CCCI Director: Christopher L. Kukk, Ph.D.  
CCCI Assistant Director: Jessica Lin  
CCCI’s Governing Board: Susan Altabet (community member), Helen Bechard (SOAF rep), Stephen Dydo (community member), Brennen Diaz (student rep), Roberto Caceres (SGA rep), Dr. Mary Nielson (Prof. Studies rep), Dr. Casey Jordan (Ancell rep), Dr. Sal Trapani (VPA rep) & Dr. Wynn Wilcox (A&S rep).

The 2015-16 academic year was another year of connecting for Western Connecticut State University’s (WCSU) Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation (CCCI); we have been actively establishing connections to organizations within and outside the academic walls of WCSU. From assisting other academic institutions in becoming universities and schools of compassion to collaborating with various government, law enforcement, education, and social services organizations (from Brookfield CARES to the town of New Britain) as well as WCSU departments on projects that build compassion in the greater Danbury, CT area, CCCI has been partnering with other groups to foster discussion and promote activities that seek to improve the quality of life on and off campus.

Western Connecticut State University’s Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation, founded in mid-2013 with seed money donated by His Holiness, the IV Dalai Lama, is dedicated to the mission of expanding opportunities and supporting teaching, research, and intellectual discourse, exploring the values of compassion, creativity, and innovation for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff across all academic disciplines, working whenever possible with people of all communities.

CCCI has been involved in many opportunities to widen its circle of academic, civic and socio-economic involvement. Those opportunities include the following:

**On the WCSU Campus:**

- CCCI has its own website with links to research and global educational initiatives on compassion. [http://www.wcsu.edu/compassioncreativity/](http://www.wcsu.edu/compassioncreativity/)

- CCCI also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account: @cccicompassion.
• CCCI also coordinated and hosted a PeaceJam Slam event on Saturday, 23 April 2016, with middle school and high school students from Connecticut and Massachusetts to raise awareness for and to educate them in on PeaceJam’s 10 Global Call to Action, which includes topics such as education and community development, protecting the environment, alleviating extreme poverty, global health and wellness, and human rights for all.

• CCCI has been hosting “Compassion in Action” every first Thursday of each month, project led by community members and government leaders of Newtown, CT

Student Involvement:

• On 26 October 2015, the WCSU’s Creativity and Compassion Club coordinated a “Chalk Talk” event on campus, where WCSU students and faculty were invited to write down chalk on the sidewalks and participate in an open discussion about what makes them happy and what they are thankful for.

• To help address the issues of student drop outs and drug addictions in public schools, the WCSU’s Creativity and Compassion Club hosted a screening of *Paper Tiger*, a documentary story where a public school was in the process of deteriorating as a result of the increasing number of drop outs and drug addictions. WCSU students were invited to the screening and to discuss these problems that are becoming apparent in more and more public schools of all levels.

• The Creativity and Compassion Club coordinated with the Roots and Shoots club on campus to host an event called “Plant Your Way to a Healthy Life” during Earth Day on 20 April 2016, where WCSU students were invited to plant a flower seeds and enjoy fruits and vegetables provided by Sodexo while discussing some healthier options for diets and exercise. The purpose of this event was to advocate for a healthier mid set and an active relationship with Mother Nature.

Faculty Involvement:

• The Director of CCCI has given several keynote speeches and/or has led panel discussions (some examples follow):
  (1) Workshop leader for Mindfulness & Compassion in the Classroom Conference (CCCI co-sponsored conference with DNKL and WCSU’s Department of Education)
(September 2015)
(2) Keynote Speaker for Connecticut Valley Hospital about Compassion v. Empathy Burnout (September 2015)
(3) Panelist for the Peace History Society Conference, “Campuses of Compassion in Connecticut” (October 2015)
(4) Keynote Speaker for Reed Middle School (Ridgefield, CT), “The Power of Compassion” (October 2015)
(5) Workshop leader on “The Connected Five Cs” for the Connecticut Education Association annual meeting—student program (November 2015)
(6) 3 week-long workshop leader on “The Neuro & Social Science of Compassion & Empathy” for Founders Hall in Ridgefield CT (November 2015)
(7) Workshop leader for the Tibetan Buddhist Center for Universal Peace, “Neuro and Social Science of Compassion” (February 2016)

In the greater Danbury community:

- Several area business leaders have been active in helping CCCI focus on fund raising and networking to bring awareness about the Center’s mission to our region.

- CCCI faculty, staff and alumni have participated in the planning meetings for creating TEDxDanbury with civic, business and political leaders in the area.

- CCCI Director was the moderator for a town-wide discussion on mental health, addiction and physical well-being for Brookfield, CT, “A Courageous Community Dares to Discuss” (March 2016)

- CCCI staff, students and alumni have been assisting West Hartford, Berlin, New Britain and Brookfield in becoming towns of compassion.

Nationally:

- CCCI Director was the Keynote Speaker for Washington Community College Humanities Association, “Compassion: Weaving the Humanities & Science for Learning” in Wenatchee, WA (October 2015)

- CCCI Director was interviewed by nationally recognized podcasts (“The Science of Success” and “The Enrichment Hour”) (Spring Semester 2016)
• CCCI Director had several meetings with White House staff and the United States Secretary of Education (Secretary John King) about implementing social-emotional learning programs around the country (Spring Semester 2016)