People’s United Centers
2020–2021 Year in Review

Our School of Business People’s United centers completed another productive year with initiatives that had a measurable impact on the various people and communities they serve, despite the uncertainty and heaviness of the pandemic. Consistent with their missions, each provided exciting, engaging and provocative activities and opportunities for students, faculty, alumni and friends of Quinnipiac University.

13 Episodes in the new podcast series, “Celebrating Us”

Learn More

13,968 Organic impressions garnered by the People’s United Center for Women & Business on LinkedIn since June 2020

57 Industries engaging with the People’s United Center for Women & Business LinkedIn content

1,477 Registrants for the People’s United Center for Women & Business events

964 Registrants for the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship events

50+ New business ideas entered by students participating in the 2021 Pitch Competition
The People’s United Center for Women & Business, under the leadership of co-directors and professors Julia Fullick-Jagiela and Kiku Jones, and senior adviser and professor Kathy Simione, continued its mission to build a broad community of support for women to achieve their personal and professional goals. Through virtual conferences, retreats, luncheons, after-hours events, virtual events and social media, the center provided ongoing opportunities to learn, network, build relationships, be inspired and take positive steps toward personal and professional growth.

**September 24, 2020**
**From Student to CEO: How to Become Your Own Boss and Ditch the 9-5**
Ashley Mason is a marketing consultant, TEDx speaker, and founder of both Dash of Social and Student to CEO. Mason, who started her first successful marketing firm at 19, inspired students to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

**September 30, 2020**
**Dean’s Distinguished Speaker Series**
**Venida Rodman Jenkins, MDiv**
Director of the Speicher-Rubin Women’s Center for Equity and Diversity, Jenkins inspired Quinnipiac to make cultural humility and anti-racism practices central to its campus community.

**October 28, 2020**
**Dean’s Distinguished Speaker Series**
**The Role of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Corporate America**
Panelists included Sheryl Battles, vice president, global diversity, inclusion and engagement at Pitney Bowes; Marilyn J. Ford, professor of law at Quinnipiac University; and Susan Johnson, chief diversity & inclusion officer at The Hartford.

**March 30, 2021**
**PUCWB Spring Workshop Series**
**Financial Know-How: A Workshop for Your Personal and Business Success**
Attendees learned how strong financial knowledge and decision-making skills can have a huge impact in their lives as well as in business. Speakers included Tracey San Angelo from CT North Business Banking; Amanda Moore and Michael Hawes, both from People’s United Bank.

**April 13, 2021**
**Women in the Workplace 2020 and 2021—Supporting Women in Times of Crisis and Calm**
Co-hosted by the People’s United Center for Women & Business, this event featured DEI experts and women’s rights advocates who reflected on 2020 and shared insights for better supporting women in the workplace in 2021 and beyond.

**April 15, 2021**
**Netter Health Equity Series**
Author Catherine Flowers shared her journey as an environmental health advocate and discussed her book about the basic human right to water and sanitation.

**Learn More**
qu.edu/womenbusiness
People’s United Center for Women & Business Research Award 2020-2021
Three $2,500 PUCWB research awards were awarded to support faculty and/or student research aligned with the mission of the People’s United Center for Women & Business. The 2021 recipients are two students, Nabiha Nuruzzaman and Kathryn A. Reilly, and Tracy Van Oss, clinical professor of occupational therapy.

People’s United Center for Women & Business Research Award 2021-2022
This award was presented to Megan Leubner, a medical student at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine.

The Kathleen Simione PUCWB Women in Business Scholarship
This scholarship program helps women pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in business that will help them develop skills that are focused on forward-thinking leadership, conscious communication skills and authentic, ethical and honest self-reflection. The 2021 recipients are Danielle Kladerman and Natalie Roussina.

Fred McKinney and Kathy Simione Honored
Fred McKinney and Kathy Simione were each honored as director emeritus last spring to acknowledge their selfless work with the centers.

February 23, 2021
Growing Younger . . . with Age
Ania Jakubowski, a business leader and mentor from Warsaw, Poland, shared experiences from over 25 years of working across developed and emerging markets in Europe, North America and Africa.

February 25, 2021
Salary Negotiations Workshops
The People’s United Center for Women & Business offered virtual training sessions on salary negotiation designed for students and professionals of all ages and career stages. The sessions were presented in partnership with the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies with support from Development and Alumni Affairs, Academic Innovation and Effectiveness, the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center and the Collaborative for Interdisciplinary/Integrative Studies.

March 4, 2021
PUCWB Spring Workshop Series
Strategies to Maximize Your Impact at Work
This event featured Meredith Reuben, CEO of EBP Supply Solutions, and was co-hosted by the People’s United Center for Women & Business, the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, and EmpowerHer.

“I appreciate all of the advice that you gave not only to current female entrepreneurs or hopefuls but the college students and the males as well. It’s certainly been enlightening for us.”

– Attendee

April 20, 2021
PUCWB Spring Workshop Series
Social Media Marketing Workshop for Women Entrepreneurs
Attendees of this interactive workshop learned social media strategies for rallying large and engaged communities around a business, increasing sales and improving brand awareness.

April 27, 2021
Women in Sports: Life Post College Athletics
A panel of four former Quinnipiac student-athletes described their journeys after college, how sports have impacted their professional careers, and how the transition has influenced where they are now.

June 8-9, 2021
Inclusive Excellence Summer Assembly
Authenticity in the Workplace: A Space for Women of Color
Guests discussed the ThreeSelves of the Authenticity Principle, and effecting change in Quinnipiac’s culture.

Director of operations for the People’s United Centers, Hanna Hejmowski, received an Inclusive Excellence Transformation Grant at the assembly for her proposal, “Sewing the Fabric of Your Own Identity through Sustainable Fashion.”
The People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship supports student and faculty innovation and entrepreneurial activity at Quinnipiac. The center also connects the School of Business and the university to the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region and country. Professor Fred McKinney, Carlton Highsmith Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is a sought-after media source on topics such as the economy during COVID-19, challenges to Connecticut businesses, unemployment and consumer spending.

Speaker Series
The goal of the series was to create a vibrant, entrepreneurial, on-campus community, provide inspiration for QU entrepreneurs (faculty, staff and students) and share information to assist budding innovators in attaining their goals.

March 3
The Role of Entrepreneurship in Connecticut
U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal

March 10
Philanthropy & Social Entrepreneurship
Will Ginsberg, president and CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

March 17
Accelerators and Early Stage Entrepreneurship
Onyeka Obiocha, managing director of the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale University

March 24
Urban Entrepreneurship
Rodney Sampson, executive chairman and CEO of the Opportunity Hub

April 1
Pharmaceutical and IT
George Llado, chief information officer of Alexion Pharmaceuticals

April 8
Entrepreneurial Support and Chambers of Commerce
Garrett Sheehan, president and CEO of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce

April 15
Health Care & Entrepreneurship
Mary Howard, executive director of ABCT, and Donna Lecky, co-founder and managing director of iHaven and HealthVenture

People’s United Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition
April 21
Students from across the university pitched innovative business concepts to a panel of guest judges and walked away with a total of $6,000 in prizes. Winners include: MSK Curbsider, a web application aimed at helping emergency room physicians treat patients with musculoskeletal complaints (Samuel Oduwole, Miguel Arasa, Pranav Warman and Greg Pereira); SEAAV Athletics, a sustainable athletic clothing line made from recycled plastic waste from the ocean (Mckenna Haz); and Springtide, an organic seaweed farm in Maine (Isaac Burris). Guest judges included Michael Harris, NHIC director; Anthony Price, founder of Loot Scout and Michael Casparino, retail president, CT for People’s United Bank.

Thursday, October 21 at 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Planning for next year, the People’s United Centers will participate in the Women Entrepreneurship Week #WEW; October 18-22, 2021. This special event will include a panel discussion with the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition semifinalists. It will be moderated by Patrice Luoma, PUCIE director and professor.

For questions about the People’s United centers, contact:
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