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**ConnectED**  
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Jane McGonigal

The Penn State York Library has been piloting ConnectED since Fall 2014. First-year students earn ConnectED points by participating in library-sponsored events and by making connections to others on campus, working toward winning a \$2,014 award to use toward second-year tuition at Penn State York.

THE RESEARCH



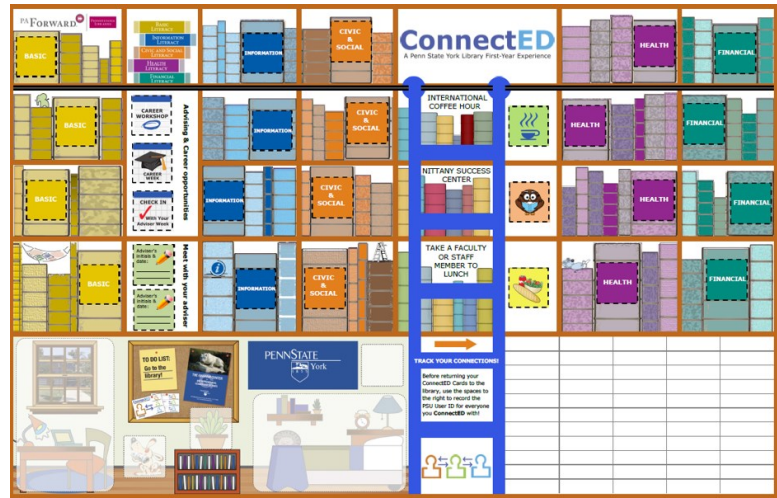
Librarians are increasingly challenged to demonstrate “the value of academic and research libraries and their contribution to institutional mission and goals” (ACRL, 2010, p.6). While most people might think of the library in terms of the academic support we provide, I chose to focus on another important area—**social engagement**.

“The more students are academically and socially engaged with other people on campus . . . the more likely (other things being equal) they will stay and graduate from college” (Tinto, 2012, p. 64).

Research question: To what extent can participation in a library first-year experience increase student engagement in our commuter campus community and support first-year academic success?

THE PROGRAM

Students use gameboards to track their participation in the program, receiving stickers for each event they attend. They also record the connections they make. First-year students received the gameboards and Connection Cards at the beginning of the semester.



**ConnectED**  
A Penn State York Library First-Year Experience

Diagram showing connections between a Penn State York first-year student, a Penn State York returning student, and Penn State York faculty/staff.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the back of this card and drop it off in the library. Make sure to print the names of the people you connected with and include their PSU User IDs so we can give you points for your connections! Turn it in after connecting with 1, 2, or 3 people!

I connected with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and discovered we had the following in common: \_\_\_\_\_

I connected with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and discovered we had the following in common: \_\_\_\_\_

I connected with \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and discovered we had the following in common: \_\_\_\_\_



The 5 literacies of **PA Forward**, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association, form the foundation of the ConnectED program.

Since we have had 23 events so far this academic year, it was also helpful to have some common formats for programs so we didn’t have to think of something new each time we planned an event.

**Flash Forums** are conversations facilitated by a Penn State York faculty or staff member concerning pressing, current events before they fade from the news.

A **Speak Easy** is an opportunity for conversation in a relaxed, informal setting for anyone who wants to improve their public speaking.

**ConnectED Talks** are programs incorporating a TED Talk and activity into our conversation.

We also had Marathon Reads, Booktalks, Memory Match games, and events celebrating special occasions, such as Constitution Day, Halloween, and the Chinese New Year.

BASIC	INFORMATION	CIVIC & SOCIAL	HEALTH	FINANCIAL
Marathon Reads: <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone</i> <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	ConnectED Talks: Doodling The Mystery Box Blindspot— Exploring Hidden Biases	Kick-Off Event: Connect with Rep. Kevin Schreiber  ConnectED Talk: The Psychology of Evil  Pleased to Meet You Speak Easy  Constitution Day Trivia  The Price is Right?  What’s My Line?	Flash Forum: Exploring the Mystery of Suicide  Health Depression Screening	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?  Memory Match: How Much Fun Can You Have with a Credit Card Bill?
Two faculty booktalks	Connect with our Reference Librarian	Trivia with a Twist		
Connect with The Creature	Metacognition Memory Match  Superstition Speak Easy  Celebrate the Chinese New Year			