

November 2015

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Individual Highlights

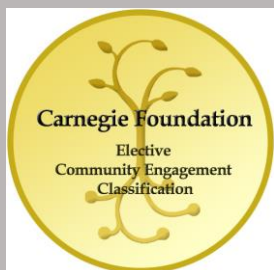
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President's Higher
Education Community
Service Honor Roll
Member With
Distinction



Carnegie Foundation
Elective Classification in
Community Engagement



Community Innovation Lab

Innovative Solutions for the Community —
Vast Opportunity for Students to Have Impact While Learning

A special topics course, ECON 329, Community Innovation Lab, is open to all majors this spring. It affords students the opportunity to develop expertise as they apply course skills to help local agencies and businesses with capacity-building projects. There are no prerequisites.

A sample of spring projects will include developing a "Smartmouth" campaign to promote oral health; membership- and database-analysis, and development for a local arts center, and a market analysis

"This class provides the necessary resources and guidance for the serious student to get a head start on their career while gaining valuable contacts and experience!"

-Greg Conn, 2015 Graduate

"The Community Innovation Lab is a course designed for those who seek to:

- 1) make a meaningful impact on the community*
- 2) better understand the inter-connectedness of the organizations we depend on to keep our society functioning and*
- 3) positively influence the lives of others."*

– Ashlee Pruitt 2015 Graduate

and strategy development for a local health and fitness program.

The course is scheduled for 3 - 4:15 pm on Monday and Wednesday; it is taught by Professor Kathleen Burke with the assistance of staff, faculty, and local agency mentors. For more information, contact Cyndi Guy at cynthia.guy@cortland.edu or 753-4271.

Economic Inequality Initiative Continues to Link Campus and Community



The Economic Inequality Initiative, Pathways to Opportunity in Cortland County is a coalition of SUNY Cortland faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of the Cortland community. The coalition works on a national project to address economic inequality; it continues to meet and to offer stimulating and informative Lunchtime Talks, monthly.

Cornell Cooperative Extension: "The Impact of Agriculture in Cortland County"

In a Lunchtime Talk, Heather Birdsall (shown at left), an agricultural specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension, described the strong legacy of Cortland County agriculture. Birdsall shared that 10-15 years ago, family farms were struggling and going out of business, but over the years, people have developed ways to preserve the tradition of family-owned and -operated farms.

Their innovations include "multiple proprietors" (in which families unite to keep farms operating and solvent), and modernizations like "precision feeding" and "robotic milking." There are now 595 farms

Service-Learning Corps Interns Enrich our Campus



**Lucynda Statema, Jessica Moore,
Danielle Charletta**

Ten first-year students are the Institute for Civic Engagement's largest cohort of Service-Learning Corps Interns. These students became interns by accepting the Admissions' Office Civic Engagement Scholarships, which recognize students' civic engagement during high school, and nurture their college service-learning activities.

To meet the rigors of the internship, students participate in professional development activities, they volunteer with community organizations, and they routinely reflect (individually and as a team) on their experiences.

Lucynda Statema, a Childhood/Early Childhood Education major, volunteers with Compass, a tutoring and mentoring program that is a facilitated by a partnership between Cortland Prevention Resources and the Institute.

Statema's enterprise is already obvious: To help her mentee learn Spanish, Statema is using a Spanish text to learn basic Spanish grammar in preparation for tutoring sessions. (Statema speaks French.) Her initiative was evident in high school, when she began an effort to support a nonprofit organization by selling goods at community events.

Another intern who was civically engaged in high school is Carly McUmbler, who participated in a variety of programs and events, such as Senior (Citizen) Breakfasts. McUmbler, a Business Economics major, volunteers at CNY SNAP (Spay/Neuter Assistance



**Alexandra Cicero, Alexis Kane,
Zizi Madison, and Andrew Busch**

Program), and has begun volunteering with the Community Innovation program.

Alexandra Cicero, an International Studies and Communications major, volunteers with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). She recently helped a Higgins Hall RA conduct a presidential primaries game-show in which students had to match a quote to a candidate.

Cicero said the game "was fun - and it was surprising to realize just how much there is to learn about the candidates!"

Also, as part of NYPIRG's voter-registration project, Cicero helped register 798 students.

Through NYPIRG, she is helping maintain the Economic Inequality Initiative's *Democracy Board* in Core Union. She is planning to become more involved with the organization's Hunger Committee.

The other Service-Learning Corps Interns are Megan Astor, Elaina Battista, Andrew Busch, Danielle Charletta, Alexis Kane, Jessica Moore and Zizi Madison. They join the Institute's other Interns: sophomores Madeline Egan, and Sydney Carlucci, and seniors Crissana Christie and Regina Gianfreda.

All of the Service-Learning Corps Interns are participating in the President's Recognition for Engaged Learning and Leadership, Designation in Service-Learning, which is a co-curricular certificate program.



“ASAP” Fosters Applied Learning

The Academic Support and Achievement Program (ASAP) is exploring ways to address the needs of students who are in applied learning courses because the number of these courses at SUNY Cortland is growing rapidly.

Applied (or “experiential”) learning includes internships, problem-based learning, senior capstone courses, and service-learning. Mary McGuire, the Institute for Civic Engagement’s Director, notes that SUNY Central “is ‘encouraging’ its campuses to adopt active learning pedagogies, which have been a SUNY Cortland hallmark for decades.”

In early October, ASAP’s Director, Esa Merson dedicated a weekly meeting of academic tutors to explore this possible new ASAP initiative.

Mark Bischoff, who is also a Mathematics Department instructor, and Chris Scagnelli pointed-out that ASAP uses elements of applied learning, such as reflection, in its professional development activities for student tutors and Peer-Led Team Learning leaders.

Jen Drake (also a Writing Program instructor) highlighted reflection as one area in which ASAP can assist students because reflection is also a central component of effective applied learning.

Jeanine Rose and Mark Bischoff are interested in blending student-generated qualitative data with database-generated narratives and statistics into reports and presentations.

Susan Mayberry suggests assigning a tutor to a student group throughout a problem-based learning project, from unpacking the assignment, to research, organization and the final product.

Teri Vigers would like to develop tutoring methods that are specific to applied learning pedagogies, and Chris Scagnelli is interested in exploring assessment rubrics.

Merson will investigate resources to help ASAP excel in this challenge as the office determines how best to support students in applied learning courses, such as service-learning.

At SUNY Cortland, service-learning has been growing for many years, at both the individual faculty level, and at the departmental level. Last year, for example, Physical Education raised the number of its courses with the service-learning (SLRN) attribute to 16.

Another form of experiential learning, problem-based learning (PBL), has experienced dramatic growth over this past year. This is due, in part, to a series of spring 2015 workshops that Beth Klein and Valerie Widdall (Childhood/Early Childhood Education) organized. Thirty-two faculty members participated in those workshops, and many have launched PBL assignments.

Bruce Mattingly (Dean, Arts and Sciences) describes a four-campus “Common-Problem Pedagogy” project that began last spring. In it, teams of SUNY Cortland faculty are partnering with community agencies to design, implement, and assess multi-disciplinary PBL projects.

Mattingly emphasized the project’s unique contribution to the evolution of applied learning, saying, “Faculty in STEM, teacher education and professional fields are partnering with their colleagues in the arts and humanities to create innovative ways of engaging students in real-life problem-solving experiences.”

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("ASAP" continued from page 3)

The growth in just one form of applied learning, service-learning (SL), illustrates the need for student help in this area: Between the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years, the number of

- SL faculty grew from 60 to 72
- SL students grew from 1,641 to 2,506
- SL courses grew from 64 to 67 (with at least three more under development).

ASAP Director Merson emphasizes ASAP's "harmony" with applied learning: "We both focus on learning how to learn."

(Economic Inequality continued from page 1)

in Cortland County valued at \$62 million in market value income. There are 103 dairy farms and 127,000 acres of crop farms.

Birdsall lead a discussion regarding the impact of agriculture on the local economy, pointing out that it fosters many jobs, both on the farms and in related industries. She stated that every farm job generates 4.7 jobs in the community, citing examples: equipment dealers (there are three agricultural equipment dealerships in Cortland), insurance companies, banks, and manufacturing. Many local manufacturers (such as LoPrino Cheese, Chobani Yogurt, Crowley, and Purity Ice Cream) buy goods directly from local farms.

Birdsall also reminded the audience how much local farms enhance the quality of life in the area and that they are key to preserving the beautiful open and natural spaces we all enjoy.

Another Talk — "Cortland Hunger Coalition: Hunger, Food Insecurity and Poverty"

On September 29, Lindy Glennon, director of Cortland County Community Action Program and the Cortland Hunger Coalition brought in a team from the Southern Tier Food Bank to present information about hunger in our county. This interactive workshop began with a discussion of the



A team from the Southern Tier Food Bank led an interactive workshop on poverty and hunger on Sept. 29.

terms *hunger* and *poverty*, and the status of poverty in the local community. Members of the audience were shocked to learn that SNAP (food stamps) benefits for a family of four works out to just \$1.78 per person per meal. They also learned that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the children in our school district are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, although only half of those eligible actually participate in the program.

The group also conducted a role-playing poverty simulation to familiarize attendees with the struggles of food insecurity. Participants were given identities with family circumstances such as income, jobs and monthly expenses, and then were challenged to secure enough food for their families, using community resources such as social services, food pantries, and the local market. The subsequent discussion revealed the tough struggle even working families face in making ends meet.

The next Economic Inequality Initiative Lunchtime Talk is on November 24, Noon -1 pm, at 9 Main Street. Ethan Lewis, a LBGT staff member with Cortland Prevention Resources will present, "We Aren't All Healthy: A Look at Health Disparities in the LBGT Community." For more information on this or any other Economic Inequality Initiative activity, please contact Cyndi Guy at cynthia.guy@cortland.edu or 753-4271.