



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

Women in Learning & Leadership Program

2000 Pennington Road
Ewing, NJ 08628

<https://will.tcnj.edu/>
609-771-2178
colbeth@tcnj.edu



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 co-curricular program that promotes academic excellence, leadership development, career exploration, and civic engagement for women.

- **WILL** encourages critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and active learning opportunities which empower students as leaders, professionals, and engaged citizens during and after college.
- **WILL** promotes increased awareness of obstacles women have faced and are facing, and fosters individual and collective strategies to address these issues.
- **WILL** sponsors and supports student attendance at local, national, and global conferences and seminars that focus on academic, professional, and personal development.
- **WILL** prepares students to work effectively in diverse workplaces and to pursue a wide range of professions.



TCNJ **WILL** Students at the United Nation's 2024 SDG Action Weekend Workshop on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.



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

WILL students complete a **WILL** specific WGS minor that provides an academic curriculum of courses focused on women's diverse roles, contributions, and challenges. The curriculum also promotes intersectional thinking across disciplines to help students investigate today's most pressing issues. These required courses can fulfill requirements for TCNJ'S Core Curriculum as well.

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.
- 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. **WILL** Students apply academic knowledge to social and political issues affecting the campus community, the Mercer County area, the U.S., 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 policy awareness campaigns.



Events

WILL students attend lectures, seminars, and workshops with guest speakers whose scholarship, activism, and leadership they study in class. Most of these **WILL** sponsored events and performances are open to the entire campus community and the general public.

WILL students leading Slutwalk in 2022



"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
- Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman's District Office
- Self Magazine
- Courier News
- Working Group of Girls at the United Nations
- First Lady's Office (NJ)
- Princeton Area Community Foundation for their Fund for Women and Girls
- NJ Department of Health
- NJ Department of Civil Rights

WILL Student Organization

- **WILL** students apply intersectional analysis to the practice of leadership. Through the student organization, students learn to speak up, listen to one another, and become strong allies and advocates.
- **WILL** gives students the space to question, critique, and explore in a supportive environment.



"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 Have Pursued Successful Careers in:

- The Business/Financial Sector; Local and National Government; Sports and Sports Media; Education; Health Care/Services; Pharmaceutical Research and Development; Social Services/Non-Profit Organizations; Legal Professions; Entertainment and more!
- Higher Education - Pursuing advanced degrees in fields such as: Communications, Education, Law, Medicine, Psychology, Public Policy, Sociology, and Women's Studies.



"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 students visiting the Capitol
during the Feminist Majority's
Young Feminist Conference 2024