

Tri-Chair Interviews for Transition to Postsecondary College and/or Career (TPCC)

Members of the Transition to Postsecondary College and/or Career CAN are a committed group of community stakeholders who are experts in the field of college and career readiness:
“All Stamford Youth Will Graduate from Highschool and Obtain Post-Secondary Degree and/or Employment”



Jennienne Burke,
AETNA
Board of Education

What is your day job?

I currently work for AETNA, CVS Health. My work involves healthcare quality improvement.

I'm a third term elected Board of Education volunteer. I'm most proud of leading the board to establish a college and career readiness focus at the district level. It's important for our students to learn, grow and have a plan as they transition from high school into their next chapter.

What do you value from your work with Cradle to Career?

I value the connection to community and what vision we see in our young people... 1.) creating a workforce culture with a foundation of essential skills and 2.) ensuring college matriculation & connections through the first year for students.

Conversations and collaborating with the various community organizations at the TPCC C2C table allows me to see who and what work is being done to set our young people up for post-secondary success. Feedback from students is extremely important to me in this work. Their input informs us about whether we're in the right track or need to consider other factors.

What do you hope to see in the next year?

I'm hoping that the essential skills language builds a culture that becomes a part of our community conversation. I hope to see organizations and our schools use their programs and curriculum to build these skills. They are critical part of developing a career path, gaining employment and maintaining employment.

What is your favorite part about this season?

I love the Christmas holiday. I love my holiday traditions. I pick a family every year to bake cookies with. It's my great grandmothers' recipe. I do lots of baking around the holidays. It's the chance to share my traditions and spend family time that brings me joy.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love a good movie, my yoga workouts and I'm always up for a trip to explore New York City exhibit, cultural event or just stroll the streets seeing the sights.



Rebecca Wilson,
Stamford Public Schools

What is your day job?

I work for the Stamford Public Schools as the Coordinator for College and Career Readiness/School Counselor Services; my work covers kindergarten through twelfth grade.

What do you value from your work with Cradle to Career?

I value the opportunity that we have to collectively solve some of the social problems in Stamford and the lasting positive impact that this work can have on our community. We are the group that Margaret Mead spoke of when she said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Our current and future Cradle to Career work exudes possibility!

What do you hope to see in the next year?

I hope the projects, pilots and programs that we have initiated, transform into systems, policies and frameworks, that will have systemic reach and become a new way of doing.

What is your favorite part about this season?

My favorite part of this season is getting together with family and friends, reminiscing, laughing and telling stories of "remember when..." Sometimes the variation of the stories change, depending on who remembers what. It's always a fun time!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love travel, to experience the world.



Tina Rivera,
Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE)

What is your day job?

I am the proud principal of the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering where I work with an amazing group of faculty, staff and students.

What do you value from your work with Cradle to Career?

I value the opportunity to collaborate with other community partners in SC2C. This partnership has allowed us to work together to help improve student outcomes. I also have gained a better understanding of the wealth of services that these agencies provide to our students and families.

What do you hope to see in the next year?

I hope to see a decrease in the summer melt phenomenon by expanding the Bridge to College pilot.

What is your favorite part about this season?

My favorite part of this season is getting together with friends and family.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my limited free time, I find time to play tennis. I love the physical, mental and social aspects of the game. It is also a sport you can play for a lifetime.

