

In This Issue

BOARD OF GOVERNORS EVENT

The Tow Youth Justice Institute research team had the opportunity to present at the Board of Governors Meeting on February 3rd in the Bergami Center for Science, Technology, and Innovation. The Board of Governors Meeting hosted students from the University of New Haven to present on current work in their area of study. Past and present TYJI Research Team Members, Jessica Morgan, Sudeshna Das, Nicole Kessler, Paul Klee, and Samantha Tosto presented on the topic: Keeping Kids in School: Youth, Education, and Justice. This presentation was advised by Dr. Danielle Cooper, director of research at the Tow Youth Justice Institute. Members of the Research Team spoke about their research interests on various juvenile justice topics such as suspension and expulsion, truancy and chronic absence, diversion, racial and ethnic disparity, and police-community relations.



The students engaged the board of governors through a trivia game related to juvenile justice in Connecticut. In doing so, they spoke on specific things they have worked on during their time on the research team. For instance, Jessica Morgan spoke to the board of governors about her experience conducting focus groups with key stakeholders in the educational field. Sudeshna Das spoke on her experience creating univariate and bivariate analyses of statewide truancy trends.

Furthermore, Samantha Tosto is working towards publishing findings from the Juvenile Review Board, an agency dedicated to serving at-risk youths across the state of Connecticut. Paul Klee spoke on his time designing and conducting an evaluation and assessment for the CT Institute for Youth & Police Relations. Lastly, Nicole Kessler talked about her involvement with the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, a committee devoted to the continuous juvenile justice reform efforts in Connecticut.

It was a great opportunity for the TYJI Research Team to speak with the University of New Haven Board of Governors because students were able to inform members about the work that the TYJI is involved in. The presenters were able to engage in conversation about the importance of youth justice and its relation to the TYJI and the state of Connecticut. In doing so, the members of the board got a glimpse of some of the great work going on at TYJI at the University of New Haven.

2023 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE APPROVED



At the February meeting of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), voting concluded on the recommendations around Diversion, Incarceration, Suspension and Expulsion, and the Community Expertise Workgroup. The full recommendation package can be viewed [HERE](#). Recommendations for alternatives to arrest, a positive behavior motivation system for commissary, a reentry success plan, and an increase in the voting membership of the JJPOC to include youth and community members with lived experience have moved forward through the legislative process and public hearings will be scheduled.

Stay tuned for more updates!



IMRP & TYJI STAFF HEAD TO NORWAY TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THEIR PRISON SYSTEM

TYJI's Danielle Cooper, Ph.D., CPP and Brittany LaMarr joined Andrew Clark and a dozen others in a visit to Norway this winter. Andrew Clark is the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy in the School of Public Policy at the University of Connecticut. On their trip, they visited a halfway house and got an inside look at the policies and systems of a country that has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"We go on trips like this in order to better rebut when people say that nothing is happening to better handle justice," Dr. Cooper said. "People might say you have to treat people a certain way if they've committed certain types of offenses, and Norway is saying, 'that's not how we feel about it. That's not how we feel about our people.'"

The experience in Norway allowed Cooper, LaMarr, and Clark to understand the theoretical models used in their system such as the import model, where professionals in the juvenile system come from within the community.

Norway's policies will inform representatives of the youth justice field in the United States as they bring these models back to their own work in policy, education, and program building.

"Collectively, the Norwegian society and systems are invested in making better neighbors out of individuals who are currently incarcerated, by connecting them to the community, school, health, family, and support," LaMarr explained. "Here in the States, we have a system that's fundamental purpose is retribution, dehumanization, disenfranchisement, and oppression – a complete disconnection from normalcy and things necessary to help build people up."

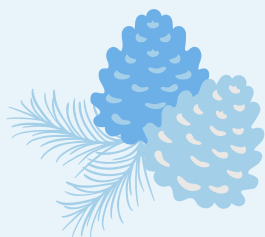
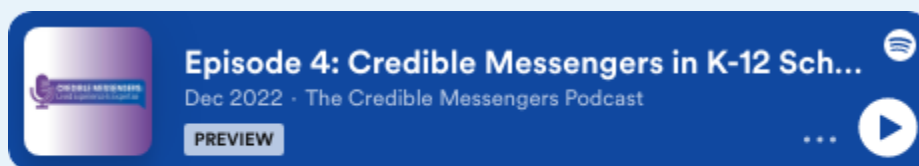


BRITTANY LAMARR JOINS AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM PODCAST ON CREDIBLE MESSENGERS



Brittany Lamar joined AYPF to host a podcast on credible messengers in K-12. Check out the podcast below.

Do Credible Messengers have a role to play in K-12 schools? Host Brittany LaMarr helps us take a look at the landscape in both alternative and traditional public schools, as well as looks at the research. We will speak with Leighton Johnson of Ice The Beef, who serves as a mentor at an alternative high school in New Haven, Connecticut; our own AYPF Youth Policy Consultant Kenvin Lacayo who is a Dean of Students in a middle school in Washington, D.C.; and then we will speak with researcher Dr. Bernadette Sanchez about her research into what she calls "natural mentors." This is a great episode for teachers and school administrators.



Check out our past newsletters on our website :
towyouth.newhaven.edu/news-and-publications/

The Tow Youth Justice Institute is a university, state and private partnership established to lead the way in juvenile justice reform through collaborative planning, training, research and advocacy.

Please visit towyouth.newhaven.edu for more information about the Tow Youth Justice Institute.

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