

# CASC Advisors Planner

Official Newsletter of the Connecticut Association of Student Councils



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## Director's Corner

Good morning,

I hope this message finds you well! Convention is just 30 days away, and registration closes in only 12 days on **February 15**. For more details, please visit our website or check the "Program Updates" section of the newsletter.

If you've never attended Convention before, I strongly encourage you to bring your student leaders. It's a powerful event that unites student leaders from all over the state. This year, Convention promises to be both exciting and enriching, with a full day of workshops, networking, and presentations designed to provide valuable insights and foster collaboration. The host school and Executive Board have been working tirelessly to make this an unforgettable experience!

**Don't forget!** You only have **12 days left** to register. Visit [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com) to sign up.

Additionally, there are only **10 days left** to apply for one of our **CASC awards** or to apply for a position on the **CASC Executive Board**—both are fantastic opportunities for you and your Student Council/Government. (More information is available in this newsletter or on our website)

Be safe, and as always thank you for your continued support of CASC and its mission of building up student leadership in Connecticut. Remember to stay above the line!

Christopher Tomlin  
CASC Executive Director

### Upcoming State Important Dates::

#### **FEBRUARY**

**February 9:: Student Workshop Presenter Training (HS)**

*CASC is proud to provide this new certified training program for student presenters.*

**February 15:: NatStuCo Council of Excellence application award deadline. (HS/MS)**

**February 15:: CASC Student Executive Board applications due. (HS/MS)**

**February 15:: CASC Award applications due. (HS/MS)** *Council of Excellence, Top Ten Project, Dale Hawley Award, The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award.* <https://www.ctstuco.com/recognition>

#### **MARCH**

**March 7:: CASC Convention (HS/MS)**

*This year being hosted by Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls. More details to follow as we get closer.*

**March 21:: CASC Student Executive Board STAFF applications due. (HS)**

## From the Executive Board

### State President

Hey Connecticut!

Recently the CT Association student councils as well as Woodland Regional Student Government members have been working diligently to make the upcoming spring convention the best one yet! Since my last report, the board has met three times and we have revamped our awards and competition program, check [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com) for more info! In addition, we have run three events since my last report: Mock Legislative Day, Self Care Night, and our service project info session with the CT Humane Society. I am pleased to report that all events were successful and I encourage you all to participate in them next year as well!

Want to learn more about how to be an effective leader? This week, I will be hosting the LAST virtual Mission: Meetup, Presidents Forum at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 5th. After this, the next President's Forum I will host will be ran at Convention! For more information visit our website at [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com).

Thank you !

Kaltrina Ameti '254  
Woodland Regional High School

## Program Updates

### CASC CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Friday, March 7, 2025 10:00AM to 5:00 PM,

Woodland Regional High School, 135 Back Rimmon Road, Beacon Falls, CT 06403

(Check [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com) for schedule and more details)

#### ABOUT CONVENTION

CASC member high school and middle school Student Councils/ Governments are sending delegations to convene at Woodland Regional High School on March 8th for their annual Spring Convention.

This full day event of motivational speeches, workshops, recognitions and elections—is a rewarding experience for all student leaders.

**WORKSHOPS::** In addition to the general sessions, Convention offers a wide array of 21st Century Skill specific workshops designed to strengthen student and advisor abilities. Delegates will participate in large and small group sessions which will look at topics on::

Citizenship, Training, Recognition, Inspiration, Service, Engagement and Spirit! All designed to help students and advisors learn to communicate clearly, collaborate with others across barriers and in diverse groups, and think



creatively and work creatively with others. Each school attending Convention is strongly encouraged to present one workshop. By presenting a workshop, students can share their knowledge and experiences with other students and also improve their own leadership skills.

**RECOGNITION::** Councils, Students and Advisors are recognized for their outstanding work throughout the year.

**ELECTIONS::** The election and installation of new Executive Board officers will take place during the afternoon session.

**Our Keynote:: A'RIC JACKSON**

For over a decade, people have been inspired and motivated by the words of Mr. Aric Jackson. His mission is to **Teach, Inspire, and Encourage** all those who hear him, and to take the challenge of helping others pursue their goals and dreams. A **charismatic and genuinely heartfelt communicator**, Aric truly electrifies an audience.

Watching him speak on stage helps you realize why he is such a unique and gifted orator. For it takes a genuine speaker to present information with shared experience, passion to research a topic much deeper, and to share that information with the audience using skills that will make it a memorable and exciting experience for all.

Aric has served as a student leadership speaker for organizations like Future Business Leaders of America, Health Occupation Students Association, DECA, FCCLA, National Association of Secondary School Principals LEAD Conferences, and many Statewide Student Council Conferences across the country.



**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT::** Each year CASC sponsors a different service project at Convention, you can read more about this further below in the newsletter.

**REGISTRATION::** This year we do not have a limit on school delegations. 2025 Registration Rates: \$35.00 per person. Registration closes February 15, 2025 (No refunds after this date)

REGISTER [HERE](#)

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## **CASC SERVICE PROJECT**

### **Due on Friday, March 7, 2025**

This year CASC is calling on all high schools across the state to host a Pet Food drive (dog and cat food), along with a T-shirt drive for the state-wide service project for CASC Convention 2025. All of the pet food will be donated to the Connecticut Humane Society. The overarching goal of this service project is to build our community through service

and teamwork. No animals in shelters should experience hunger or depression. It is our job as student leaders to take action through service and care.

Please host a school Pet Food drive.

Items to consider collecting may include (but are not limited to):

- Canned dog food
- Canned cat food
- Bagged dog food
- Bagged cat food

Please host a school T-shirt drive for the service project at CASC Convention 2025.

Items to consider collecting may include:

- Clean old T-shirts
- Clean new T-shirts

High schools must aim to collect as much pet food and as many T-shirts as possible. For example, around 100 pet food items and 50 T-shirts. Please bring all donated pet food and T-shirts to the CASC Convention on March 7th, 2025. The district with the most donated service items will get a plaque recognizing their dedication to service. Dogs and cats will be healthier and happier thanks to our support!

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## **PRESENTER TRAINING**

### **DATE MOVED! February 9, 2025**

Our presenter training has been moved to February 9th as a virtual event. If you registered to present and you need training, then you will be getting a google calendar invite with more details.

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## **EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER APPLICATIONS Now Open!**

### **February 15, 2025**

Applications are now being accepted for students wanting to serve on the association's Executive Board. Applications must be submitted on our website <https://www.ctstuco.com> and received on or before midnight, February 15.

Contact the Executive Director with any questions [ctomlin@casciac.org](mailto:ctomlin@casciac.org)

The following positions are open on the board::

- President/Host convention school (1 year position)
- Secretary Treasurer (1 year position)
- Middle School Member at Large (1 year position)

- District
- Eastern District (2 year school position)
- Western District (2 year school position) - *the incumbent school, Thomaston High School, after serving the maximum number of years is required to cycle off the board this year.*

Staff (applications due by March 21, 2025)

- Parliamentarian (1 year position)
  - Historian/Archivist (1 year position)
  - Student Workshop Coordinator (1 year position)
  - Legislative Affairs Coordinator (1 year position)
  - Service Coordinator (1 year position)
  - Mental Health Affairs Coordinator (1 year position)
- 

## **AWARD AND RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES Now Open!**

**February 15, 2025**

Applications are now being accepted for all CASC Awards. If your Student Council/Government, or a member of it, has shown a commitment to *Citizenship, Recognition, Inspiration, Service, Engagement, and Spirit*, now is the time to celebrate their accomplishments and hard work by applying for one of CASC's awards.

As an award recipient, you will receive:

- An official certificate from CASC
- School name announced at Convention, as well as published in the advisors newsletter and on the CASC website.

Applications must be submitted on our website <https://www.ctstuco.com/recognition> and received on or before February 15.

Contact the Executive Director with any questions [ctomlin@casciac.org](mailto:ctomlin@casciac.org)

### **Awards for SCG's::**

- CASC Council of Excellence Award. (HS)

### **Awards for Students::**

- Student Leadership Award (HS)
- Unsung Hero Award (MS/HS)

### **Awards for Advisors::**

- The Ron Nedovich Advisor of the Year Award (HS/MS)
  - Friend of the Association
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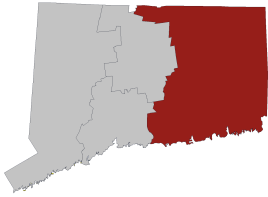
# COMPETITION APPLICATIONS Now Open!

## February 15, 2025

CASC is proud to launch a new competition program that allows our student leaders to put their leadership learning to the test.

Top Project is a team event that showcases the best of your SC/G program to our board of judges. Do you have a Top Project? Apply [HERE](#).

## Districts in Action



### Eastern District - NFA, Norwich

*Elya Anor '25, Vice President;  
Kinnick Campbell '26, District Coordinator;  
Lorraine Dooley, Advisor*

**DISTRICT UPDATE::** This month the student government leaders have planned an event called "Cocoa and Conversation" to encourage students to share their suggestions and ideas with their representatives. This input will help frame the Student Advisory Board members goals for second semester. We also have student leaders helping out at an upcoming Career Expo.

## CTRISES:: Project Ideas

Remember to be focusing on your **CT**(citizenship), **R**(recognition), **I**(inspiration), **S**(service), **E**(engagement), **S**(spirit). Looking for a new project to run this month in your student council/government? Think about incorporating some of these suggestions into your calendar.

## Ideas for February

### CITIZENSHIP

#### Attendance at local town meetings

*Attend a meeting of your town council or of your Board of Education. Check the agenda ahead of time and see if there is a topic of interest that you think would benefit the student body.*

### TRAINING

#### Financial Literacy and Fundraising Training

- *Focus: Teach students how to manage money, raise funds, and budget.*
- *Activities:*
  - *Workshops on creating a budget for a club or event.*
  - *Training on how to write grant proposals and fundraising letters.*
  - *Learning about different fundraising techniques (e.g., online crowdfunding,*

events).

- *Goal: Provide students with valuable skills for managing club finances and organizing successful fundraisers.*

## **RECOGNITION**

### **Apply for Awards**

*CASC as well as NatStuCo offer a number of awards to recognize both individuals as well as SC/Gs. Be sure you are taking advantage of these opportunities! Visit [ctstuco.com](http://ctstuco.com) or [natstuco.org](http://natstuco.org) for more details.*

## **INSPIRATION**

### **CASC Convention**

*Be the inspiration for change by signing up to present a workshop session at Convention to share the amazing work that your SC/G does.*

## **SERVICE**

### **Valentines Day Activities**

*Get together and make Valentines for the elderly. Then go deliver them to your local senior centers. Consider selling Valentines and delivering them to students with carnation flowers*

## **ENGAGEMENT**

## **Raise Money for Local Family in Need**

*February is the depth of winter and when people need the most help with heating bills and snow removal.*

## **SPIRIT**

### **Basketball/Volleyball Tournament**

*Some schools host yearly "Three on Three Tournaments." Others host "Teacher vs Student games." Encourage teams to sign up and consider including awards for Teams with the most original name and best jersey. You can use these games as fundraisers or as Charitable games.*

### **Coffee House With Open Mic/Poetry Reading**

*This is a great way to reach out to the diverse groups within your school to increase school participation. Set up a mic and some stools, try to get couches or comfortable seating for the audience. Consider having relaxing background music playing during the night. Don't forget the food and refreshments!*

# **Ideas for March**

## **CITIZENSHIP**

### **Start planning your SC/G Elections**

*It is never too early to begin planning your elections. Consider forming your elections committee now to begin to review your last election and what they would like to see done differently this time.*

## **RECOGNITION**

### **Wall of Honor**

*Acknowledge the amazing things that your students do by creating a wall of honor. Consider highlighting students with a photo of them and their story. Likewise you could recognize your staff in the same way or any group within your*

*community.*

## **INSPIRATION**

### **Attend CASC Convention!**

## **SERVICE**

### **Character Meet and Greet**

*Submitted by:: Lewis Mills HS  
Students dress up as favorite Disney characters, princesses, superheros and interact with little kids.*

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### **Ban the "R" Word**

*Practice inclusion by raising awareness about the*



"R" Word. Develop programs of inclusion and consider supporting the Winter games of the Special Olympics in Connecticut.

## **SPIRIT**

### **Talent or Music Fest**

Submitted by:: Woodland Regional High School  
Showcase the talented Students in your school by

hosting a musical talent show. Have teachers serve as judges and give prizes to the top talent in different categories. Hold the show during the day to highlight students to the entire student body, or after school to bring the community into your school.

\*\*We are always looking for new and exciting projects or events to highlight, if your SC/G has a project that you would like to see highlighted in a newsletter please submit it [here](#).

## **Tips and Tools**

### **Preventing a three-ring circus - ORGANIZE!**

Reprint from FOCUS... October, 1986

The busy student council/student government (SC/G) often resembles a three-ring circus. Big projects demand the center ring and spotlights of publicity, but many other people do their act outside the featured ring. The SC/G president may be ringmaster, but needs some way to visualize all of the concurrent activities. We each need to look ahead, outside the big top, to see what needs to be readied for each project's entrance.

One system, to help develop this view, is Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT). PERT can be a very sophisticated, computer-based device. In fact, it was used to design and build an atomic submarine ahead-of-schedule. In total there are 5 steps required to create a PERT chart for a project:

- Identify all the tasks
- Determine task dependencies
- Connect the tasks
- Estimate time frames
- Manage the development and progress of the project

#### **Developing a Network**

The main feature of PERT is the development of a network which shows the inter-relationships among various events and benchmarks. Such a network can help you make time estimates for planning events

more accurately. Anyone who has chaired or sponsored a SC/G can attest to the importance of realistic and accurate time estimates.

Some explanation of the basic PERT vocabulary may help. An event is a specific accomplishment. Ordering tickets for the homecoming dance is "an event." Two events are connected by an activity or the time-consumed between them. Designing, proofreading and estimating the number of tickets needed is "an activity" necessary before tickets can be printed.

Activities take place between specific events, such as price/date set for homecoming dance and homecoming dance tickets ordered. The time required for these activities is called activity time. This is the estimate of the time it will take to accomplish a task. Please consider the most optimistic, pessimistic and realistic time.

#### **Putting PERT to Work**

Divide the project into manageable segments. (Homecoming divides logically into parade, royalty contest, dance, publicity, etc.) For each of the major parts, build a network which will list the major events within that segment. Connect them with activity timelines showing how long the work should take.

### **Flow Charting**

A flow chart will show the interrelationships of important events. In the industrial application of PERT, a critical path is determined which shows how long the project takes from inception to completion. This is not necessary for homecoming. You know when it has to be finalized but PERT can help you realize how early some events need to be scheduled.

The busy SC/G president can receive help in keeping things going with a PERT display showing homecoming, December charities, elections, and constitutional revision all clearly listed and organized. The activity timelines help to see when committees must be formed, contracts signed, school authorities notified and all the other tasks which cannot be left to the last minute.

Some tips: don't get the flow chart too detailed and complicated-you will be demoralized by all the tasks you must accomplish. Your drama teacher may be

able to help you work out a flow chart, since flowcharting is used to organize the production of plays. Your yearbook sponsor, too, may have learned to PERT a yearbook's production. Math and computer science teachers will be of great help. too.

Effective leadership consists of learning organization, planning and evaluation skills, using the widest resources we can find. PERT may provide to be a useful leadership tool. It can help you realize all of the "acts" going on in your "three-ring circus."

## **Upcoming Events**

*Be sure to check the CASC Website (CTStuco.com) for a full calendar of our program and more information!*

### **FEBRUARY**

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### **APRIL**

**April 8 - Start and Spark (HS/MS)**

*End of year activities and summer ideas, VIRTUAL Meeting 7:00-7:40*

**April 17:: CASC's 73rd Birthday**

**April 21-25:: National Student Leadership Week**

**MAY**

**May 21 - CASC "Adventures in Leadership," (HS/MS)**

*Ropes course designed to allow your newly elected leaders an opportunity to come together and begin to work as a team, while meeting leaders from across the state. More details to follow.*