CENTER FOR HARTFORD ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

AT TRINITY COLLEGE

TRINITY COLLEGE STUDIES

JUNE 2026
NEWSLETTER

Welcome Dr. Jacques Lesure!
The Center for Hartford Engagement and Research is excited to welcome Dr. Jacques Lesure as the Senior Director of Academic Programs and a new faculty member in the Educational Studies department. Professor Lesure will lead Community Learning programs and faculty development initiatives.

Upcoming CHER Related Events and Deadlines

- **June 26th: Deadline for Community Learning Faculty Fellows (CLIFF) Interest Form.** Faculty across all ranks and disciplines are invited to complete a brief interest form for the CLIFF program, which is being relaunched for 2026-2027. The form can be found here.
- **June 30th: Deadline For Liberal Arts Action Lab Faculty Fellow Applications.** Faculty are invited to apply for Fall 2026 projects related to participatory budgeting, affordable housing, and the highway impacts and neighborhood change project. Apply here.
- **August 21st: Deadline for Community Partner Proposal Applications.** The Liberal Arts Action Lab is currently accepting project proposals from Hartford community partners to be implemented during the 2027 calendar year. The application and opportunities to join an informational session on proposing a community-based research project can be found here.

CHER RECAP
SPRING 2026

784
Tax returns filed by at the VITA Tax Clinic at Trinity

19
Students on three Liberal Arts Action Lab teams conducted semester-long research on a question posed by Hartford partners

192
Food trays recovered to donate to housing shelters

316
Students enrolled in 23 Community Learning courses

165
Students participated in 23 community service events

65
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (HMTCA) students met twice weekly with 15 Trinity student mentors

Trinity: A Year of Records

The VITA Tax Clinic at Trinity wrapped up its most successful year yet. In partnership with the United Way of Northeastern CT and The Village for Families & Children, the clinic provides free, IRS-certified tax preparation for Hartford residents with earning $60,000 or less, people with disabilities, and English language learners. This tax season, students in Assistant Professor Serena Lewis' "Tax Policy and Inequality in Hartford" course aimed to complete at least 100 returns by the new record deadline. The clinic, which began as a pilot program in 2019, gives Trinity students the opportunity to put tax policy into practice while giving community members with complex income or multiple jobs a chance to maximize their refund. This year, Trinity students prepared over 784 returns, the clinic's most ever, and helped over 300 people with more than one income source