

Dr. Charles E. Brimm Medical Arts High School

In late 2018, Brimm Medical arts High School became the first urban New Jersey school to receive Sustainable Jersey for Schools [SJS] Bronze Certification. Recognizing that Brimm had already completed sustainable projects such as building rain gardens and installing rain barrels, former Brimm operations manager Deborah Goodman and a team of 25 environmentally-minded students worked diligently to complete the other actions required for certification. Critical actions include completing a waste audit to determine how to increase recycling and decrease waste, and creating a school sustainability vision. More recently, Brimm was recognized by Sustainable Jersey as the Sustainability Champion in the high school category.

Former operations manager Deborah Goodman will accept on behalf of Brimm

Jonathan Compton, Program Director, CFET

Jonathan Compton started 3.5 years ago a volunteer in the Center for Environmental Transformation's gardens, went on to be hired as their Urban Farmer and Youth Program Coordinator, and is currently serving as their Program Director. He has a diverse background in science, education, creative arts, and farming. Jonathan says that working with the teenagers in CFET's youth program has been a deeply rewarding experience that has challenged him to grow tremendously as a person. In his few short years here in Camden, he has learned more about environmental injustice, economic inequality, and the inadequacies of our food system, and structural racism than in all his previous adult life. He is proud to be part of an organization that is grappling with these large systemic crises. He is prouder still of the young people in CFET's programs that are learning about these issues along with him as they mature into thoughtful adults that stand up for what they know to be right.

VietLead

VietLead is a grassroots organization that strives to improve health, increase sovereignty, and develop Vietnamese leadership in solidarity with all communities in Camden. In 2012, Vietnamese refugee growers came together to build a ½ acre community garden named Resilient Roots Community Farm that would serve as an important multicultural and intergenerational community space. Since 2015, Resilient Roots has trained over 100 Camden high school students in farming, political education, and leadership through paid summer internships and school-year programming and grown; distributed over 10,000 pounds of fresh natural produce; and increased access to land for families to grow their own food.

Lan Dinh will accept on behalf of VietLead

Jessica Franzini

After graduating from Stockton University, Jessica Franzini started working as Program Director for the NJ Tree Foundation in 2009, facilitating community-based tree planting projects alongside residents, local officials, and stakeholders in the City of Camden. Through this work, she greened streets, improved parks, transformed vacant spaces, and helped mitigate air pollution in a post-industrial city. In 2011, she helped found the Camden SMART initiative, the precursor to CCI. In 2017, she joined Camden Lutheran Housing, Inc. (CLHI) in North Camden as their Director of Community Initiatives, focusing her efforts on community development, providing local jobs, and implementing the North Camden Neighborhood Plan. She directed the Block Supporter Initiative, Decorative Board Up, and Change the Message campaign – programs that beautified and improved the quality of life in North Camden by providing jobs, reducing blight, installing art, and engaging the community in a positive way.