

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 0

the C²CC Update

The Creek to College and Career Program at Long Creek Youth Development Center

Year in Review: Creek to College in 2020

This past year in C²C—like pretty much everywhere else in the world—was totally unique. Yet even with the challenges that coronavirus and facility changes presented, the Creek to College Program was able to adapt to meet the needs of our students. In March, right before mid-term, the students could no longer attend classes in the college classroom together. We quickly moved to a hybrid model of synchronous classes on the Zoom platform and asynchronous coursework on Google classroom. Students worked in the classrooms attached to their units, and we continued to offer the same curricula, albeit “remotely.” Students who needed additional academic support were able to meet with Ms. Chaison for one-on-one sessions during the “success lab” block, built into the A.R. Gould School schedule. The Friends of Long Creek generously supported us with funding for our regular core course offerings and textbooks, as well as funding several on-line classes so students could take additional SMCC courses, such as Introduction to Engineering. Thank you, Friends!



ACSS Continues to Be a Success!



The Academic Success Seminar (ACSS) course, for which C²C students earn three elective credits, continues to be a popular class—and is a great way for first-time students in the college program to get acclimated to C²C. The first half of the semester, students learn about the benefits of a college degree, study and test-taking skills, time management, memory improvement, annotation, listening skills, note-taking, time management, conquering procrastination, staying organized, and how to create SMART goals. After mid-term, students work with the Bowdoin tutor mentors to learn about financial literacy, applying for financial aid, public speaking, and creating presentations—and then we embark on career exploration. Over the past year, 18 Long Creek students have participated in ACSS!

SMCC Courses and Enrollment: Fall Semester 2019 – Fall Semester 2020

Here's a list of courses C²C offered this past year, as well as enrollment numbers, in parentheses: Introduction to Sociology (3), Academic Success Seminar (18), Introduction to Psychology (6), English Composition (8), Oral Communications (14), Literature and Film (6), World History to 1500 (3), Creative Writing (3), Introduction to Business (3), Introduction to Art (3). Online courses: Introduction to Engineering, Introduction to Health Sciences. *** **Total credit hours earned = 174!**

College Students Successfully Transition into the Community

One of the interesting challenges that the Coronavirus brought to the Creek to College Program this spring, summer, and fall semester was that several students left the facility, but were still enrolled in college-level courses through SMCC. Since we had moved over in March to using the Zoom platform for synchronous classes as well as the Google classroom, the transition went smoothly, and several students were able to complete their college course work and earn credits at SMCC while staying sheltered at home or in residential treatment programs. Thanks to the Friends of Long Creek as well as YAP, Creek to College students were able to get laptops to do their work on and to access Zoom and Google classroom.



The Friends' Continued Support of Welding at SMCC

The Friends of Long Creek generously funded three Long Creek students' participation in SMCC's outstanding welding program over the past year. Students can choose to participate in degree-bearing or non-degree bearing courses, both of which prepare future welders to earn their AWS (American Welding Society) certification—necessary to be employed as a welder.

Culinary Arts is Thriving

Chef Steve Ogden continues to create culinary magic with his students—even during a pandemic. He has been working for three-week periods with individual units on developing food-truck-themed cuisine that they then prepare for facility staff to feast on. In addition, four Long Creek students studied with Chef and earned their **Serve-Safe Manager Certifications** over the past year! This certification gives our students a leg up on the competition, as all restaurants need to have a Serve-Safe-certified manager on site.



The Third Year of the Bowdoin Tutor/Mentor Program Continues

The **Bowdoin Peer Tutor/Mentor Program** continues to thrive, in its third year, despite the fact that volunteers and mentors haven't been able to come inside the facility since March. Bowdoin students reached out to Stephanie Netto and Nicole Chaison over the summer, interested in how they could continue to support Long Creek college students during the pandemic. We collaborated and decided that the Bowdoin students would join in on our Zoom classes—such as Academic Success Seminar and English Composition. Six Bowdoin students have been regularly joining the Zoom classes and have been helping the Long Creek students with their papers as well as teaching units for Academic Success Seminar in study and test-taking skills and financial literacy.

Letters for Learners

Creek to College also began collaborating with Colby College students last spring in a program we're calling "Letters to Learners," in which the college students correspond back and forth with good old fashioned pen and paper. We're exploring the lost art of letter writing, which seems to provide a definite pick-me-up during the pandemic. The Long Creek students have really enjoyed writing to the Colby students, and vice versa. We will begin a "second wave" of letter writing in January, when spring semester starts.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the growth and success of the Creek to College & Career (C²CC) Program over the past year! And thank you, Friends of Long Creek, as always, for your invaluable support and funding for courses as well as laptops for transitioning students and new textbooks!