



Bridge Update

October 2023

Submitted by: Kari Giles

Coming Soon to Bridge

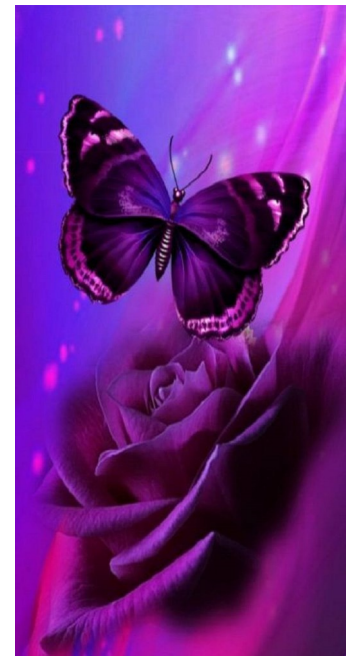
- The “Manage Users” screen has been redesigned to optimize performance.
- A new icon (“E”) has been added to the menu on the left. When clicked, it will take the trainee directly to “E-Learn” where they can login with their Bridge credentials.
- In the “Agency Training” report, the “Search Course Title” field is now a dropdown. In addition, there will be a new “Course Status” field that defaults to “Active”.
- The ability to view when and who created a trainee’s account via the trainee’s “Account History” screen.

For Further Assistance

- For anyone who would like to set up a one-on-one Bridge training via Microsoft Teams, please contact BridgeHD@pitt.edu. This training can be for new liaisons or for anyone who may need a refresher.
- We would also love to hear any feedback, suggestions, and ideas you may have about Bridge via our online form at <http://forms.cwrc.pitt.edu/BridgeFeedback/>.
- If you have any technical issues or questions, please email the Bridge team at BridgeHD@pitt.edu.

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2023 Older Youth Retreat

Submitted by: Robin Braum

The 2023 Older Youth Retreat took place at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown campus from August 7th to the 11th. A diverse group of nearly 80 youth, aged 16-20, representing 27 counties across Pennsylvania, participated in this enriching experience within the foster care system. Throughout this engaging week, youth had the opportunity to learn and have a great time together. Each day's conclusion involved meetings between youth and staff to ensure their mental and physical well-being.

Here are some memorable highlights from the Older Youth Retreat:

Tuesday was filled with hands-on activities such as Pardon My Garden, You Leading You, and the All-Star Sports Experience. Peer group activities allowed the youth to get to know each other better. There was an informative presentation about the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), encouraging participation. Youth learned about YAB's structure, goals, and how to get involved. In the evening, they could choose between a dance/karaoke activity or enjoying the game room on campus.

Wednesday focused on race equity awareness, emphasizing the importance of equality for everyone. Four young adults who had experienced out-of-home placement and adoption shared their stories with the youth and staff, highlighting the significance of finding permanency, whether through adoption or forming a forever family. In the evening, there were opportunities for relaxation and various activities, including swimming, basketball/dodgeball tournaments, couponing, jewelry making, and creative drawing.

Thursday brought an eventful day as youth and staff prepared for competitive field games, with staff cheering them on from the sidelines. Later, youth and staff showcased their talents and creativity from the activity sessions; this included unveiling the retreat banner, performing dance moves, displaying photographs from the photography group, and much more. As the evening approached, everyone enjoyed a delightful picnic before the talent show, where youth displayed their diverse talents, from playing the piano to reciting self-written poems and singing.

By the end of the week, many of the youth had forged new friendships and meaningful connections. The week's theme, "It's the Will, Not the Skill," was exemplified by both youth and staff, demonstrating the power of determination and teamwork.

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CWEL Reminder

Submitted by: Laura Borish

County and OCYF staff interested in earning a Master's degree in Social Work through the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program are invited to join the CWEL Team for one of two general information sessions. **Registration is not required.** Those attending an information session will learn about the application process, participating schools, and the benefits available to participants. Information sessions will be held via Zoom on the following dates:

Friday, November 17, 2023

1:00-2:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/91860289631>

Meeting ID: 918 6028 9631

Dial by your location

- +1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)
- 877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 918 6028 9631

Friday, January 19, 2024

9:00-10:00am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/97914634088>

Meeting ID: 979 1463 4088

Dial by your location

- +1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)
- 877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 979 1463 4088

Additional information is available at:

<https://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/child-welfare-programs/child-welfare-education-leadership-cwel>

The CWEL Team is also available to provide presentations to County Commissioners, Advisory Boards, Agency Leadership Teams, and Agency Staff Members.

For more information and to schedule a presentation, please contact Laura Borish, CWEL Agency Coordinator at lbb14@pitt.edu or 412-334-9122.

Regional Team Contact Information

Our local number is 717-795-9048

Our fax number is 717-795-8013

Registration and winter weather number 1-877-297-7488

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