



THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

PROGRAM GUIDE
2025

SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

9:30

WELCOME & KEYNOTE
BROWER STUDENT CENTER (BSC) 100

10:55

ACTION SESSION 1
222 | 224 | 225E | 225W

12:00

LUNCH & LEARN
BROWER STUDENT CENTER 100

1:30

ACTION SESSION 2
222 | 224 | 225E | 225W

2:40

IDEA X-CHANGE & CLOSING
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

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



JULIA FAHL
MAYOR OF LAMBERTVILLE, 2018-2021
DIRECTOR, ARCHER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PREPARING TO COUNTER POLARIZATION

CONVERSATIONS FOR TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

Essential Partners helps people build relationships across differences to address their communities' most pressing challenges. We believe that the most urgent problems can only be addressed by people who live and work together every day.



Essential Partners collaborates with civic groups, schools, faith communities, colleges, and organizations to build a culture of connection, a deeper sense of belonging, as well as mutual understanding and trust across differences of values, beliefs, and identities. We envision a world of thriving communities strengthened by difference, connected by trust.

10:55AM **ACTION SESSION I**

**BSC
222**



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA

DOMINIC OKONKWO JR, EBONY RILEY, & GIANNA RASA, INCLUSION PEER EDUCATORS

This session will explore the importance of community health workers in African and South Asian communities and the vital role they play in delivering vaccines, educating families and leaders, and combating misinformation. We describe ways the citizens of these regions can support their health workers, from mutual aid and fundraising to political and social activism. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of the role of community health workers in contexts they do not often consider, and how they might support healthcare workers in their own communities.

**BSC
224**



BEYOND THE ORG CHART: REAL CONVERSATIONS

WITH LEA DEMARINIS, TCNJ HUMAN RESOURCES

Join Human Resources to add some tangible techniques to your toolkit to create a culture of understanding. This session will focus on the importance of open, clear, and direct communication between supervisors and their teams. We will explore the most common barriers, and the most effective ways to break down barriers, ultimately reducing confusion, assumptions, and uncomfortable power dynamics.

**BSC
225E**



ART IS MEDICINE: CREATIVITY AS COLLECTIVE CARE

TASIA BURGESS, DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES, CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

This session will reveal how art is a human-centered service. Community care deserves attention to wellness and balance. Art can be a practical tool for releasing trauma, bonding with others, and stabilizing your mood. This will result in communities that are emotionally regulated, empathetic, and rooted in creative problem solving.

**BSC
225W**



UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF RETURNING CITIZENS

WITH DR. MICHAEL MITCHELL, TCNJ AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES AND CRIMINOLOGY

This interactive session will explore critical aspects of the post-incarceration reintegration process for individuals transitioning from the carceral system. With more than 600,000 individuals released from state and federal prisons in the United States each year, supporting “returning citizens” is vital for public safety and inclusive communities. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and concerns of this vulnerable population and engage in thought-provoking discussions about action-oriented strategies to support returning citizens.

10:55AM **ACTION SESSION I**

**BSC
222**

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA

DOMINIC OKONKWO JR, EBONY RILEY, & GIANNA RASA, INCLUSION PEER EDUCATORS

This session will explore the importance of community health workers in African and South Asian communities and the vital role they play in delivering vaccines, educating families and leaders, and combating misinformation. We describe ways the citizens of these regions can support their health workers, from mutual aid and fundraising to political and social activism. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of the role of community health workers in contexts they do not often consider, and how they might support healthcare workers in their own communities.



**BSC
224**

BEYOND THE ORG CHART: REAL CONVERSATIONS

WITH LEA DEMARINIS, TCNJ HUMAN RESOURCES

Join Human Resources to add some tangible techniques to your toolkit to create a culture of understanding. This session will focus on the importance of open, clear, and direct communication between supervisors and their teams. We will explore the most common barriers, and the most effective ways to break down barriers, ultimately reducing confusion, assumptions, and uncomfortable power dynamics.



**BSC
225E**

ART IS MEDICINE: CREATIVITY AS COLLECTIVE CARE

TASIA BURGESS, DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES, CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

This session will reveal how art is a human-centered service. Community care deserves attention to wellness and balance. Art can be a practical tool for releasing trauma, bonding with others, and stabilizing your mood. This will result in communities that are emotionally regulated, empathetic, and rooted in creative problem solving.



**BSC
225W**

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF RETURNING CITIZENS

WITH DR. MICHAEL MITCHELL, TCNJ AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES AND CRIMINOLOGY

This interactive session will explore critical aspects of the post-incarceration reintegration process for individuals transitioning from the carceral system. With more than 600,000 individuals released from state and federal prisons in the United States each year, supporting “returning citizens” is vital for public safety and inclusive communities. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and concerns of this vulnerable population and engage in thought-provoking discussions about action-oriented strategies to support returning citizens.



SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

12:00PM

LUNCH & LEARN

BROWER STUDENT CENTER (BSC) 100

MENU

KOREAN/INDIAN FUSION BY TCNJ DINING SERVICES

Salad with Cucumber, Garbanzo Bean, Tomato, Red Onion & Cilantro with Indian Spices & Lemon Vinaigrette



Sauteed Napa Cabbage



Kimchi Fried Rice Garnished with Green Onion & Gim



Tandoori Grilled Chicken Thighs



Korean Beef Bulgogi

Shaved Ice Station



Vegetable Massaman Curry with Tofu



Gulab Jamun



CONSTRUCTIVE CYCLE OF CONVERSATION

Lunch will include an Action Session that continues the morning's conversation of combatting polarization and overcoming difference through crucial conversations.

Our Essential Partners facilitator will empower participants to create healthier communication dynamics, new and strengthened relationships, and an improved sense of belonging — even where there are deep conflicts around identities, values, perspectives, and priorities.



essential
PARTNERS

1:30PM

ACTION SESSION 2

**BSC
225W**

USING YOUR FAITH FOR JUSTICE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WITH DR. MATT MURPHY, PASTOR, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH MILLTOWN & CHAPLAIN, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

How can faith communities move to action in your neighborhood? This session will explore practical ways communities rooted in faith engage in social action in our local neighborhoods. Explore what it looks like to embody love practically in your local neighborhoods, responding to local and international crises.



**BSC
224**

HARM REDUCTION IN THE HOSPITAL SETTING

WITH AMANDA KUBE & ANGELA CICCHINO, INSTITUTE FOR PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

This presentation will explore the principles and practices of harm reduction within the hospital setting. It will highlight evidence-based strategies that prioritize patient safety, dignity, and engagement, particularly for those with substance use disorders and high-risk behaviors. Attendees will gain insight into how harm reduction approaches can improve health outcomes, strengthen provider-patient relationships, and support a more compassionate and effective healthcare environment.



**BSC
225E**

FROM INCLUSION TO BELONGING: WHY NEURODIVERSITY MATTERS AND HOW TO CARE FOR OUR BRAINS

WITH ALLISON LARTHEY & KARTIKA KUMARI, ARC LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

During our session, we will explore what neurodiversity is, how accommodations support individuals, and how to work toward achieving high expectations. We will share how our own experiences shape our views and how learning about and acknowledging neurodiversity is the first step toward creating inclusion and a sense of belonging. We'll examine how embracing a mentor mindset — one of high standards and high support — is the best way forward to support our learning processes.



**BSC
222**

THE SUPREME COURT: SOME NOTABLE DECISIONS

WITH ANITRA DAS, TCNJ ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

This session will provide a brief overview of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) and its current day operational practices, and will analyze some notable decisions from recent terms of the Court. Attendees will gain a more robust understanding of SCOTUS and its importance to the structure of the US government and our daily lives.



SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

2:40PM

IDEA X-CHANGE

BROWER STUDENT CENTER (BSC) 100

NEW THIS YEAR - we are introducing a challenge for our attendees! The Idea xChange is a discussion-based activity designed to examine the complexities of common social issues that harm our communities and day-to-day experiences.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To introduce attendees to a diverse set of community issues and explore the harms they can cause
- To enhance awareness of and familiarity with resources and community support networks
- To discuss mutual aid's role in assessing and mitigating the negative impacts of our communities
- To provide a non-judgmental and productive space for the exchange of ideas in response to complex problems

Join us for an innovative and collaborative experience to close out our day together

SOCIAL ACTION SUMMIT

THANK YOU TO:

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STAFF

SESSION PRESENTERS

JULIA FAHL

AND ALL OUR ATTENDEES!



SAVE THE DATE:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026