

**Chance 2 Dance
Pt. 1**

Mondays – In Person
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Jackie Castore

Get your body moving and your energy flowing in this fun dance class! Start with gentle stretching to help loosen your muscles and get you ready to dance. Play fun games to get your body warmed up. Then, you'll practice simple steps and movements that build strength, balance, flexibility, and mobility — one step at a time. Every move will fit your different needs, whether you're dancing from a seated position, standing up, or finding your own way to groove. So, bring your smile and let's dance!

**Chance 2 Dance
Pt. 2**

Mondays – In Person
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Jackie Castore

Keep the party going in a welcoming space where everyone will experience the joy of dance! *Chance2Dance Pt. 2* is all about building confidence, expressing yourself, and staying active through a fun, inclusive group dance routine. No matter your ability, we'll find moves that work for you. The choreography is made to fit each student's needs, helping students to build coordination, rhythm, and confidence. At the end of each semester, you and your friends will get a chance to show off your moves through a group performance at Showcase Week.

Cinema, Culture & You

Mondays – *In Person*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Mitchell Lovell

Get ready to see movies, television, and animation in a whole new light! In this class, dive into the magic of cinema. You'll learn how filmmakers use everything from music, camera angles, and special effects to tell powerful stories that make us feel a range of emotions. You'll get to share and hear from others as we explore how the stories make us feel, what these stories remind us of and what messages these stories say about culture and the world? Learn cool cinema words and be a part of a lively discussion about what makes each piece of film special. Let's watch, learn, and explore life together through the power of cinema!

Lights, Camera, Action

Mondays – *In Person*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Mitchel Lovell

Quiet on Set! Join us in CSI's film studio as we learn what it takes to create a movie. We'll practice using real camera equipment, learn how to film scenes, and try out fun acting games. You'll also discover how to plan a shot, say your lines on camera, and work together with your classmates to make movie magic happen. Learn about editing clips and putting it all together to see what you can create. During Showcase week, grab some popcorn! You'll share the clips you made as a group and celebrate the work you created!

Toon and Tell

Tuesdays – *In Person
& Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15 pm

Evan Fersko

Step into the world of cartoons! In this fun and creative class, we'll explore how characters are brought to life through storytelling and animation. From silly animals and Disney characters to mysterious villains and powerful superheroes, you'll discover what makes a character complicated and unique. Together, we'll watch short clips, look at popular illustrations, and have fun group discussions about how different personality traits make these characters unforgettable and how they teach us lessons about life and society.

Create-A-Toon -Illustration-

Tuesdays – *In Person
& Virtual*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Evan Fersko

Practice your illustration skills, learn how to build a story, and bring your ideas and characters to life on paper! Each week, we'll explore different styles of cartoons and drawings. You'll learn how to draw and design characters, create scenes, and tell a story using pictures and words. Can't draw? No worries, we will learn together! Just bring your imagination and a willingness to try. At the end of each semester, you'll get to show off your work during Showcase week. This is your chance to shine as a cartoon creator!

Story Hunters

Tuesdays – *In Person*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor To Be Determined

Tell the story! In this Journalism class, share your most memorable news stories, discover new current and past events, and learn how stories get told. Together we will explore how important news is, how it's shared and what journalists do! You'll join in group activities to help you become your own reporter by interviewing your classmates or asking them questions and gathering information. Together with your peers you will practice telling the who, what, when, where and why of the story.

Yearbook Committee

Tuesdays – *In Person*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor To Be Determined

Be a part of the first ever Yearbook Committee! Whether it's fun moments, friendly faces, or special highlights, you'll help create a book of our best memories! Take and gather photos, work on captions together, and be the voice that tells everyone what makes Creative Exchange so special. Together, the class will work on creating an everlasting memory. You'll work alongside friends every step of the way, selecting themes like "Most Smiles," "Fun Times," or "Team Spirit". Let's capture the moments that have made Creative Exchange shine!

¡Hola, Español!

Tuesdays – Virtual
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Instructor To Be Determined

Get ready to have a blast while learning a new language! In this Spanish class, you'll practice key words that help you greet people, ask questions, and learn simple phrases for everyday situations, like ordering food, shopping, and telling time. We'll start with the basics and eventually practice talking about your daily routine, your favorite things, and the world around you. By the end of this course, you'll feel more confident introducing yourself and using Spanish to connect with others! ¡Vamos a aprender! (Let's go learn!)

Discover the Richness of Latino America!

Tuesdays – Virtual
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Instructor To Be Determined

Embark on a vibrant journey into the heart of Latino culture! In this engaging course, you'll discover the diversity of Latino America, explore each country's unique foods, lively music, and special family and holiday traditions. From the spicy dishes of Mexico to the sweet treats of Argentina, and from the lively music of Colombia to the rich history of Puerto Rico, this class celebrates the colorful tapestry of Latino cultures. Experience the rhythms of salsa, mariachi, and tango and explore how art and music reflect the soul of Latino cultures. Join us to celebrate the beauty and diversity of Latino heritage. Come explore and get a taste of what makes these cultures so special!

Discovering the World of AI

**Wednesdays – In
Person & Virtual**
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Evan Fersko

Have you ever asked a device to help you with something? That's artificial intelligence or AI! AI is changing the way we live, learn, and create! In this class, you'll have fun discovering what AI is. See the variety of ways it's used and why everyone is talking about it! You'll explore examples like voice assistants, smart robots, and fun tools that can talk, draw, or even play games with you! We also want to hear how you feel about AI, and what you think it means for people and society.

The AI Toolbox

**Wednesdays – In Person
& Virtual**
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Evan Fersko

Are you ready to have fun with some amazing tools? Play with AI through programs like ChatGPT, Co-Pilot, Gemini, and Ovation. Together we'll use AI in the classroom safely and responsibly, so you'll know how to make AI work best for you when you're out of the classroom. In this fun and hands-on class, we'll practice using AI to help boost our ideas, answer our questions, and practice our speaking skills as we write stories, make presentations, create art, music, and more! Join us as we use AI in new and exciting ways and feature your work during Showcase Week at the end of each semester!

**Challenge Accepted!
Build Your Decision-
Making Muscle**

Wednesdays – *In Person*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Amy Lenza

Have fun and challenge your thinking! In this exciting class, the instructor will offer a variety of interactive activities like performing arts, learning song lyrics and acting out scenes, to encourage you to make individual and group decisions. You and your classmates will vote on the activities and practice important life skills like confidence, communication, and empathy; all while having a blast together! This course is a great way to boost your memory and focus while making new friends.

**Forget Textbooks –
Grab a Game!**

Wednesdays – *In-Person*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Amy Lenza

Get ready to level up your social skills and have fun with our new course! Through a mix of board games, card games, and virtual games, you'll put your gaming knowledge and teamwork skills to the test. You'll be surprised at how much you learn while you're having fun. This course is a chance to sharpen your listening and self-regulation, improve your problem-solving and recall skills, and build stronger connections with your peers.

Here's the best part: at the end of the semester, we'll host a tournament during Showcase Week, where you and your team can show off what you've learned!

**Exploring Staten Island:
How Transportation &
Geography Shaped our
Home**

Wednesdays – *Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Nora Santiago

Explore Staten Island like never before! Join us for an adventure through time and discover how location, bridges, ferries, and modern roadways transformed our borough to the community we know today! You'll go back in time to see what Staten Island looked like from the 1700s to today. Together, we will connect the past to the present and uncover the hidden stories behind Staten Island's neighborhoods like Willowbrook and Freshkills; places that are nationally known and have been reclaimed! Students in this course will see these special spaces first-hand. Please save the date November 7th for an exclusive campus visit to see the Willowbrook Mile. Details will be shared in our events calendar. After this course, you will see Staten Island in a whole new way! Let's explore our borough — one map, one road, and one story at a time!

**The Power of our
Planet:**

Wednesdays – *Virtual*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

**A Hand-Guide to
Understanding & Caring
for the Environment**

Nora Santiago

Join us for an exciting new class all about Earth's power and beauty! Every week, we'll dive into eye-opening stories of natural disasters like earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, and superstorms. We'll explore what causes these events and how they shape our world.

But that's not all! You'll also get to learn about how to protect our planet and participate in fun, hands-on activities to help preserve our environment. Join Creative Exchange and PCCS:

- Every first Tuesday of the month at CSI anytime between 2:30pm–4:30pm to learn how to compost: turning waste into treasure for our planet
- Friday, Oct. 3rd at 10:00am for a beach clean-up to keep the waterfront of the historic Conference House beautiful. Meet up will be at 298 Satterlee St. Staten Island NY, 10307. Pick up is 12:00pm.
- Friday, Dec. 6th on campus for CSI Swap, bring things you don't need any more and find new treasures to take home. It's a great way to help the environment by sharing and wasting less!

Please see details in our events calendar. Come learn, explore, and make a real difference with us!

**Find Your Voice:
A Guide to
Self-Advocacy**

Thursdays – *Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Jaimee Weiber

Want to live your best life? Join this class to learn how to find your voice and use it with pride! We'll discover what self-advocacy is and why it's important. You'll learn to speak up for yourself and share what's important to you.

Through fun activities with your classmates, you'll learn new tools and practice using your words to help you feel confident. We'll explore what you want for your future — like school, a job, and hobbies, and make a plan to get you there. You'll also learn about your rights and how to find people who will support you. Ready to take charge and make your dreams happen? Let's do it together!

**Healthy Habits,
Healthy Life:
A Guide to Self-Care**

Thursdays – *Virtual*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Jaimee Weiber

Ready to feel your best every day? Join this fun class all about self-care! We'll explore ways to take great care of your body and mind, including:

- **Healthy Foods:** Discover tasty foods that give you energy
- **Exercise:** Learn easy routines like stretching, walking, and dancing
- **Meditation & Mindfulness:** Practice relaxing exercises to feel calm
- **Daily Habits:** Learn habits for good hygiene and staying healthy

By the end, you'll have a toolbox of tips to live a confident, peaceful, and healthy life to share during Showcase Week!

Earth Through Time

Thursdays – *In Person
& Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Evan Fersko

Get ready to explore the amazing world we live in with this fun, hands-on Earth Science class! We'll blast off into space to learn about the sun, moon, and solar system, then land back on Earth to explore:

- **The Land** – how mountains, volcanoes, and rocks are formed
- **The Water** – dive into oceans to discover sea creatures and their habitats
- **The Animals** – explore forests, deserts, and more to see how animals live and survive

Along the way, we'll create fun art projects and share what we've learned during Showcase Week in December and May!

Math and All Its Glory

Evan Fersko

**Thursdays – In-Person
& Virtual**
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Math is all around us—and it's more fun than you think! In this exciting and hands-on math class, you'll explore how we use numbers in everyday life, from budgeting to sports scores, to video games, to baking skills, and casino games. Each week, students will practice math skills through fun and creative activities. You'll track sports stats to see who's winning, learn how to plan for a party, and spot amazing number patterns in the world around us. You'll dive into the world of casino games, learning how to count cards and add dice, all while practicing our math! To finish the semester with a bang, we'll host our very own Casino Night during Showcase Week in December and May!

Everyday Writing for Future Authors

Lenore Marchese

Thursdays – In Person
P1: 6:30pm – 7:15pm

Get ready to unlock the power of your words in this exciting class where you will build practical reading and writing skills to use every day:

- Sentence Building: Create clear, complete sentences with everyday words
- Real-World Reading: Practice understanding notes & messages you see daily
- Creative Communication: Share your ideas, stories, & information

Throughout the year, you and your classmates will work on a special group project. You'll work on a special rroup project and Show your hard work during the Fall and Spring Showcase Week! Get ready to express yourself and share your unique voice with the world. We can't wait to see you there!

**Poetry for a Purpose:
Spreading Joy &
Kindness**

Thursdays – *In Person*
P2: 7:25pm – 8:10pm

Lenore Marchese

“Poetry is the voice of the soul reaching out to others.” In this meaningful and community building class, you’ll explore how poetry can bring joy, hope, and kindness to others. Students will learn to write different kinds of poems—like haikus, couplets, nursery rhymes, and inspirational poetry—while building reading, writing, and rhyming skills. The class will use their poems to create beautiful, handmade cards for people who need a smile. Together, we’ll design and write: Seasonal holiday cards, "Thinking of You" cards and "Get Well Soon" cards and donate them to members in our community like seniors and others in hospitals. Join us and become a kindness creator—one poem, one card, one smile at a time!

Instructor and Paraprofessional Bios

Jacquelyn Castore a proud native of Staten Island, is the Director of Programs and Expansion at Chance 2 Dance, Inc., where she leads inclusive dance initiatives that empower individuals of all abilities. With over five years of experience as a special educator and professional dancer, including performing with the Orlando Magic NBA team. Jacquelyn brings passion, creativity, and leadership to every project. She has helped grow Chance 2 Dance from Florida to New York, building community partnerships and adaptive dance programs across the five boroughs. Jacquelyn also serves as Head Coach at Moore Catholic High School and holds a degree in Exceptional Student Education from Florida Atlantic University, where she danced on the FAU team. Her work continues to inspire joy, confidence, and inclusion through dance, music, and the arts.

Evan Fersko is a dedicated administrative professional serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1993 in various roles with OPWDD's Staten Island Developmental Disability Service Office. He has a bachelor's degree in human services. He started as an Instructor in Creative Exchange in 2011.

Jasmine Ferrer holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in Sociology and Anthropology. For the past four years at On Your Mark, she has supported individuals with developmental disabilities in building independence, daily living skills, and emotional growth. Her experience has deepened her commitment to advocacy, mental health awareness, and youth development as she works toward becoming a counselor. Outside of work, Jasmine enjoys podcasting and storytelling centered on personal growth, identity, and relationships.

Johnathan Hannam is a dedicated Paraprofessional serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Creative Exchange since 2023. As a former student of AusomeTech, Jonathan was eventually recruited to work for the organization in 2018. In his professional capacity, he travels with CEO, Darlene Bowman, to present AusomeTech's work at national conferences, and to visit universities like MIT to learn more about their cutting-edge coding technology designed to be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Christine Justiniano is a Puerto Rican educator based in Upstate New York with over 11 years of experience teaching Spanish. She holds a B.A. in Adolescence Education (Spanish 7–12) from SUNY Cortland and an M.S. in Education (TESOL) from SUNY New Paltz, and is professionally certified in New York State in both Spanish (7–12) and ESOL. Having strengthened her own Spanish later in life, she understands the vulnerability and courage it takes to learn a language and creates a supportive, engaging classroom environment. Outside the classroom, she enjoys dancing salsa and bachata, exploring new cafés, and spending time with friends and family.

Amy Lenza is a committed professional in the field of intellectual and developmental disability service provision for over 30 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She has taught in the Creative Exchange Program since 2016.

Mitchell Lovell joined Creative Exchange in Spring 2025 and has been a College Lab Technician in CSI's Department of Media Culture since 2015. He leads workshops in video and film production and co-instructs the Filmmaking in Paris study abroad program every other summer. Mitchell also directs the CSI Student Film Festival and serves on RELAY, the College's anti-bias response team. He holds a degree in Cinema Studies from the College of Staten Island/CUNY and is committed to creating spaces where students can thrive and tell their stories.

Lenore Marchese has been an instructor with the Creative Exchange program for 16 years, guiding students in exploring their creative potential as poets and writers. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from CSI. In 2020, she became a children's book author with *The Grumpy, Grumpy Grandpa* series, and in 2022, she collaborated with her students to create the program's first children's book, *Once Upon a Time in Staten Island*. Her students continue to write and perform their own couplets at end-of-year celebrations.

Nora Santiago is the Sustainability Project Manager at CSI, leading the College's sustainability initiatives. She hosts hands-on workshops on composting, gardening, waste diversion, and organizes campus and community clean-ups and clothing drives for students. Nora is also a former adjunct faculty member in the Geography Department and holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a master's degree in Urban Affairs and Planning. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Willowbrook Mile, highlighting the site's history through educational stations and landscaping.

Hosam Shaarawy holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and serves as Director of Community Support Services at Person Centered Care Services (PCCS), bringing over a decade of experience supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). He has demonstrated strong leadership, program development, and compliance expertise, with a focus on person-centered services that promote independence and dignity. Hosam is committed to creating supportive environments that empower individuals, strengthen families, and uphold the highest standards of care.

Jaimee Wieber is a disability rights advocate and Outreach and Engagement Coordinator at Person Centered Care Services (PCCS) on Staten Island. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work, Summa Cum Laude, with a minor in Disability Studies from CSI in 2025. With over seven years of experience in direct support and supervision, she has developed inclusive programs that promote independence and personal growth for individuals with developmental disabilities. Jaimee is committed to advancing disability rights through education, outreach, and systemic change.