we will make "seed bombs" to support local biodiversity. We also will learn about TCNJ's exciting recent sustainability achievements, including sustainable landscaping, and support the efforts of sustainability leaders on campus.

**BSC  
224**

## **BEYOND THE SPOTLIGHT: NAVIGATING ACCOUNTABILITY & REDEMPTION IN HISTORY**

*WITH TRIEU TRAN, JANICE ROMERO, & EM LÓPEZ*



This presentation will challenge the idolization of historical figures and celebrities based on their contributions and flaws. Through a fun interactive game, we will discuss the challenges of having famous role models and whether they reflect our values.

**BSC  
225E**

## **FROM THOUGHT TO IMPACT: ACTIVATING SOCIAL ACTION AT TCNJ**

*WITH DR. TACQUICE WIGGAN DAVIS & DR. MARCIA O'CONNELL*



Social action begins with a commitment to humanity. Join Dr. Davis and Dr. O'Connell for an engaging session as we explore how to move from theory to tangible impact. In this interactive discussion, we'll dive into the power of small, intentional actions and how each of us can contribute to meaningful change. It's time to get in formation—come reflect on your potential impact and discover the steps you can take to make a real difference in our community and beyond.

**BSC  
225W**

## **CENTERING THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

*WITH DR. TABITHA DELL'ANGELO*



The vast majority of the country's roughly 54.6 million public, private and charter school students in pre-K through 12th grade (83%) attended traditional public schools. And yet, in a recent Pew study, Education was not even in the top 10 issues voters said they cared about. Those seeking public office will only begin to take action to improve education if citizens make it clear that we care. This session will offer the opportunity to look closely at current school issues in public education and engage in discussion about how we can work together to make our schools better.

# SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

## THANK YOU'S

***INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STAFF***  
***INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS STUDENT STAFF***  
***CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT***  
***DINING SERVICES***  
***BROWER STUDENT CENTER STAFF***  
***PRESENTERS***  
***PANELISTS***  
***ATTENDEES***

***SAVE THE DATE:***  
***WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025***