

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DEI INITIATIVES

- SG-1** In order to provide a direct line of student feedback to President Foster and VP Felton, Student Government VP of DEI, Alekhya Madiraju, has expedited the formation of this year's Student Diversity Steering Committee (SDSC), in light of the increased need for student feedback, participation, and activism.
- SG-2** Student Government Executive President, Suchir Govindarajan, has established the RSO's President's Council as a means of carrying out the Inclusive Excellence plan, supporting the efforts of the SDSC, and connecting initiatives across campus.
- SG-3** To support efforts to address ongoing issues of police brutality and racial injustice in the country, the Student Government has been collaborating with the Black Student Union (BSU) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to develop a biweekly educational bulletin. This email series will be sent out to the entire student body and will highlight campus events promoting the Black Lives Matter movement. It will also provide resources for students to uphold their individual responsibility towards self-education on matters of structural inequality, equity, and inclusion.
- SG-4** Bryanna O'Keefe is coordinating with the William Green Plantation Committee and associated students to learn about their research and needs, and to explore options for the physical plantation house.
- SG-5** Senators Lakshmi Gurram and Anthony Rica are developing a proposal for a professionally-staffed LGBTQ+ Center and Women's Center to provide resources to LGBTQ+ and womxn students.
- SG-6** First, we implore the College and the Board of Trustees to provide full tenure to Dr. George Leader by the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Serving as the College's only archaeology professor for over seven years, Dr. Leader is highly acclaimed by many of his students. He engages in scholarly work at the University of Pennsylvania and heads research projects in South Africa; all projects that make him a valuable asset not only at the College, but across the world. Providing Dr. Leader with employment stability will ensure that his invaluable instruction and devoted research will continue at TCNJ and reach its fullest potential.
- SG-7** Second, it is essential that the College provides funding to test and treat the William Green plantation house for asbestos, lead paint, and vermin that is currently inhibiting students from participating in indoor excavation that is crucial to ascertaining the presence of slaves on the property. In addition, the students and faculty who will be working inside will need a working generator and personal protective equipment suitable for their needs. This process of eliminating the hazards present at the house needs to be at least initiated before the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

- SG-8** For the future of our College's association with this project, we propose the creation and implementation of paid or credited research and internship opportunities so more students can become involved with the committee's work, which the committee greatly welcomes. This will provide students from a variety of majors, such as Anthropology, African American Studies, and History, a chance to be involved in a highly valuable and highly relevant experience unique to TCNJ.
- SG-9** We appreciate that research is a lengthy process, and that the William Green Plantation Committee has only just scratched the surface of what they hope to accomplish. In the meantime, we urge the committee to develop a website connected to the TCNJ domain as soon as possible. This website should include current findings, updates on research and progress, and include history about slavery in New Jersey and the Trenton area. We admire the work of committee member Dr. Craig Hollander on Princeton University's website [The Princeton & Slavery Project](#), and are reassured that his prior experience will provide the campus community and others interested with a great resource to learn more about the committee's discoveries.
- SG-10** The Student Government of The College of New Jersey recognizes the suffering associated with the presence of property used to uphold the oppression of enslaved people. The Student Government also supports the scholarly efforts of the faculty and student researchers on the William Green Plantation Committee, who are working towards cultivating an environment that allows critical conversation and educational opportunities. We, as a student body, implore President Foster, the Board of Trustees, and respective College administration to provide the necessary resources to take our aspiration into serious consideration.