



Salisbury University's

PRESIDENTIAL CITIZEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

PCS WHITEPAPER

FORGET-ME-NOTS

(A PROJECT ON YOUTH AFFECTED BY DRUG ABUSE)

MAKENZIE KENNEDY, JUNIOR

HANNA BERTHOLDT, JUNIOR

PEYTON RAYNE, JUNIOR

RICHARD BROWN, JUNIOR

MEET THE SCHOLARS



Makenzie Kennedy

Early childhood & Elementary Education Major, Graduating 2025, University Host, Support Executor of SU Pickleball



Hanna Bertholdt

Health Science Major, Graduating 2025, Active Member of the Community Service based organization, Girls on Top of the World on campus



Peyton Rayne

Nursing major, Psychology minor, Graduating 2025, Member of Delta Gamma, Delta Gamma Executive Board for two years



Richard Brown

Nursing major, Pursuing the Pediatric field, graduating in May 2025.

Our Mission Statement..

The mission of our Presidential Citizens Scholars (PCS) project was to collaborate with community partners who work with youth affected by drug abuse to ensure they are not forgotten and to teach them skills they will carry with them forever.

EVERYONE STARTS WITH WHY

Makenzie: Growing up, I had split parent homes. My dad was an alcoholic so being at his house was very lonely and trying to take care of myself. At my mom's I felt like a back burner because my sister was more important to make sure she was okay. So, with these experiences I felt as if I had to take care of myself and help take care of her. Sometimes I felt as I was the adult in the house.

Hanna: My "Why" for this project is that I have always felt a connection to it while not being directly affected. When I was in third grade, I had a friend in my class who asked me to take a sip of my water because her mom used all her money for drugs, and their water was turned off. I continued to bring her water bottles every day after this.

Peyton: My "Why" for this project started when I knew I wanted to be in the healthcare field. I have an innate instinct in wanting to help others and with this project, I'm able to combine my knowledge from my major with helping children who are affected by drug abuse and providing support through this difficult time for them.

Richard: My "Why" starts with my mom, she never had it as easy as I did. Her life was filled with tough times due to the drug abuse of her mother, many things were not provided for her, mainly support. Now I get the opportunity to fill in but a portion of what my mother could have benefited from in her youth.

Navigating Challenges...

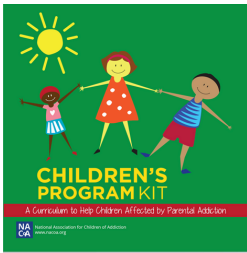
Beginning our project, finding a place to set our foundation was difficult. However, after communicating with Anna Hanzsche and establishing rapport with an established non-profit community such as the Boys & Girls Club, it became clear that this was the place housing youth that could benefit from our project idea.

COLLABORATING EFFORTS...

We collaborated with the National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA) to discuss the use of their drug addiction curriculum for children and their established evaluation process.

Connecting the dots...

After working closely with the NACoA, we facilitated a connection between the NACoA and Anna at the B&G club to create the pathway to lay out the plan for our pilot project.



The end of the beginning...

After training to be volunteers in the Boys & Girls Club and NACoA, we launched our pilot project. Using the NACoA curriculum as a guide, we are currently in the process of finishing out our 8-week pilot project with an evaluation at the end to assess whether this program is sufficient to implement in other Boys & Girls clubs across Maryland. This is hopefully just the beginning of this amazing project.





THE BACKING OF IT ALL...

In 2021, **18.5%** of Wicomico County high school students said that they have taken prescription medicine differently than what a doctor has told them to and or without a doctor's prescription. **22.8 %** of the students were offered, sold, and or given illegal drugs on school property (within 12 months prior to survey). **3.4 %** of students have injected any illegal drugs, **4.4%** have used ecstasy, **4.8%** of students have used methamphetamines, **5.2%** of students have used heroin, **5.0%** of students have used cocaine, and **17.1%** of students have smoked marijuana (one or more times during the 30 days before the survey).

18.3% of students have had at least one drink leading up to the survey but **9.0%** have binge drank at least one day within the 30 leading up to the survey (four or more drinks if female and five and more if male) (C. Shifler, 2021).

Previous Project Efforts...

The 2020 cohort put out a survey to figure out what type of programming were needed at the new Newton Street Community Center. The 2021 cohort took that data and fraternity and sorority life (FSL) to plan activities for the community center. Each chapter had two days within a week to create a plan and specialized program to bring to the center for the kids.

REFERENCES

Blake, L.; Cioccio, Z.; Cooper, J.; Evans, L.; Gischel, T.; Green, J.; Habib, M.; Leon, H.; Planner, A.; Towers, J.

“Newton Street Community Center: A Needs-Based Assessment Ensuring Beneficial Programs.” Salisbury University, 2020.

Lander, L., Howsare, J., & Byrne, M. (2013). *The impact of Substance Use Disorders on families and children: From theory to practice*. Social work in public health. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3725219/>

Maryland Department of Health overdose. (n.d.). Maryland.gov Enterprise Agency Template. <https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Pages/overdose.aspx>

State Level Data, 2021-2022. (n.d.). Maryland.gov Enterprise Agency Template. <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Reports/Pages/State-Level-Data%2c-2021-2022.aspx>

THANK YOU!

Kenzi, Hanna, Peyton and Richard would like to extend our appreciation to the following people who have given significant time and energy to support our Presidential Citizen Scholars Capstone Project over the past three semesters. Thank you for your support and guidance!

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Denise B. Epps (CEO / NACOA)

Mary Beth Collins (Director of Programs / NACOA)

Anna Hanzsche (Senior Regional Director / B&G Club)

Kaitlin Keefer (Manager of Membership and Outcome Data / B&G Club)

Jean Mocombe (Club Program Coordinator / B&G Club)

SU CAMPUS LEADERS

Ryan Weaver (PACE)

Sara Heim (Assistant Director/Americorps)

Dr. Sandy Pope (PACE)



The Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) is a resource center where the SU community, local government, nonprofit and public groups can access knowledge and information. PACE draws on the interdisciplinary expertise of SU faculty, students, staff, and community partners. As a nonpartisan contributor, the Institute organizes projects and programs that are customized to fit the particular needs of the Eastern Shore community. For more information about PACE, visit www.salisbury.edu/pace (or email PACE@salisbury.edu).



The PCS Program prepares students to be community leaders through civic scholarship and community action. Over three semesters, Scholars meet with members of the community to identify and research an issue that will culminate in a Capstone Project. Scholars are supported through Salisbury University's Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) and the Office of the President. SU's highest purpose is "to empower students with knowledge, skills, and core values that contribute to lifelong learning and active citizenship in a democratic society." This elite program builds on SU's highest purpose by offering students of all majors and disciplines the opportunity to engage in the life of the community, develop habits of democratic citizenship, and become experienced civic leaders. The PCS Program operates under the direction and guidance of Ryan Weaver, PACE/IDIS Lecturer (rvweaver@salisbury.edu).