

Statewide Conference Focuses on Applied Learning

October 2014

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



Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



SUNY Cortland was well-represented at the recent SUNY conference on Applied Learning, held September 18 and 19 in Syracuse's OnCenter. Applied learning is an umbrella term that combines several SUNY programs, SUNY Works, SUNY Serves, and SUNY Discovers. Applied learning includes internships, work study assignments, clinical placements, service-learning, community service, civic engagement, research, entrepreneurship, field study, and experiences abroad.

Nine faculty and professional staff from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Institutional Advancement attended. Dr. Erik Bitterbaum presented on the conference's first plenary panel, "Why is Applied Learning Important?" Mary Schlarb, director of International Programs, participated on a panel in one of the breakout sessions, "International Opportunities."

Dr. Bitterbaum used the metaphor of the double helix to describe SUNY Cortland's applied learning programs, which combine the development of knowledge and skills with their application. He pointed out that we use an approach that is both centralized and decentralized to advance our programs. Then he described a number of the programs that we offer here at SUNY Cortland, including service-learning, study abroad, undergraduate research, internships, and field experiences. He discussed the ways that we combine applied learning approaches. For example, teacher candidates can complete their student teaching abroad. Finally, he mentioned some of the specific accomplishments of our applied learning programs, such as the many clients served by our speech and hearing clinics, the work that the Institute for Inclusive Recreation Resource Center has done



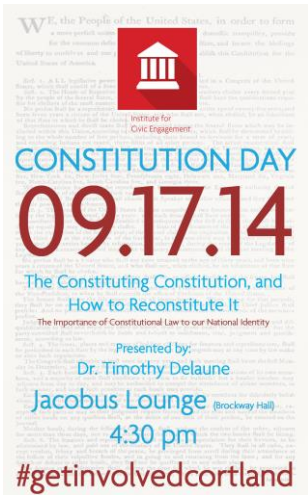
SUNY Chancellor, Nancy Zimpher

inventorying the accessibility of New York's parks and other public facilities, improvements that our students have helped in making to the Belize Zoo, and the Cortland-Homer Afterschool Mentorship Program (CHAMP) in Physical Education, among many others.

On the second day of the conference, participants heard from SUNY Chancellor Dr. Nancy Zimpher (via video connection) on the importance that she is placing on applied learning within the SUNY system. Chancellor Zimpher has been working with state business organizations to encourage their participation with SUNY in identifying internships and cooperative educational experiences for SUNY students across the state of New York. In response to a question from John Suarez, SUNY Cortland's service-learning coordinator, she pointed out that doing good economic development work is an important part of SUNY's being a good citizen of the state. She emphasized the priority that she is placing on having all SUNY campuses improve the lives of New Yorkers by improving the state's economic circumstances and opportunities.

Those of us who attended the conference came away thinking that Cortland's strong programs in applied learning should stand us in good stead as SUNY moves forward with its agenda in this area.

Tim Delaune Delivers Constitution Day Lecture



Dr. Tim Delaune, Assistant Professor of Political Science, delivered an animated, stimulating, and provocative talk, “Constituting the Constitution,” on Constitution Day, September 17th.

Dr. Delaune started off by saying that the Constitution is what literally “constitutes” us as a nation. Then, discussing the nature of the constitution, and referencing everything from pirates to the founders of our country, Dr. Delaune challenged traditional views of the U.S. Constitution as static and unchanging, and he argued for the need to reconstitute it periodically to keep up with the times. He questioned the wisdom of leaving change up to the courts, and suggested that we should use the amendment mechanisms in the Constitution instead. A lively question and answer period followed the talk.



Dr. Timothy Delaune delivering this year’s Constitution Day presentation.

National Voter Registration Day



Voter Registration Day volunteer Professor Ann Wiegard assists first year volunteer Samantha Stagles with registering to vote in front of Sperry.

Tuesday, September 23, was National Voter Registration Day. The campus’ chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), United University Professions (UUP), the

Institute for Civic Engagement, the League of Women Voters, the Cortland chapter of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association, Delta Chi fraternity, and many student volunteers (including service-learning students) joined forces to register students to vote. The groups involved staffed two tables – one in front of Corey Union and one in front of Sperry Center – from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Over 200 students were registered in just one day. Altogether, approximately 700 students have been registered to vote so far this year. Our goal is to register 2000 students before the October 10th deadline. One way you can register is with TurboVote at cortland.turbovote.org. You can register online or request that a registration form be mailed to you.

The Institute for Civic Engagement Assesses its Campus-Community Partnerships

For the past two summers, the Institute for Civic Engagement conducted interviews with area not-for-profits to find out how we can improve our community partnerships with regard to campus volunteering, service-learning, and internship programs. Eleven community partners have been interviewed so far, and we will continue the process to include other agencies in the community in the near future. Among the agencies we interviewed were CAPCO, YWCA, Loaves & Fishes, Cortland Agency on Aging, and Cortland Soil and Water Conservation. Most organizations report that the nature of their relationships with the college and its volunteers are excellent, and one even went as far as to say that their “program probably would not survive if it weren’t for the college volunteer mentors.”

All of the agency representatives interviewed reported that their relationship with the college met or exceeded their expectations and most described campus volunteers as excellent. However, several mentioned that we could improve on the readiness of our students for community service, and we

are exploring ways to prepare students better.

When asked about what they would like to see improved about the relationship between community agencies and the college, several themes emerged:

- Agencies would like to see the positive efforts and impact of the students highlighted more so students receive recognition for the good that they do in the community,
- Almost all agency representatives mentioned they would like more collaboration with the college and faculty on various projects, and
- Community partners would like to know more about what facilities and resources are available to them on campus.

Specific requests for assistance included a bulletin or newsletter to promote opportunities and events on campus; a directory of who to contact on campus regarding volunteer opportunities, suggestions, or to discuss a volunteer; and a request for better access to the campus, through improved parking or a bus option.

How to Find a Volunteer Opportunity

Students, and anyone else, seeking volunteer or community service opportunities in the Cortland community have a couple options in addition to the offices and resources on campus. The Institute for Civic Engagement encourages students to go to volunteercny.org to see what opportunities have been posted by local agencies. We are encouraging anyone – on the campus or in the community – to use this valuable service for posting opportunities and recruiting volunteers. This website is open to anyone, so you can use it to recruit on-campus or off-campus

volunteers (students, faculty, staff, or community members). If you need help with posting or retrieving volunteer opportunities, contact Cynthia Guy, the Institute for Civic Engagement Community Innovation Coordinator, for assistance. You can reach her at cynthia.guy@cortland.edu or by calling 753-4271. You can also stop by her office at Main Street SUNY Cortland, downtown at 9 Main Street.

In addition to the volunteercny.org

Contact Information

Richard Kendrick: Director.
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Volunteer Opportunity cont'd

website, Cyndi maintains a list of local volunteer opportunities available at agencies in the community. Cyndi will obtain some basic information from you, such as your areas of interest and your availability, and then she will match you up with an opportunity that best fits your interests and needs. If you find that an opportunity sounds like a good match, Cyndi will provide you with the appropriate contact information and will let the agency know you will be contacting them.

Right now there are opportunities to:

- teach area seniors about technology for the Cortland Agency on Aging;
- create a sustainability promotional campaign and marketing materials for the Cortland County Legislature;
- help organize and run the upcoming Cortland Halloween Parade with the Cortland Downtown Partnership;
- serve as an email buddy to an area high school student needing mentoring toward attending college;
- work with a local architect to help design a curiosity playground for the Sciencenter in Ithaca; and
- assist with special event planning for the Cortland Salvation Army.

And these are just a few, so contact Cyndi Guy if you are interested in connecting with just the right volunteer opportunity in the Cortland community.

CROP Walk on Oct. 26

By Catherine Faughnan

It is that time of the year again - the annual Crop Walk to overcome world hunger will take place on Sunday, October 26th; registration beginning at 1 p.m. and the walk beginning at 1:30 p.m. It starts at Grace and Holy Spirit Church, 13 Court Street, Cortland, NY.

It is a walkathon which raises significant funds (over \$25 million) each year for disaster relief both global and domestic, agricultural development, and emergency food aid. It is also the ORIGINAL fundraising walkathon, originating over 40 years ago. As always, 25% of the funds raised locally are returned to the community for local food pantries and feeding programs.

For the past two years, SUNY Cortland students have made up over 75% of the walkers, and they have also worked to raise 1/3-1/2 of the over \$11,000 raised both years. All together in 2013, SUNY Cortland organizations raised \$4,842.18.

This year, we have a new goal- if we could challenge each student walker to raise just \$10 from 10 friends and family members, the campus could contribute upwards of \$30,000-\$40,000! Imagine the difference this could make .For more information, visit

www.crophungerwalk.org/cortlandny or email Catherine.faughnan@cortland.edu.

Upcoming Events

10/15 State of Poverty Simulation
2:50 – 5:00 in Corey Union’s Function room. (Space is limited, so please contact John Suarez at 753-4391)

10/15 “Population Control as Unsustainable Development”
4:30 p.m. in Moffett Room #2125

10/26 CROP Walk
1:30 p.m. at Grace and Holy Spirit Church (see details above)

11/18 & 11/19 End-of-Semester Reflections on Civic Engagement
4:30-6:30 in Corey Union’s Exhibition Lounge