

SUNY Cortland Earns Two Distinctions: Carnegie Reclassification and Honor Roll

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President's Higher
Education Community
Service Honor Roll
Member With
Distinction



Carnegie Foundation
Elective Classification in
Community Engagement



Adapted from press releases by Michael Bersani, Institutional Advancement

SUNY Cortland has re-earned the community engagement elective classification from [the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#), becoming the first institution in the State University of New York system to hold the reclassification distinction.

SUNY Cortland has also been named to President Barack Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the eighth consecutive year. The 2014 honor roll marks the fourth straight time the College has earned the elite "with distinction" designation for its civic engagement programs. Of the 20 SUNY campuses included on the list, only SUNY Cortland, SUNY Fredonia and SUNY Oswego won the special recognition.

Earning Carnegie reclassification means the College will keep the Carnegie Foundation's prestigious community engagement endorsement for 10 years, through 2025. Fewer than 400 campuses nationwide can claim the designation and only 157 obtained re-classification in 2015.

"Reclassification signifies that we have strengthened and deepened our institutional commitments to the many communities of which we are a part," said Richard Kendrick, the director of the College's Institute for Civic Engagement) and a professor of sociology and anthropology." It's an honor that reflects extremely well on the relationship between our campus and our community. I am thrilled that we have again been recognized in this way."



The Carnegie reclassification application and the honor roll emphasized civic engagement efforts from the 2012-13 academic year, during which 3,553 SUNY Cortland students contributed 204,024 community service hours. More than half of those students — 2,040 of them — offered at least 20 hours of their time in a single semester.

"At our college, community engagement isn't just what we do, it's part of who we are," said SUNY Cortland President Erik J. Bitterbaum. It gives me great pride to know that educating students to become good citizens is central to our mission and ingrained in our culture."

SUNY Cortland's 61-page Carnegie application highlighted the contributions of every campus division (academic affairs, finance and management, institutional advancement and student affairs) and all three academic schools (arts and sciences, education and professional studies).

Several projects, programs and partnerships benefitting both the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors were highlighted in both SUNY Cortland's applications. These included:

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SUNY Earns Distinctions (cont'd)

- The College’s service-learning efforts connect the skills of its faculty, staff and students with the needs of area schools and many not-for-profit agencies. The College’s 20-year-old service learning program involved 1,943 students giving 76,732 hours to projects during the 2012-13 academic year.
 - Main Street SUNY Cortland serves as a highly visible symbol of the College’s community involvement and a hub for civic engagement programs. In addition to classes, more than 140 community groups held nearly 650 meetings in 2012-13. The location also houses the Cortland Downtown Partnership, which works with local businesses to promote economic development.
 - SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps, which completed its fifth year in 2012-13, served 18 agencies and programs — 12 community not-for-profit groups and six programs sponsored by the College. Sixty-three members, including 17 SUNY Cortland students, contributed more than 31,000 hours of service.
 - The “Explore: Education Field Experience Program” provides aspiring teachers in their first year a glimpse at their future profession. They tutor local children, which benefits local school districts academically. Volunteer time totaled nearly 4,100 hours in 2012-13.
 - SUNY Cortland’s longstanding Adapted Physical Education Program provided physical activity opportunities for more than 200 people with disabilities, from toddlers to adults, in 2012-13. Roughly 250 SUNY Cortland students, the majority of them physical education majors, participated.
 - Through the Cortland YWCA’s Bridges for Kids Program, the College helps a local not-for-profit by providing students who become mentors and
- positive role models for children ages 5 to 12. In 2012-13, a total of 309 students served the program, offering up 4,800 hours of their time.
 - Free clinical screenings are provided to two local school districts thanks to the College’s Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing Disorders and its students. Ten SUNY Cortland students performed hearing evaluations and 27 offered speech therapy under faculty supervision in 2012-13.
 - The Migrant Education Outreach Program (MEOP), which serves 12 counties, provided migrant families 19,657 meals through its partnership with the Central New York Food Bank in 2012-13. Staff members also offer tutoring services for all ages, from young children to adults.
 - Nine area school districts receive support from Access to College Education (ACE). The office provides resources and encouragement to high school students limited by social or economic circumstances, assisting approximately 500 high school students each year.
 - The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) offers services such as tutoring and career counseling for at-risk teenagers in five local school districts with the goal to pursue education or employment after high school graduation. SUNY Cortland students serve as tutors and mentors for the program.



Adapted Physical Education Program

The Institute for Civic Engagement's Ties with Morocco – Part III

By Richard Kendrick

It was my privilege to return to Morocco late last year (December 5 through 9) to attend Syracuse University's annual conference for the alumni of its Leadership for Democracy Fellows (LDF) program. The Executive Development program of the Maxwell School for Citizenship and Public Affairs sponsors the conference. It was held in Casablanca, and Moroccan alumni of the Civic Education and Leadership Fellows (CELF) program were invited, too.

The conference focused on recent political, social, and economic developments throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. At the same time, I had the opportunity to reconnect with many of the Moroccan colleagues that I visited last spring, including Dr. Larbi Touaf (who was a Fulbright Fellow on our campus in the fall of 2013).

Following the LDF conference, the Moroccan LDF and CELF alumni met to begin the process of developing a civic education and community engagement network in Morocco. After two days of intense discussions, the group emerged with a name, a mission statement, and a set of objectives. Dr. Larbi Touaf volunteered to be the group's coordinator. Here are excerpts from Dr. Touaf's report on the meeting:

"Following a series of intensive meetings, with the specific aim to create a framework for collaboration between academics and civil society actors, we the undersigned [15 founding members], agreed to initiate a process for creating an organizational framework that would allow us to work in a more efficient way towards installing a culture of civic



engagement and active citizenship among students on campuses around Morocco. Therefore we have agreed to launch the Institute for Active Citizenship and Leadership in Higher Education for the purposes stated below.

Mission statement:

"The Institute for Active Citizenship and Leadership in Higher Education (ICL) aims at changing students' lives to strengthen civil society, promote the integration of universities and communities, and inspire leadership for active citizenship in Morocco. The institute will work within higher education institutions in Morocco and in collaboration with civil society organizations to promote civic action among students and to enhance their social and leadership skills. The institute will also promote research in the fields of learning pedagogies and the social responsibility of higher education institutions as well as on issues related to university-community dynamics.

General objectives:

"Training: Facilitate workshops and conferences for faculty to raise awareness about civic education and engagement and design training material for educators;

"Networking: To encourage collaboration between educators and civil society, the Institute will strengthen networking among like-minded individuals, institutions of higher education, and civil society organizations for a better connection of university and community. The Institute will also push for institutional support at the local, national, and international levels.

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Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards

Nominate an individual or a group, from on- or off-campus, for a Leadership in Civic Engagement Award. Details regarding the nomination process will be announced soon via campus e-mail.

The awards recognize the exceptional civic engagement work accomplished by students, faculty, staff, community members, and organizations. Taken together, their work demonstrates initiative, creativity, and long-term dedication to the improvement of life in and around Cortland County.

In April 2014, twenty-six SUNY Cortland students, three community members, eight faculty and staff members, one

Faculty Forms Civic Engagement Group

In late fall 2014, the Institute for Civic Engagement launched a new organization whose purpose is to refine the use of, and scholarship in, civic engagement activities, including service-learning.

The SUNY Cortland Civic Engagement Group currently consists of 24 members, including four administrator/staff personnel, twenty faculty from eleven departments, and the City of Cortland's mayor, Brian Tobin

The group hopes to create new partnerships for civic engagement activities involving Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and the community by taking advantage of its members' experience and expertise. Through periodic meetings and through its listserv, members will share ideas, questions, and successes.

For further information, contact John Suarez, Coordinator, Office of Service-Learning, at john.suarez@cortland.edu or at 753-4391.

community group and the students of two campus classes received Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards at a reception held in the Jacobus Lounge of Brockway Hall. Ten scholarships were awarded.

The Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards and Scholarships event is sponsored by the college's Institute for Civic Engagement, the Divisions of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Institutional Advancement, as well as the Cortland Foundation and the Cortland Fund.

Our eleventh annual awards reception will be held on April 23, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Jacobus Lounge of Brockway Hall.

Morocco – continued

“Civic education and engagement: Encourage and initiate pedagogies and teaching practices that enhance critical thinking, civic values, and active/participatory citizenship among students in higher education.

“Research: The institute will encourage and conduct research on the university's mission and role in [social and economic] development and promote experimentation in research on the university in relation to its immediate environment.

“Advocacy: The Institute will use research and knowledge production to impact public policies on higher education. It will advocate for curriculum change to meet the requirements for effective and sustainable university-community integration.”

I will be discussing my experiences in Morocco at a Sandwich Seminar as part of Black History Month, Wednesday, February 11, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., in Jacobus Lounge of Brockway Hall.