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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- **March 27: Apply for the Liberal Arts Action Lab Fall 2025 Projects.** Hartford community partners define projects and collaborate with teams of students and faculty from Trinity College and CT State Community College to research and publicly share solutions. Complete the application by March 25th [here](#).
- **March 27: Apply for Community Learning Research Fellows.** Students collaborate with a Hartford-area community partner and a Trinity College faculty sponsor on a research or creative project. Apply by March 27th [here](#).
- **Apply for Summer 2026 Public Humanities Collaborative.** Students work approximately 30 hours/week with faculty and Hartford-area community partners on humanities-oriented research for 10 weeks from May 19 to July 25. Stipend, on-campus housing, and weekly workshops and field trips are provided. The application will be up soon. [Find more information on PHC here](#).
- **April 4: Chapel/ACES Easter Egg Hunt.** A celebration of Springtime for families and children. All are welcome. The Main Quad. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **April 9-12: Trinity International Hip Hop Festival.** [View the full schedule of events here](#).
- **April 17: GreenFest.** A celebration and promotion of environmental sustainability. The Mill, 79 Vernon Street. 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **April 30: Liberal Arts Action Lab Presentations.** Teams of students from CT State Community College, Capital, and Trinity College present semester-long research with Hartford partners. 1 Constitutional Plaza. 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- **May 2: Trinity Film Festival.** Cinestudio. 300 Summit St. Red Carpet 5:30 p.m., Film Screenings 6:00 p.m., Reception 9:00 p.m.



Trinity Students Reflect on Connecticut Forum Discussion of Environmental Issues

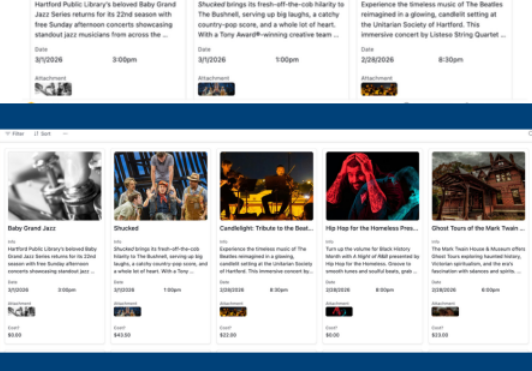
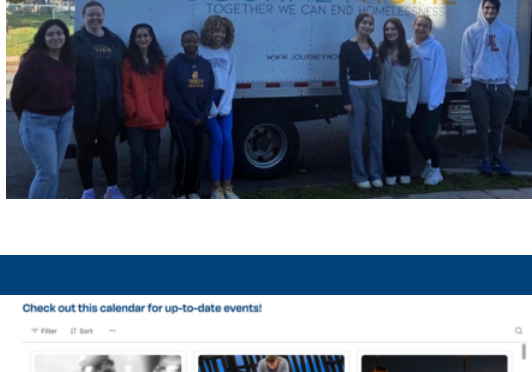
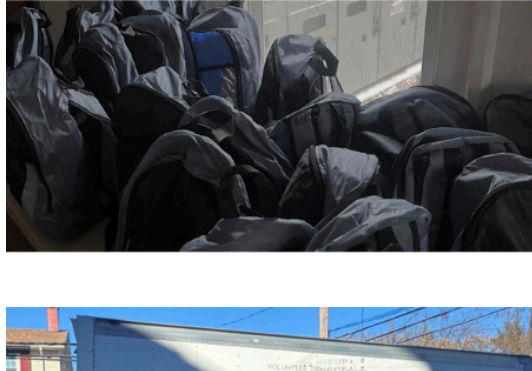
CHER Community Engagement Fellows, alongside Trinity College, organized a "Night Out in Hartford" at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center to attend *The Future of the Environment*, a panel discussion hosted by The Connecticut Forum.

Students coordinated transportation and gathered for dinner beforehand at Bahn Mi. They also extended invitations to students from Professor Amber Pitt's environmental science course. Liliana Polley IDP'21, M'23, executive director of Trinity's Center for Hartford Engagement and Research (CHER), said that the CHER Engagement fellows organize many outings in Hartford, emphasizing that, "These events provide an excellent opportunity for Trinity students to engage more deeply with Hartford as both a learning environment and a community. By attending events like the Connecticut Forum and enjoying local restaurants and cultural venues, students can expand their perspectives beyond campus, support the local economy, and build a stronger connection to the city. These experiences are crucial in helping students view themselves as active participants in Hartford, rather than as visitors." [Read more](#).

The Liberal Arts Action Lab Announces Spring 2026 Projects

- Islamophobia and Political Education Project with the Muslim Justice Center
- Hartford Climate and Environmental Justice Project with Sierra Club Connecticut and NAG
- Access to Abortion Care with The REACH Fund of Connecticut

We are currently accepting student applicants for next semester's projects as well. [Apply here now!](#)

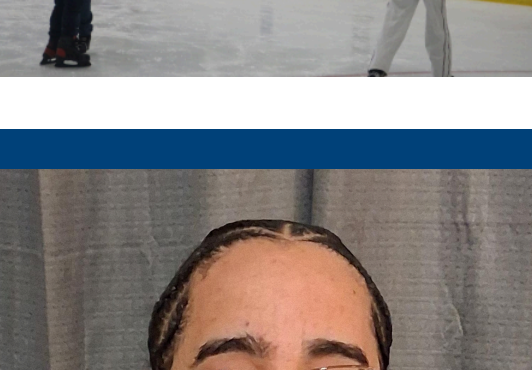


Introducing the Trinity Community Care Project

Previously known as the Trinity Homelessness Project (THP), this student group rebranded as the Trinity Community Care Project (TCCP) in Fall 2024 while continuing its impactful work in the community. As Caitlin Doherty, a leader of the Food Recovery Project initiative, explained, "THP did not adequately portray our mission or the work that we do."

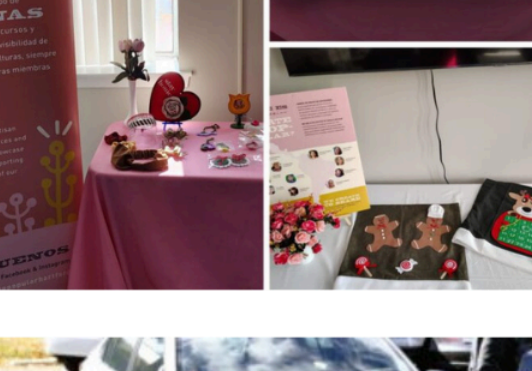
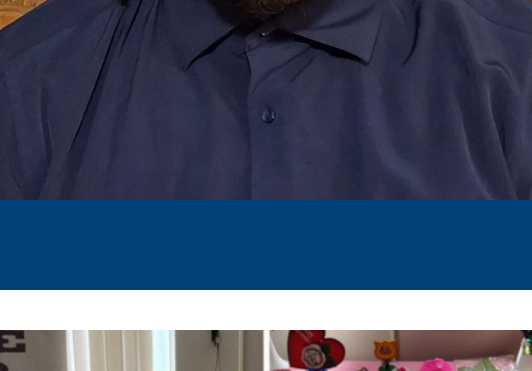
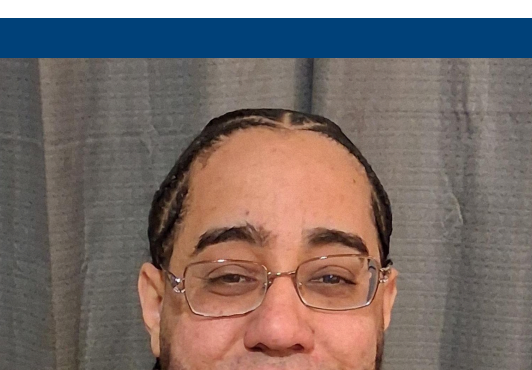
While much of our work centers on supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, we felt that 'Homelessness Project' carried a negative connotation. We did not feel that community members were a 'project' or something to fix." In reality, many of the individuals students engage with are not experiencing homelessness. Instead, much of TCCP's programming focuses on addressing food insecurity, alongside initiatives like the Harm Reduction Initiative.

The organization emphasizes consistency in its work, with key initiatives operating on a weekly basis, such as Food Recovery and Backpack Nutrition, and on multiple occasions each semester, such as Journey Home. [Hear more about TCCP from Caitlin here](#).



Hartford Events Calendar

The CHER Community Engagement Fellows provide weekly updates to the events calendar on the [CHER website](#) and curated Instagram posts highlighting events happening across Hartford each weekend. Whether you're looking for something fun, cultural, or community-centered to do, be sure to check out the calendar and follow us on Instagram @trincollercher to stay connected and in the loop.

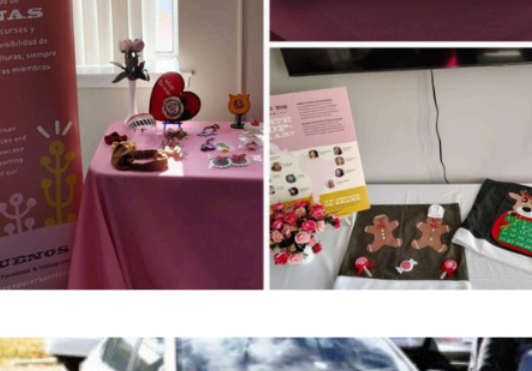
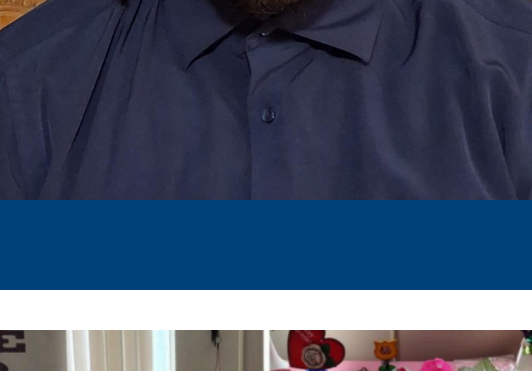
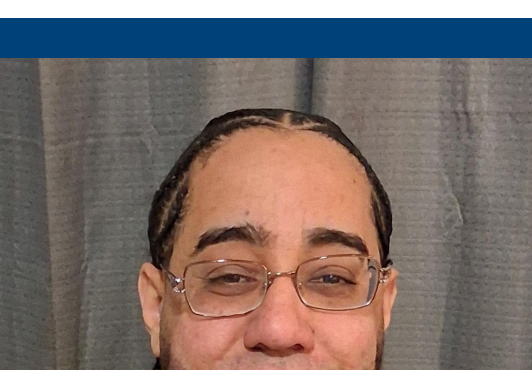


Trinity Hosts Learn to Skate Program

CHER, Trinity College Athletics, and the Koeppel Community Sports Center collaborated to offer Learn to Skate sessions to Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (HMTCA) students.

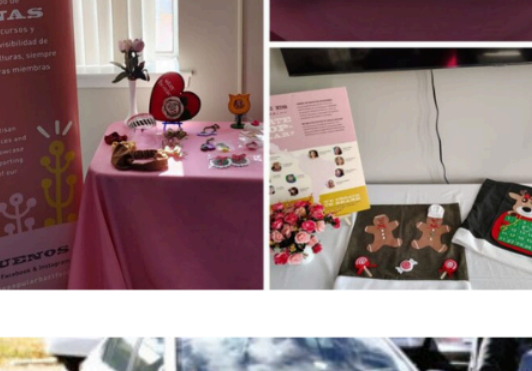
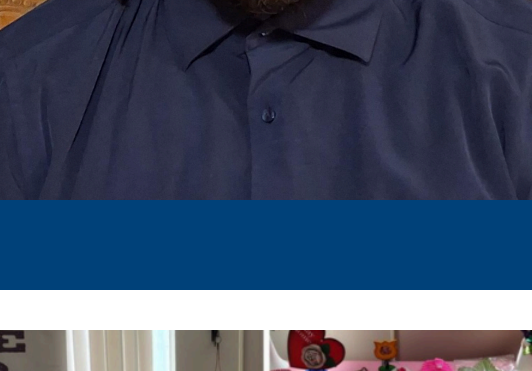
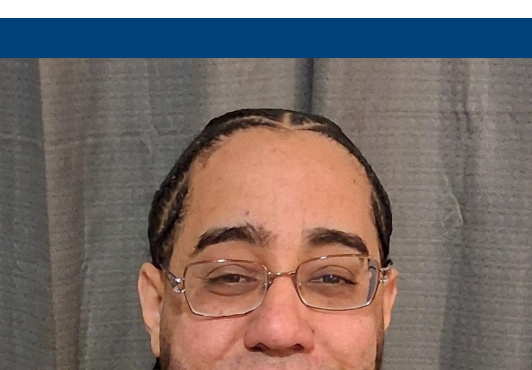
This program provides students with the opportunity to build ice skating skills in a supportive, encouraging, and fun environment. Sessions are held on Wednesdays from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. The Trinity - HMTCA Learn to Skate Program is generously funded by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Ryan's Circle of Giving Fund. A highlight of this year's program is the involvement of Trinity College student coaches, who are working directly with HMTCA students to teach foundational skating techniques and introduce them to ice-based sports. The addition of this peer mentorship opportunity strengthens connections between Trinity students and HMTCA beyond the tutoring and homework help that students receive. This year's student coaches include Lotus Shen, Owen Bitz, and Gavin Flynn.

The Koeppel Community Sports Center has also increased public access. Community members can take advantage of open skate times on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm.



Meet CHER's New Trinifo Program Manager

Alberto Rivera '25 has joined the CHER team as the new Trinifo Program Manager. Having grown up just up the street from Trinifo, he is deeply passionate about creating a welcoming and inclusive community for Hartford residents. Alberto recently graduated from Trinity College with a major in Urban Studies through the IDP program and is excited to be part of the CHER team. He looks forward to helping strengthen Trinifo as a space that bridges Hartford and Trinity College. [Get to know more about Alberto](#).

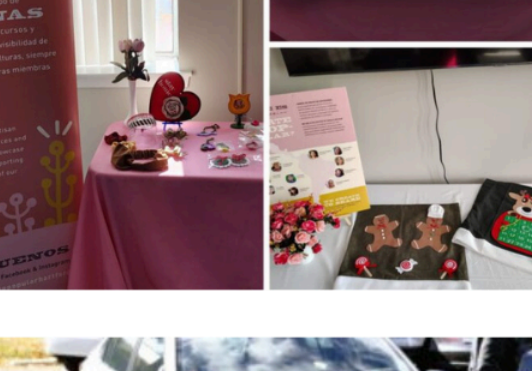
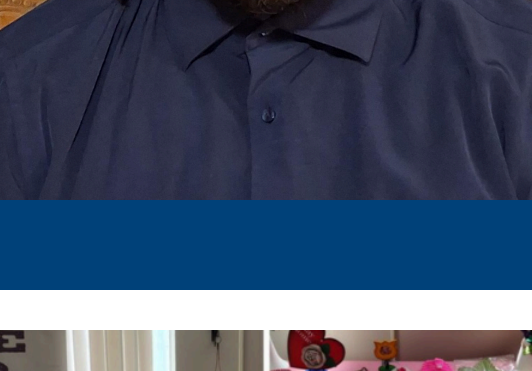
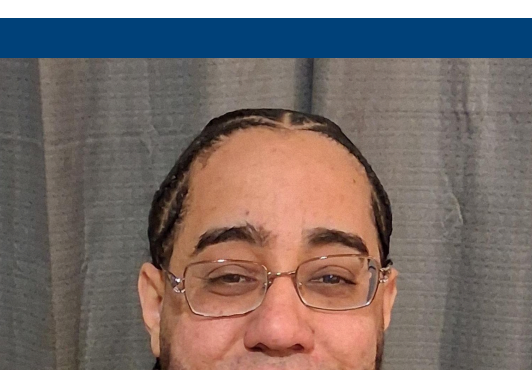


Community Learning Research Fellows Fall 2025 Findings

The Center for Hartford Engagement and Research is pleased to share final research posters from the Fall 2025 Community Learning Research Fellows:

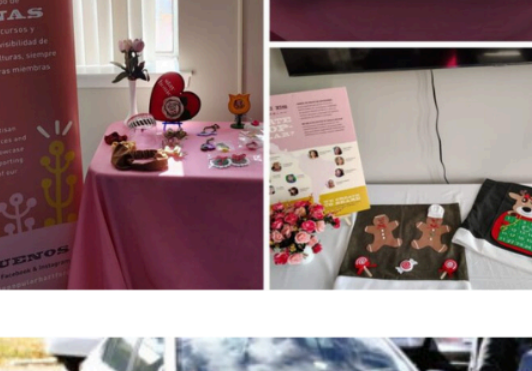
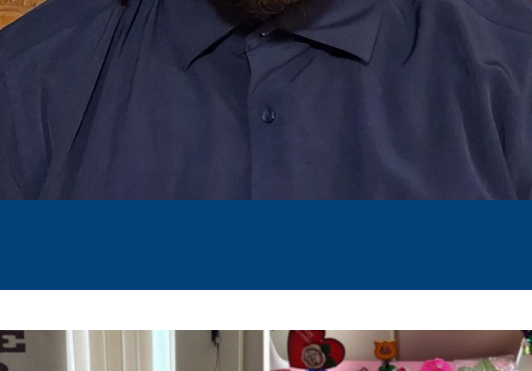
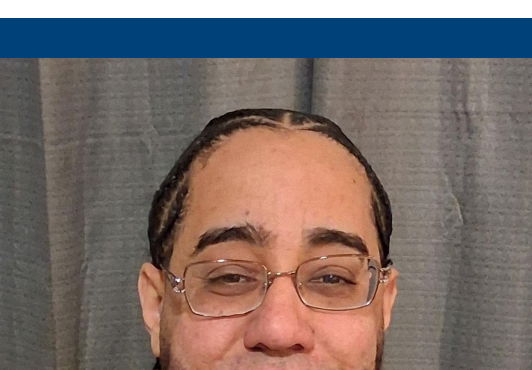
- Tejiendo Nuestra Salud Comunitaria / Weaving our Community Health with Ariana Alonso Flores
- Determinants of Access to School-Based Health Centers: An Analysis of Diverse Educational Contexts with Ali McDougal
- Trinity College Community Writing Center with Pari Chouhan & Maile Fowler
- Beyond the Numbers: Understanding the Social and Economic Impact of HEDCO's Small Business and Entrepreneurial Support with Pen Baxtor
- Hartford's Implementation of Active Transportation Infrastructure with Mafer Vacca

[Fall 2025 Community Learning Research Fellows Findings](#)



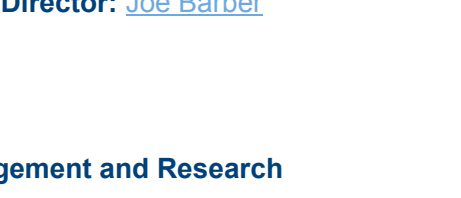
Student Highlight: Aida Haile Shows Community Care Through CHER

[Meet Aida Haile, a double major in public policy and law and human rights studies.](#) Aida is driven by a strong commitment to social justice, combining advocacy, research, and direct service. From mentoring students at HMTCA and supporting food recovery efforts for Hartford shelters to contributing to civic engagement initiatives like voter outreach and public education on state politics, her work reflects a holistic approach to community impact.



IDEAS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTNERING WITH TRINITY COLLEGE?

CONNECT WITH THE CHER TEAM.



CHER Senior Program Manager: [Erna Alic](#)
Director of Liberal Arts Action Lab: [Derin Atalay](#)
CHER Faculty Lead: [Davarian Baldwin](#)
Community Service and Civic Engagement Director: [Joe Barber](#)
CHER Executive Director: [Liliana Polley](#)
Trinifo Program Manager: [Alberto Rivera](#)

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at Trinity College
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Find or Post Volunteer Opportunities in the Hartford Area