

## 2015 Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards and Scholarships

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### Individual Highlights:

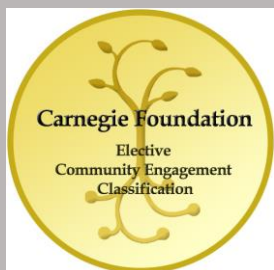
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President's Higher  
Education Community  
Service Honor Roll  
Member With  
Distinction



Carnegie Foundation  
Elective Classification in  
Community Engagement



On Thursday, April 23 thirty SUNY Cortland students, one student organization, 12 community members, nine faculty and staff members, and one community group received Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards. Also awarded were seven community service scholarships. In addition, participants in the 2014-2015 Judson H. Taylor Leadership House program, Service-Learning Corps, and the Civic Engagement Scholarship program, were recognized with award certificates.

These college awards recognize exemplary service in support of community agencies, social change and civic engagement by SUNY Cortland students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members.

Student recipients are involved with a wide variety of activities, including leadership roles in raising funds for the Adopt-a-Family program, Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, and the Special Olympics. Others volunteer in local afterschool programs, at Randall School and at the YWCA's Bridges for Kids program, where students mentor children and involve them in physical activities that improve health and help build self-esteem. The vast majority of activity supports Cortland County residents, the public school system, and numerous human service organizations.

### Student recipients were:

Adeymi Aderohunmu, Tyler Ballantyne, Hannah Bush, Stefania Buta, Crissana Christie, Katelin Cornetta, Elvis de la Rosa, Nikki Donlick, Miguel Espaillat, Brian Hartrick, Candice Jaimungal, Elise Konikoff,



**Brittney Murphy and Katelin Cornetta accept the Leadership student group award for Actively Involved in the Community, presented by Provost Mark Prus.**

Carlos Lemus, Maranda Maher, Caley Maida, Kristie Mauro, Kathleen Mezzacappa, Brittney Murphy, Lucila Mutino, Matthew Norris, Everett Phillips, Ashlee Prewitt, Kimberlee Roe, Piffany Rosa, Karyn Scott, Melanie Sjoblom, Garrett Smith, Jackie Soranno, Brianna Sullivan, and Patrick Viscome.

Actively Involved in the Community, a student organization on campus, also received an award for its many volunteer activities in the community and fund-raising efforts to support area agencies and causes, such as the YWCA and SPCA.

### Faculty and Staff recipients were:

Helena Baert, Assistant Professor, Physical Education Department; Barbara Barton, Assistant Professor, Health Department; Valerie Behr, Lecturer, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department; Kathleen Burke, Associate Professor and Chair, Economics Department; Beth Klein, Professor, Childhood/Early Childhood Department; Janet Ochs, Lecturer, Library; Greg Phelan, Associate Professor and Chair, Chemistry Department; Tim Phillips, Associate Professor, Economics Department, and Gabe Recchio, SUNY Cortland's NYPIRG Coordinator.

## The Institute for Civic Engagement Welcomes New Director



**Dr. Mary McGuire,  
the new director of  
the Institute**



**Dr. Richard Kendrick,  
retiring director**

Mary McGuire, Assistant Professor of Political Science, is looking forward to serving as the new director of the Institute for Civic Engagement. She is passionate about civic engagement and believes that the strongest communities are those with an active citizenry.

McGuire earned her master of public administration and PhD in political science from Syracuse University. She has been a member of the SUNY Cortland political science faculty since 2001. While at Cortland she has promoted civic engagement among political science students through her coordination of the department's internships and field studies. Her students have recently worked for Mayor Tobin's office, Judge Ames, the District Attorney Mark Steuben's office and County Clerk Elizabeth Larkin.

Examples of Mary's personal civic engagement in Central New York have included speaking with both Cortland and Cayuga County Legislatures as they reviewed their forms of governance in 2005; participating in a community roundtable discussion on local government consolidation in 2010; and giving an interview to WSKG on New York State Regents elections in March. Her recent publications have examined the role of public policy in providing educational opportunities and include work on charter schools and post-secondary alternatives to college.

I would like to welcome Dr. Mary McGuire as the incoming director of the Institute for Civic Engagement. I hope she will have as much fun as I have had over the past 12 years. It has been my privilege to work with an exceptional group of faculty, staff, students, and community partners at all levels – here at SUNY Cortland, throughout the state of New York, nationally, and internationally. I have witnessed tremendous growth in service-learning and community engagement from the local to the global, including our own Institute for Civic Engagement, Office of Service-Learning, and Main Street SUNY Cortland programs.

I am very proud of the progress that we have made as an institution to deepen and strengthen our ties to our communities and to develop and extend the practice of service-learning. I am just as pleased with the progress we have made building bridges among and between the divisions, schools, and departments on our campus. The better colleges and universities are at integrating their various forms of learning, including their curricular and co-curricular programs, the better they will be positioned to succeed in the challenging world ahead of us. I am confident that the important work of linking our campus to its communities and building an integrated learning environment for our students will continue in good hands, and I thank Mary for taking over as the Institute's new director.

## Learning By Giving: The SUNY Cortland Experience in Educating for Philanthropy

By Henry Steck

Newsflash: it may come as news to most Americans, but the not-for-profit sector is big – very big. According to the Foundation Center's latest report, private giving reached \$316.2 billion in 2012. While these figures show the impressive role that charitable and philanthropic giving play in American life and culture, an urgent question is now facing the non-profit sector: Will the younger generation – plugged into social media as it is— be willing to acquire the skills and values necessary to advance America's tradition of giving? Can students learn how to give, why to give, and how to help others give?

With its impressive record of student volunteerism the answer for SUNY Cortland so far is Yes. But will it continue?

Now, thanks to an imaginative and pioneering program, by the Learning By Giving Foundation, that answer seems assured. Located in Boston, the Foundation is devoted to helping students learn about giving and to helping local communities as well. Call it Giving 3.0.

SUNY Cortland and the Department of Political Science have offered an innovative course, entitled Philanthropy and Civic Engagement. Supported by a generous grant from the Learning By Giving Foundation, the course involves students directly in awarding grants to local not-for-profits organizations.

As part of its program of partnering nationally with colleges and universities, the foundation has awarded SUNY Cortland \$10,000 annually since 2011 to support students in learning about giving by means of an experiential experience in giving. And learn they do.

For four years, I have had the privilege of teaching the course and seeing the change that has occurred in the students – and in

myself. This year I was fortunate to have the counsel and wisdom of Dr. Barbara Barton, of the SUNY Cortland Department of Health and a specialist in community health. And, as always, the support of the Institute for Civic Engagement and Professor Richard Kendrick.

My course has three broad purposes: the first goal is to learn about the historical, social and political context of charity and philanthropy in America from the colonial period onward. The second is a pre-professional hands-on education about the grants process and about the challenges facing not-for-profits in a practical sense. The students are introduced to the tough, tough process of awarding grants to local non-profits and to learning about the needs of the Cortland community. The final goal is to help students develop their own values and commitments. The course combines classroom study with experiential exposure to the grants process.

My students learned how important – and how difficult – it is to make decisions about awarding funding support to real people with very real needs and with real money. Over the years, local groups receiving support have included the YWCA, CAPCO, Catholic Charities, Child Development Council, Preble Children's Center, Lime Hollow and many others.

Readers are invited to learn more by going to the Foundation website:  
<http://www.learningbygivingfoundation.org/giving>

*(New director continued from page 2)*

McGuire enjoys the beautiful rich outdoor, cultural and community life of Central New York. She lives with her husband Robert Irwin, their daughter Leah McIrwin and the family golden retrievers Simba and Carly.

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*(Leadership Award continued from page 1)*

Community member recipients were:

Chris Driscoll, Coordinator, Cortland County Children Services Initiative (CCSI); Linnay Harmer, Prevention Specialist, Cortland Prevention Resources; Emma Ignaszewski, Media Specialist with Seven Valleys Health Coalition; Adam Megivern, Executive Director, and Jane Witty, Events Coordinator, Cortland Downtown Partnership, Susan Osborn, Principal, Lafayette CSD's Big Picture School; Mary Podsjedlik, Coordinator, Tully Regional Enrichment Program; Peter Reyes, Principal, Barry Elementary School; Kelly Skinner, Executive Director, Cortland YWCA; Norm Stitzel, Founder/Director, Warriors of the Cross; Amoreena Tellaeché, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Virgil Elementary School; Matt Whitman, Project Coordinator, Cortland Area Communities that Care.

The Community Group recipient was Access to Independence (ATI), a local agency that empowers people with disabilities to lead independent lives. Executive Director, Chad Underwood, accepted the award.

Seven students won scholarships that acknowledge outstanding commitment to community and exceptional academic achievement: **Piffany Rosa**, the BorgWarner Morse TEC Scholarship; **Brittney Murphy**, the Catherine McDermott Lavelle Scholarship for Student Leaders; **Crissana Christie**, **Katelin Cornetta**, and **Patrick Viscome**, each won the Judson Taylor Community Service Scholarship; **Elise Konikoff**, the Lambda Phi Delta Scholarship and **Matthew Norris**; the James H. and Dorothy A. Sarvay Scholarship.

Patrick Viscome was also awarded the Cortland Area Chapter of the Alumni Association's Community Service Award.

Sara Billings and Lia Mistretta were



Patrick Viscome, winner of a Leadership in Civic Engagement Award, The Alumni Award, and a scholarship, poses with Peter C. Perkins, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

awarded the Peter F. Eisenhardt First-Year Learning Community Scholarships for excellence in the Learning (In) Deed learning community.

Sydney Carlucci, Crissana Christie, Madeline Egan, and Regina Gianfreda, were awarded the Excellence in Service-Learning Award for their participation in the Service-Learning Corps. While Madison Kandoth, Tiffany Leone, Nicholas Menedes and Christopher O'Neill each received Civic Engagement Scholarship Awards.



Leadership House participant, Meryem Akman, from Turkey, receives the Vanguard Leader Award

Seven students were recognized with the Vanguard Leader Award in recognition of their participation in the Judson H. Taylor Leadership House: Meryem Akman, Karlene Anderson, Magdalena Gippert, Hein Hofvind, Lisa Ann Quinn, Tyler Rodabaugh and house manager, Andrea Tirrell.

The Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards and Scholarships event was 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.