



"If there's a WILL,  
there's a way!"

## Women in Learning & Leadership Program

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WILL students presenting at  
Middle School Day in Trenton area schools



@will\_tcnj



THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY  
**Women In Learning  
and Leadership**





# The WILL Program at TCNJ

Women In Learning and Leadership (**WILL**) is a holistic four-year academic program that fosters an understanding of gender and its intersections with race, gender, culture, class, sexuality, and other aspects of social identity. **WILL** enables students to apply classroom learning to contemporary social justice issues through leadership opportunities, activism projects, and diversity events.

- **WILL** provides a solid foundation for the academic study of gender through a minor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGS).
- **WILL** engages students in and out of the classroom, encouraging them to extend academic experiences into social action projects both on campus and in the Mercer County area.
- **WILL** sponsors events throughout the year that bring prominent scholars and speakers to discuss gender and diversity related topics.



WILL Class of 2022 graduates with President Kathryn Foster



WILL students at a PLEN seminar in Washington, D.C.

"I love WILL! It has given me a community of like minded individuals who each contribute a diverse perspective to everything we study and do. We are all passionate about the curriculum and making our experiences great."  
**Megan Folina, '26**

## Curriculum

The five course WGS minor serves as the cornerstone of the **WILL** curriculum, providing a theoretical framework for the examination of gender, societal institutions, and a wide range of social justice struggles and achievements. All courses fulfill Liberal Learning requirements. **WILL** students represent all of the Schools across the college: School of Business, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, School of Science, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Arts and Communication, School of Education, and the School of Engineering.

- The minor is interdisciplinary, contributing to the holistic nature of the program.
- **WILL** students complete a supervised internship closely tied to their academic study, which proves invaluable in their future careers.
- The flexibility of the minor allows students with busy schedules, including student athletes and those planning to study abroad, to participate in the program.
- Working with your **WILL** advisor, you can create an academic plan that allows you to complete the required coursework before graduation.

# History

Founded in 1980 at the University of Richmond, **WILL** was developed as a program to promote self-confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills in young women. It is the first program in the United States to combine coursework in Women's and Gender Studies with internships and leadership opportunities outside the classroom.

The **WILL** Program at The College of New Jersey was founded in 2001.

"I loved being a **WILL** student and I love being connected to it today. **WILL** continues to inspire me to speak up, take risks, and dream bigger than I ever thought possible."  
Emily Bent, '03 - Professor Pace University



# Leadership and Activism

**WILL** students develop leadership skills and gain real world experience over the course of the four year program. Students apply academic knowledge to social problems affecting the campus community, the Mercer County area, nationally, and Globally.

- **WILL** encourages students to build on the history of activism and leadership that they study in class.
- The **WILL** student organization, which includes an elected board and student committees, encourages active decision making.
- **WILL** students have successfully organized and participated in state and national conferences, social action projects, and social awareness campaigns.



# Events

**WILL** students attend lectures and seminars with figures whose scholarship, struggles, and successes they study in class. These **WILL/WGS** sponsored lectures, workshops, and performances are open to the public.



WILL students leading Slutwalk in 2021

"This program has allowed me to view college education in a more inclusive and diverse perspective, and it has been an amazing and eyeopening journey." Noelle Halikman, '24

# Previous Internships held by WILL members:

- Environment New Jersey
- Planned Parenthood of NJ
- Cosmopolitan Magazine
- Ernst & Young
- Johnson & Johnson
- NASDAQ
- Public Advocate - Office of Trenton
- Self Magazine
- Courier News
- Working Group of Girls at the United Nations
- Barbara Buono for Governor
- Princeton Area Community Foundation for their Fund for Women and Girls



# WILL Student Organization

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**"WILL has brought me some of my closest friends. I am also glad I had the opportunity to serve on the E-board as that position marks my first leadership role at TCNJ."  
Grace Sullivan, '25**

# WILL Alumnae Are:

- Working for prominent financial corporations and media outlets
- Pursuing advanced degrees in various academic and professional fields such as: communications, education, law, medicine, psychology, public policy, sociology, and women's studies.
- Advocating for human rights in national and transnational organizations.

In addition to The College of New Jersey, a number of public and private institutions have **WILL** programs, replicated from the original program at the University of Richmond, including Duke University, Washington and Lee University, Tulane University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Winona State University, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

**"I have learned a lot about social justice and what it means to be a feminist by being a member of WILL. I will carry this with me throughout my career and life and will forever view everything through a feminist lens."  
Caroline Francesconi, '23**



WILL's production of  
*The Vagina Monologues* 2023



WILL's Community Service Committee  
working on a service project