



BHC-MSS 0160

Guide to the Records of the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies

By Meg Rinn

August 2021

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Higher Education Center for Urban Studies

Title: Records of the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies

Dates: 1959-1978 [bulk 1970-1978]

Quantity: 22 record cartons, ½ manuscript box; 22.5 linear feet

Abstract: HECUS, or the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies, began in 1968 as a consortium of Fairfield County colleges and universities. The goal of HECUS was for academic institutions to collaborate with local communities to develop various programs study local needs, and implement real change. It also worked to reach out to low income and minority students to help get them through college. This collection of documents tells the story of the organization from its founding in 1968 to its closure in 1977 and features program information, publications regarding city problems, committee minutes, and more.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical/Historical note

HECUS, or the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies, began in 1968 as a consortium of Fairfield County colleges and universities. The original founding members were the Bridgeport Engineering Institute, Fairfield University, Housatonic Community College, Sacred Heart University, and the University of Bridgeport, although the group later expanded to include Norwalk Community College, Norwalk State Technical College, the University of Connecticut Stamford, and Western Connecticut State College. The goal of HECUS was for academic institutions to collaborate with local communities to develop programs, study local needs, and implement real change. It also worked to reach out to low income and minority students to help get them through college.

This was a natural outgrowth of other investments in urban areas, such as the Model Cities program that sought to respond to city-based concerns like urban renewal, responses to violence, and housing. Likewise, this meant that programs like the Urban Youth Corp. were meant not only to provide support for local governments, but encourage those who worked in the program to take on government or social work related jobs. The Urban Youth Corp. was one of the greatest successes of the organization, running until HECUS had to close down in 1977.

The 1970s also saw HECUS add programs to meet the needs of the community that it served. In 1972 it created Vets of HECUS, a special branch meant to serve the educational and community needs of returning Vietnam soldiers. Originally focused mostly on education, it evolved to provide support for housing, drug and alcohol abuse, and psychological support.

HECUS worked closely with a number of Bridgeport organizations over the years, including Model Cities, the City of Bridgeport itself, the Urban Coalition, and Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD), among many other collaborators aiming to address the needs of Bridgeport and the greater Bridgeport area.

While HECUS was able to meet many of its goals, including the publication of reports studying urban problems and providing solutions, addressing community needs through partners and through programs like the Urban Youth Corp., and more, financial issues forced the organization's closure in early 1977. Throughout its lifespan, HECUS's executive director was H. Parker Landsdale.

Taken along with the records of the Urban Coalition and records relating to the Model Cities program, the records of HECUS demonstrate the post-Civil Rights era landscape in Bridgeport. This is especially useful to those studying the city after white flight and wishing to understand the rise of factors that lead to Bridgeport developing a more unsavory and unfortunate reputation in the 1970s and 1980s. Likewise, it helps inform how academia and local organizations saw these problems and tried to address them, with many individuals partaking in a number of these related organizations in order to effect change.

Scope and content note:

The material within this collection provides insight into key components of HECUS: daily operations, executive material, finances, publications, and signature programs. Having Parker Landsdale's subject files allows for a view of the organization at the top most level down and demonstrates the true scope of HECUS and its various interests.

The financial files present in both their own series and as a part of the Urban Youth Corp. series documents both income, what programs HECUS invested in, and shows how cash flow eventually contributed to the organization's demise. Likewise, the Urban Youth Corp. series demonstrates the outreach and influence of HECUS in attracting college students to work within greater Bridgeport.

Series III, the Summer 1970 study, along with the CONNCORD grant and subsequent publication series demonstrates the academic elements of HECUS, who they worked with, and the urban problems that were considered the greatest concerns during the 1970s. Finally, the Vets of HECUS series shines a spotlight onto the needs and treatment of soldiers returning from the Vietnam War, as well as the resources available to them.

Arrangement note:

Series I, H. Parker Landsdale files, is divided into two subseries: subject files and current files. The current files were labeled separately from the other subject files. Current files include more executive and financial information. Both subseries retain their original order, with subject files arranged alphabetically by topic.

Series II, Finances are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series III, Summer 1970 study series retains the original file order of the Urban Coalition's education program, study of various communities and their needs during the summer of 1970. This study fed into the development of various papers and projects undertaken by HECUS.

Series IV, CONNCORD grant - Labeled "CONNCORD", this series features research generated by the Connecticut Consortium on Research Development. This regional consortium of Fairfield County colleges and universities conducted research into known problems and with extensive cooperation from regional agencies. The CONNCORD grant helped to fund various research projects for HECUS, resulting in workshops and publications. This series consists of the grant application and the papers generated. Folders are in original order.

Series V, Reports features four subseries. Subseries one contains early reports that were filed together, including reports that were published under the name *An Occasional Paper*. The second subseries features publications from HECUS' Urban Observatory, the organization's academic branch. Subseries three contains other reports and subseries four consists of reports published by non-HECUS entities. All material is arranged in alphabetical order of the report's title.

Series VI, Urban Youth Corp., contains the documents related to one of HECUS's signature programs. The Urban Youth Corp. placed college students receiving work-study aid into the community for off campus work, partnering with public and non-profit agencies. HECUS reached out to schools all along the east coast, inviting them to encourage students to apply. Originally a summer only program, it expanded to year-round. The series is divided into the following subseries: applications, agreements with organizations, timesheets, reimbursement and payment records, and misc. Please note that applications are restricted access, and timesheets and reimbursement are subject to review before allowing access. All material is arranged alphabetically.

Series VII, Vets of HECUS contains the background material and the subject files for the Vets of HECUS department, which began in 1972 in recognition that returning Vietnam veterans would need support - especially in education and training in no small part thanks to the GI Bill. However, the needs and demands of the veteran community in Bridgeport saw a greater emphasis on not only on the job training, but medical help, assistance with drug and alcohol issues, housing, incarceration, welfare, and navigating the Veterans Affairs administration.

Funding for Vets of HECUS had great support from the National League of Cities and the US Conference of Mayors, which allowed HECUS to start the program. HECUS also helped to highlight the physical and mental struggles of returning veterans, underscoring the need for the program. Vets of HECUS folded at the same time as HECUS as a whole.

Subseries one, background information, reflects research prior to implementation and information used for grants and a subject file series. Both are arranged alphabetically; subject files are in original order.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Gift of HECUS

Preferred Citation:

Records of the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies (BHC-MSS 0160), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Restrictions

Series VI, the Urban Youth Corp., does not allow access to individual applications at this time. Other

material may be restricted upon archivist's review prior to allowing access to the material. This restriction will lift when the 1980 census is released.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Landsdale, Parker

Corporate names

Urban Coalition of Bridgeport

ABCD

Fairfield University

University of Bridgeport

Sacred Heart University

City of Bridgeport

Subject tracings

Model cities

Urban renewal

White flight

Vietnam War

Veterans

Minorities in education

Education equity

Detailed box/folder listing

Series – H. Parker Landsdale subject files

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1. Acquainter, 1976-1977
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3. ABCD misc., 1975-1977
4. ABCD public services career contract, 1973-1974
5. ABCD review board, 1972-1977
6. ABCD review board, 1972-1977
7. African students, 1975
8. Agency on aging, 1970-1978
9. Aging, commission on, 1974-1978
10. American Association for Higher Education, 1970-1974
11. Awards and citations, 1972-1975
12. Ballet co. undated
13. Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce, 1972-1972
14. Bridgeport, City of, 1971-1972
15. Bridgeport, City of, Board of Education, 1972-1977
16. Bridgeport, City of, General Assistance programs, 1976
17. Bridgeport, City of, housing department, 1972
18. Bridgeport, City of, Office of Human Affairs, 1976
19. Bridgeport, City of, Human resources development, 1977
20. Bridgeport, City of, Mayor John Mandanici

21. Bridgeport, City of, Mayor's commission on health services, 1973
22. Bridgeport, City of, Mayor's conservation advisory, 1969
23. Bridgeport Hospital, 1976-1977
24. Bridgeport Hospital, 1975-1976
25. Bridgeport Legal Services Inc., 1970-1976
26. Bridgeport Manpower Consortium Planning Council, 1974
27. Career development center, Northeast Y. 1972
28. Career development placement center, 1975-1976
29. CDPC proposal, 1976-1977
30. Child Care of Greater Bridgeport, 1977
31. Choices for '76, 1976
32. Conference of executives, 1958-1974
33. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, 1977
34. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Urban Observatory, 1977
35. Conn. faculty talent search programs, 1974-1976
36. CHP, Affirmative action program, 1976
37. CHP, applications, 1975
38. CHP, Becker Company consulting report, 1974
39. CHP, Board of directors, Community Health Services, 1973-1976

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1. CHP, Board of directors, 1975-1978
2. CHP, Building facility proposal, 1975
3. CHP, By-laws, CFHP, 1974
4. CHP, Continuation application, 1973
5. CHP, Continuation application, 1973
6. CHP, current, 1977
7. CHP, HMO development funding application, 1972-1973
8. CHP, HMO evaluation committee, 1972-1973
9. CHP, finance committee, 1974-1975
10. CHP, financial statements, 1975-1977
11. CHP, HMO general articles, 1973
12. CHP, HMO general articles, 1973
13. CHP, HMO prints, 1973-1974
14. CHP, HMO reprints, 1973-1974
15. CHP, HMO grant, 1974-1975
16. CHP, hospital legislation, 1973
17. CHP, manpower training, 1973
18. CHP, membership data, 1977
19. CHP, misc., 1973-1977
20. CHP, misc., 1973-1977
21. CHP, newspaper stories, 1976
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28. CHP, steering committee, 1973
29. CHP, tax exemption, 1977

30. CONNCORD information and papers. 1970-1973
31. Connecticut Hospital Association, 1972-1977
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1. Connecticut Humanities Council, Waterbury Chamber of Commerce project, 1977
2. Connecticut Institute for Health Manpower Resources Inc., 1974
3. Connecticut Public Television, 1975-1977
4. Connecticut, State of, advisory board - mental health for program development, 1976
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6. Connecticut, State of, commission on aid to higher education, 1973-1974
7. Connecticut, State of, commission on higher education, 1970-1976
8. Connecticut, State of, commission on higher education, fund for improvement of post-secondary education, 1976-1977
9. Connecticut, State of, commission on higher education, publications, 1970-1977
10. Connecticut, State of, commission on higher education, priority items, 1973-1974
11. Connecticut, State of, commission on higher education, regional consortia, 1970
12. Education dept., 1974
13. Connecticut, State of, governor's commission on service and expenditures, 1973
14. Connecticut, State of, Connecticut public law no. 140, 1973-1975
15. Connecticut, State of, public law no. 140, funding proposals, 1974-1975
16. Connecticut, State of, southwestern Connecticut proposal, Thurston Manning, 1974-1975
17. Connecticut Women's educational and legal fund, 1975
18. Consortia, Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley, 1974-1976
19. Consortia, Center for Urban Affairs, Fairfield University, 1968
20. Consortia, misc. 1975-1976
21. Consortia of New England, 1977
22. Consortia, Council of University Institutes for Urban Affairs, 1973-1975
23. Consortia, Five Colleges Inc., 1976
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25. Consortia, Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education, 1975
26. Consortia, New York City regional plan for higher education, 1971
27. Consortia, San Francisco consortium, 1973-1975
28. Consortia, J.G. Paltride, 1976
29. Consortia, Urban Institute, 1970
30. Consortia, Worchester Consortium for Higher Education, 1976
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32. Co-op education program, 1975-1976
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34. Correspondence, Bullis, Andrew, 1973-1976
35. Correspondence, Chung, Hung, 1973-1976
36. Correspondence, Collins, Patricia, 1973-1977
37. Correspondence, Ellis, Gordon, 1976
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43. Correspondence, Kidra, Robert, 1976-1977

44. Correspondence, Liston, Edward, 1974-1976
45. Correspondence, McKinney, Stewart, 1976
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47. Council for Inter-institutional leadership, 1976-1977
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9. ESI, Scrimshaw, including title for boat, 1970-1975
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16. F.U.R.S.T., undated
17. Foundations, Carnegie Corporation, 1977
18. Foundations, Council on foundations, 1974-1977
19. Foundations, Danforth Foundation, 1973
20. Foundations, Ford Foundation, 1971-1976
21. Foundations, Hazon, 1977
22. Foundations, Alfred Winslow Jones, 1968-1972
23. Foundations, William T. Morris Foundation, 1976
24. Goals for Bridgeport, 1969-1973
25. Greater Bridgeport campaign ministry, 1972
26. Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center search committee, 1976-1977
27. Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Council, alcoholism advisory committee, 1974
28. Greater Bridgeport regional narcotics program 1973-1975
29. Greater Bridgeport Regional narcotics program, 1972-1975
30. Guide to higher education consortium, 1965-1969
31. Greater Bridgeport regional planning agency, human resources committee, 1976
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1. Head start regional training, 1968-1971
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14. HECUS administrative committee annual report, 1973
15. HECUS administrative committee annual report, 1969-1977
16. HECUS administrative committee annual report, 1969-1977
17. HECUS administrative committee annual report distribution, 1974
18. HECUS board of directors meetings, 1968-1972
19. HECUS board of directors meetings, 1968
20. HECUS board organizational meeting of enlarged HECUS membership, 1972
21. HECUS administrative committee, Contract, city of Bridgeport and HECUS, 1968
22. HECUS administrative committee, Memo re: HECUS to YMCA and regional execs, 1970
23. HECUS administrative committee, By-laws, 1968
24. HECUS administrative committee, Charter, 1969
25. HECUS administrative committee, Charting objectives, 1975
26. HECUS administrative committee, Calendar coordination, 1973
27. HECUS administrative committee, Endangered species list, 1975-1977
28. HECUS executive committee, misc., 1970-1973
29. HECUS administrative committee, minutes, 1971-1972
30. HECUS administrative committee, meetings, 1970-1972
31. HECUS administrative committee, meetings, 1973-1975
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33. HECUS administrative committee, 1976-1977
34. HECUS administrative committee, 1977
35. HECUS, 1976
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7. HEOP, special services, 1976-1977
8. HEOP, special services, continuation proposal for July and August, 1976
9. HEOP, special services, 1977-1978
10. HEOP, summer reports to office of education, 1972-1976

11. HEOP, workshop newspaper clippings, 1973
12. Housatonic Community College, 1971-1975
13. Housatonic Community College - The Factory proposal, 1976
14. HPL Swan Song to Board of Directors, 1969
15. Institute of applied psychotherapy in Connecticut, undated
16. Institute of Senior Adult Affairs, 1970-1972
17. Intergroup Council, undated
18. Intergroup Council, undated
19. Junior League of Bridgeport, 1977
20. Keane Analysis of Regional Collaboration...,1972
21. Keane Analysis of Regional Collaboration...,1972
22. Keane Project: training in outreach principles and practices, 1977
23. Keane, paper, 1972
24. La Amistad, 1970
25. Landsdale, Herbert P. Jr. - Eagle Towers, 1973-1976
26. Mental Health Association of Connecticut, Bridgeport chapter, 1974
27. Minority involvement in higher education, 1972
28. Model Cities, general, 1970-1975
29. Model Cities, career ladder program, 1970-1971
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31. Model Cities, contracts, 1973-1974
32. Model Cities, development, 1969-1971
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14. Spreadsheet - internship program, 1974-1975
15. Springfield College experimental learning program
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12. UB college of Health Sciences advisory council, 1976-1977
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15. University of Bridgeport, new (3.5 million) facility, 1977
16. University of Bridgeport, membership committee, 1975
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26. University of Bridgeport Stamford. 1977
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31. US department of HEW, Title III application, 1971-1972
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34. Urban Coalition, clippings, 1968-1969
35. Urban Coalition final report, 1970
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38. Urban Information special project, 1971
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6. Urban Observatories, instructions from HUD, 1974
7. Urban Observatory, meeting with Mancini, Lara Williams, 1976
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9. Urban Observatory, NLC meetings, 1976
10. Urban Observatory, policy board, 1975
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15. Urban Affairs abstract, 1975-1977
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20. Urban studies, survey, 1970
21. Urban-Suburban alternate school, 1972-1975
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28. Statement of purpose, 1970
29. Stokes, C.J., article, 1977
30. University of Bridgeport, Dr. William F. Allen, 1974
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32. Agreement, HECUS and YMCA, 1968
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3. Albert Christopher, Substandard Housing, undated
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5. John Cianci, Mercury Levels, Marine Life, Bridgeport Harbor, 1971
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7. Shalom Endleman, Hamden area health need survey, 1972
8. Harvey Fishman, Development of a Regional Databank for Social and Political Analysis, 1972
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13. Robert Hunt, Summer program in Westport for inner-city..., 1971
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29. Dynamics, role, and function in inter-university collaboration, 1972
30. Fairfield County communications, 1972
31. Fairfield County, Conn. institutions of higher learning, 1972
32. The Great negation: a preface to an analysis of man and the state, 1970
33. Healing community division through communication, 1971
34. The high-school town government project[...], 1972
35. Mobilizing a county-wide development report for Fairfield County, 1973
36. Needs and resources of Fairfield County, undated
37. New York City and its suburbs, 1971
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 5. Monitoring the pattern and performance of land use allocation systems in the City of Bridgeport, 1976
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8. Comprehensive health plan, Greater Bridgeport area, 1976
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