

May 2025

Welcome to CCS!

College of Cultural and
Community Studies



Dear Future CCSers,

Congratulations on your acceptance into Northwestern and welcome to the College of Cultural and Community Studies (CCS). My name is Diego Jimenez, I am the president of CCS for 2025-2026. This is my first term as CCS president, and I am a rising sophomore majoring in Mechanical Engineering in McCormick and International Studies in Weinberg. I, along with the rest of the executive board, am excited to welcome you to our community and your new home in September. While you await move-in, make sure to check out the [CCS website](#) and [Instagram](#) to learn more about CCS. Also, please [join the CCS GroupMe for 2025-2026](#).

CCS is a small but vibrant community of like-minded people committed to expanding our world view by learning about the various cultures in Northwestern and in the wider communities of Evanston and Chicago. We are housed at [2303 Sheridan Road](#) and we share our building with GREEN House, the special interest housing for environmental sustainability. We have some of the nicest facilities on Northwestern's campus that are conveniently located near Technological Institute ("Tech"), Sargent ("Sarge") dining hall, and the campus gym (SPAC). In CCS we love spending time with each other as we often eat together during our weekly "munchies" event, play games, and do homework in the lounge. We are excited to have you join us soon – we have many social events and off-campus cultural excursions planned for the fall quarter!

If you have any questions about CCS or Northwestern in general, feel free to reach out to me at diegojimenez2028@u.northwestern.edu or any of the other exec board members listed on the following page.

Sincerely,

Diego Jimenez

President of CCS

Dear incoming CCSers,

May 2025

I enthusiastically welcome you to the Residential College of Cultural and Community Studies, your future “home base” here at Northwestern! Fondly referred to as “CCS”, we are dedicated to the exploration of the diversity and vibrancy of our collective experiences, cultures, and identities. We engage each other to become involved and build community through formal and informal conversations, field trips to Chicago and our surrounding neighborhoods, and partaking in the foods that represent our many identities. We hold fireside chats featuring the exciting research of our faculty fellows and invite them to our weekly Fellow’s Lunch in Sargent Dining Hall. Our field trips to Argyle, one of Chicago’s Chinatowns, to Pilsen, the home of the National Museum of Mexican Art and renowned community murals, and to Humboldt Park, the heart of Chicago’s Puerto Rican community and even more murals, are iconic parts of CCS lore and are not to be missed.

We intertwine the celebration of cultural traditions into our programming to ensure that our residents (this means you!) have a voice in everything we do. Along with exploring the surrounding community, we also dedicate time to self-care through Wellness and yoga workshops, faculty cooked brunches and DIY pizza nights during stressful weeks of the quarter. Bring your willingness to embrace new cultures and identities. We can’t wait to meet you!

-Tasha Seago-Ramaly CCS Faculty Chair

Meet your Exec Board

President

Diego Jimenez (he/him)

Major: Mechanical Engineering and International Studies

Hometown: Westchester, IL

Favorite CCS Memory: RCB Formal

Favorite Food: Quesabirria

diegojimenez2028@u.northwestern.edu



Vice President of Faculty Relations

Gustavo Mercier (he/him)

Major: Computer Science

Hometown: Medway, MA

Favorite CCS Memory: Breaking my glasses on RCB Field Day

Favorite Food: Beignets

gustavomercier2026@u.northwestern.edu



Vice President of Programming

Adan Ciprian (he/him)

Major: Electrical Engineering (minor in Architectural Engineering)

Hometown: Kearney, NE

Favorite CCS Memory: Making pizza!

Favorite Food: Tacos de chicharrón

adanciprian2028@u.northwestern.edu



Vice President of Community Engagement

Nicholas Brunson (he/him)

Major: Mechanical Engineering and Voice & Opera Performance

Hometown: Springfield, VA

Favorite CCS Memory: Trip to Argyle

Favorite Food: Sushi

nicholasbrunson2029@u.northwestern.edu



Vice President of Communication

Anoushka Banerjee (she/her)

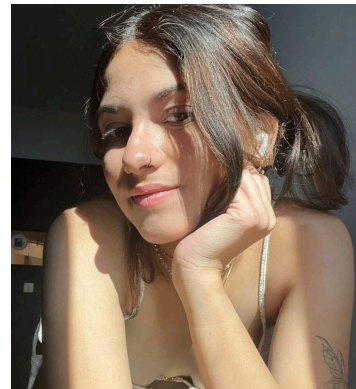
Major: Computer Engineering

Hometown: Cupertino, CA

Favorite CCS Memory: Anytime food is involved

Favorite Food: Poke (Pono Ono Supremacy)

anoushkabanerjee2028@u.northwestern.edu



Treasurer

Frank Zhang (he/him)

Major: Computer Science and Math

Hometown: Singapore/China

Favorite CCS Memory: Making Toilet Paper mini newsletters

frankzhang2028@u.northwestern.edu



Secretary

Daniela Chang (she/her)

Major: Industrial Engineering and Computer Science

Hometown: Santiago, Chile

Favorite CCS Memory: All munchies

danielachang2028@u.northwestern.edu



Meet The Faculty

Faculty Chair

Tasha Seago-Ramaly

Tasha Seago-Ramaly is an Associate Professor of Instruction in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. She was once a grad student at Northwestern, and now has a senior in college and a son who graduated college, so that gives a hint of how long she has been here! Her professional interests include second language acquisition, pedagogy, and service learning. She is involved in the Latinx community in nearby Skokie. Outside of teaching she enjoys cooking and biking (to wear off all those calories!) and traveling.

She loves CCS because “CCSers are absolutely awesome! They are so inquisitive, supportive, and accepting. I’m thrilled to be a part of this community!”

tseagram@northwestern.edu



Assistant Chair

Wisdom Akpan

Wisdom Akpan is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northwestern University. His research focuses on the computational modeling of the long-term performance of quasibrittle materials, with particular emphasis on the time-dependent behavior of wood structures at the mesoscale. By combining materials science with advanced numerical methods, his work seeks to improve the durability, sustainability, and structural reliability of materials used in the built environment.

At Northwestern, he balances his research with active involvement in community events, mentorship, and student leadership. He spends much of his time developing and troubleshooting simulation code, but outside of academics, Wisdom enjoys traveling, networking, cooking, and learning about new cultures.

wisdom.akpan@northwestern.edu

