

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards and Scholarships

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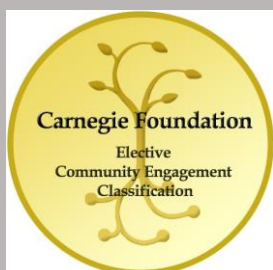
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President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member With Distinction



Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



President Bitterbaum presents Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards to Thomas "TJ" Keegan and to Alyson Nilsen at a reception on April 27<sup>th</sup>.



The Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards and Scholarships recognize exemplary service in support of campus projects, charity events, community agencies, social change, and civic engagement by SUNY Cortland students, alumni, faculty and staff, and by Cortland community members.

Institute for Civic Engagement Director Mary McGuire opened the 13th annual awards ceremony and reception by praising the extensive and valuable contributions made by the awards recipients.

SUNY Cortland President Erik Bitterbaum and Cortland Mayor Brian Tobin echoed this sentiment in speeches to the audience of 75 people, commending the value of the volunteers' work to the college and the local community.

Twenty SUNY Cortland students, five community members, one community group, and four faculty/staff members received Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards. Also awarded were six community service scholarships, the Donald M. Wilcox award, and the Cortland Area Chapter of the Alumni Association's Community Service Award.

In addition, two participants in the Service-Learning Corps were recognized.

**Leadership in Civic Engagement student recipients:** Mariah Abel, Jocenelle Alcime, Pavel Bondarenko, Andrew Burdo, Andrea Canale, Dillon Chichester, Anna Gorall, Sarah Halioua, Jacquelyn Hulse, Tariqu Hussain, Thomas "TJ" Keegan, Julia Lovaglia, Taylor Lynch, Sunail Luthra, Alyson Nilsen, Taylor O'Halloren, Gabriella Park, Sarah Piacentini, Kara Smith, and Brianna Zinger.



President Bitterbaum presenting award to Associate Provost Carol Van Der Karr

### Faculty and Staff recipients:

Carol Van der Karr, Associate Provost, Academic Affairs, was recognized for her support for campus civic engagement activities and for her personal support for the local community. Also, Jim Miller, History Lecturer; Susan Wilson, Associate

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*Leadership Awards continued from page 1*

Professor, Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, and Jeanine Rose, Academic Tutor with ASAP, were all awarded for their long-term dedication and support for the annual Crop Walk fundraiser for local food banks and kitchens.



**Alex Huntington-Ofner with Cortland Mental Health receives her Leadership Award.**

**Community member recipients:**

Conni Bentley, currently an advocate for seniors and elderly residents, and retired from Cortland County Social Services; Katie Couture, a Cortland High School student who volunteers throughout the community; Alex Huntington-Ofner, with Cortland County Mental Health; Stacey Goldyn-Moller, local artisan and owner of Magpie Custom Creations, and Kelsey Ryan, Director of Development for Cortland YWCA. Frank Kelly accepted the Group Community member award for Cortland's Environmental Advisory Committee.



**Frank Kelly accepts the award on behalf of the Cortland Environmental Advisory Committee**



**Sunail Luthra, recipient of the Lambda Phi Delta Scholarship, shown with Lambda Phi member, Joe Eppolito and President Bitterbaum**

Six students won scholarships that acknowledge leadership and commitment to campus and the local community as well as exceptional academic achievement: Matthew Norris, the **Catherine McDermott Lavelle Scholarship for Student Leaders**; Andrew Busch, Anna Gorall, and Tariq Hussain, **James. H. Taylor Community Service Scholarship**; Sunail Luthra, the **Lambda Phi Delta Scholarship**, and Nicholas Vachon, the **James H. and Dorothy A. Sarvay Scholarship**. The scholarships were presented by Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Peter Perkins.

Matthew Norris was also presented the Cortland Area Chapter of the Alumni Association's Community Service Award by Maxine Cleveland, Alumni House Board Member.

Brittney Murphy was awarded the Donald M. Wilcox Award, which recognizes outstanding participation in the fight against poverty and hunger.

Kelly Veit and Connor Vick were awarded the Excellence in Service-Learning Award for their outstanding performance as Service-Learning Corps Interns.

## SUNY Institute for Civic Engagement Bids Fond Farewell to Director Mary McGuire



ICE Director Mary McGuire

At the end of the spring 2017 semester, Professor Mary McGuire (Political Science) will leave her role as Director of the Institute for Civic Engagement. In the two years in which she has served in this capacity, she has ensured that the Institute continued to inform, motivate, and collaborate on civic engagement projects – while continuing to teach and to serve on Faculty Senate.

Mary's leadership style is one of up-beat deliberation and determination. That style was obvious as she taught in, and served as faculty liaison for, SUNY Cortland's Common Problem Pedagogy Project, which is a SUNY Innovation Grant-funded initiative with SUNY Oneonta, Oswego, and Plattsburg (the lead).

Her positive attitude was also obvious as she recruited speakers for two Constitution

Day events, and as she guided the review of nominations for, and spoke at, two Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards Receptions.

She partnered with NYPIRG on Voter Registration and Get-Out-the-Vote drives, helping SUNY Cortland to reach a record-setting number of voter registrations.

Mary facilitated a workshop for the Cortland Areas That Care's *Jumpstart 10 Conference*, and presented at Campus Compact's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Boston, at Cortland Counts' January 2016 annual event, and at the Economic Inequality Initiative's *Lunchtime Talks*.

The style and substance of Mary's leadership will be missed, but SUNY Cortland is fortunate that she will continue to serve as a member of the SUNY Cortland family.

## Geographic Information Systems Benefits College and Community

A hidden gem among SUNY Cortland's applied learning programs is the Geography Department's Geographic Information Systems (GIS). GIS combines computers with global positioning system technology to create unique maps that allow people from a variety of disciplines to plan and create projects across space and time.

On 17 projects over the past five years, Geography faculty and students have partnered with decision-makers in business, environment, and government. For example, they helped determine the economic impact of the NY Jets Training Camp.

**Safety:** They partnered with the Dryden, McGraw, and Virgil Public Works Departments to map the locations of water valves, hydrants, and curb boxes. In related projects, they worked with the City of Cortland's Fire Department to map Fire Department connections and fire calls, and they developed protocol for multilevel mapping for apartments, hotels, and buildings on Main Street.

**Art and Art History, Biology, and Geology:** Faculty and students in these departments partnered with Geography faculty and students to create cemetrails with informational kiosks in the Cortland Rural Cemetery. For the Truxton Cemetery, Geography students and faculty mapped veterans' graves.

**Environment:** This spring, Professors Barclay, Lin (Geology), and Moranda (History), and students are collaborating with Cortland Soil and Water Conservation on the Trout Brook Watershed Study. Geography faculty and students are also working with the Town of Dryden on the mapping for a Farmland Protection Plan.

Geography Chair, Wendy Miller, noted that everyone benefits, including students, who "get to work with people of different ages and backgrounds so that they learn how to collaborate and innovate. These projects are great for the community and for students' résumés." To explore ways in which GIS can help you with a project, contact Wendy Miller at [wendy.miller@cortland.edu](mailto:wendy.miller@cortland.edu)



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## Alexandra Cicero Awarded Newman Fellowship

Alexandra Cicero, a dual International Studies/Communication Studies major, has been awarded a prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship.

Campus Compact, a national organization of college presidents who support service-learning, awards the Fellowship.

Ms. Cicero, a sophomore and a Service-Learning Corps Intern, has been a leader in recruiting students to social change projects that address hunger, inequality, education, and democratic engagement. She coordinated NYPIRG's Trick or Eat Campaign, which donated 800 cans of food to a local not-for-profit.

To address political polarization and inequality, she co-planned and co-presented, with Multicultural Life and NYPIRG, the "Cortland Has a Dream" event. Her Sociology and Modern Languages professors invited her to serve as the teaching assistant for a class that helps first-semester international students adjust to campus.

Cicero also partnered with the president of the Young Americans for Liberty club to plan and moderate on-campus forums with 22nd Congressional District representative candidates from three political parties.

She participated in the January 21st Women's March in Washington, DC.

As NYPIRG's Higher Education Affordability Project Leader, she led the effort to gather students' signatures on petitions to freeze tuition, to pass the NYS Legislature's Maintenance of Effort Bill, and to promote student participation in the Higher Education Lobby day.

Cicero is an SGA senator who drafted resolutions that advocate for energy-efficient campuses. As a SUNY Student Assembly (SA) Sustainability Committee member, she co-created several sustainability-themed resolutions to be proposed at SUNY SA conferences.



As NYPIRG's Voter Mobilization & Empowerment Campaign project leader, Cicero planned and directed all campus outreach events, she helped get out the vote, and she conducted 100 exit poll surveys. She and her colleagues registered a record 1,200 people.

She planned and participated in voter registration projects on two college campuses and in the City of Cortland, where she noted that "some residents told us that they could not vote because they receive public assistance, so – of course – we told them that they definitely *can* vote. They registered."

She will begin her Fellowship in the fall 2017 semester, by which time she will have returned from her study abroad experience in Romania.

The organization's webpage explains that "The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country."

The fellowship is named for one of Campus Compact's founding members, Frank Newman, who was dedicated to helping students live lives as active citizens.