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**Ecotourism: Career and Civic Competencies**

Students’ preparation for career and for citizenship are not mutually exclusive.

Associate Professor Kenneth Cohen demonstrated this idea when he brought twenty-three *Ecotourism* (REC 315) students to Hawaii in August 2022.

Over ten days, students learned Hawaii’s history and addressed some of mass tourism’s economic and cultural harms.

In doing so, they practiced career and civic skills identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and the Association of American College and Universities (AAC&U).

NACE does this in its *Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce* (2021).

AAC&U’s document is *A Crucible Moment: College Learning & Democracy’s Future. A National Call to Action.* (2012).

Among the skills they both promote are

- Solicit and use feedback from multiple cultural perspectives to make inclusive and equity-minded decisions (NACE).
- Integrate knowledge, skills, and examined values to inform actions taken in concert with other people (AAC&U).

Students participated in activities through which they learned about indigenous Hawaiian culture, including indigenous sustainability practices.

In this way, students experienced the sensations that often characterize applied learning –

- Students left their “comfort zones.” One student reflected, “[I was] scared to learn about a culture and practices that are so different from my own. I was scared to break away from my home and grounding beliefs to learn about a new place.”
- Students focused their career plans. One noted, “I decided that conservation work is what I want to concentrate on in my major.” Another wrote, “I was able to put into words why I want to be a teacher and the way I want to encourage my students to learn, think, and feel deeply.”
- Students committed themselves to being civically engaged. “I learned that I am stronger and smarter than I think. I learned that I can make a difference.”

Cohen notes that “students recognize that they aren’t there to ‘save’ anyone; rather, they are there to humbly learn and make a contribution that is net positive.”

To learn more about Ecotourism, attend October 5 Sandwich Seminar at 12:30 in Old Main #220 with Kenneth Cohen and Hugh Anderson, Senior Study Abroad Advisor, International Programs Office.

## Cortland Votes: An Invitation

*Cortland Votes* is the project that the Institute for Civic Engagement and people on- and off-campus are conducting to bring SUNY Cortland students' voter registration and turnout rates to 90% by November 2024.

It includes voter registration, voter turnout, and voter education activities.

Our off-campus partners include local elected officials and not-for-profit agencies, as well as New York State and regional organizations such as the SUNY Applied Learning Community of Practice and (among other SUNY campus offices) SUNY Plattsburgh's *Institute for Ethics in Public Life*.

Let [John Suarez](#) know if you (faculty, staff, community partner, student) would like to

- Conduct a voter education event
- Train to be a deliberative dialogue moderator
- Present (or lead a joint panel discussion) in an *Institute for Ethics in Public Life* (SUNY Plattsburgh) Zoom event.

## SUNY Cortland Cupboard

The SUNY Cortland Cupboard's *Filled Fridge Fridays* continue on Oct 7, Nov 4, & Dec 2.

The Cupboard occasionally offers

- Vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, and squash, compliments of the Seven Valleys Health Coalition's *Food Rescue Program*
- Hair products for different textures and types of hair.

If you need more assistance, check if you are eligible for [SNAP](#) – the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

SNAP is one of the programs that President Joe Biden wants to increase as a way of ending hunger and improving nutrition in the US by 2030. To reduce diet-related conditions such as diabetes, he also wants to increase Americans' physical activity.

The hunger conference before this was hosted in 1969 by President Nixon. It led to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and the expansion of the Food Stamp Program.

Biden's plan, announced on September 27 at his *White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health*, calls for more free school meals, new labels on food, and medically-tailored meals for people on Medicare.

A PBS [interview](#) with New Jersey Senator Corey Booker provides additional information.

The Cupboard is in the Interfaith Center  
7 Calvert Street  
kiddy-corner across from Dowd Fine Arts.  
Monday – Friday, 10am to 4pm  
[Cortland.edu/cupboard](http://Cortland.edu/cupboard)

## Calling Republican and Conservative Students!

### Republican and Conservative Students – *You are not alone!*

Partner with other Republican and Conservative SUNY Cortland students to re-energize SUNY Cortland's College Republicans SGA Club.

Issues ranging from the economy to states' rights to immigration to education policy to personal freedom and to freedom of speech deserve a variety of perspectives – including conservative ones.

The move has already started: Student interest is alive.

First interest meeting is Tuesday, October 4, at 2:45 in Moffett Center #102.

Email [John Suarez](#) to learn how you can get Republican and Conservative ideas back into chats, panel discussions, debates, and deliberative dialogues.

## Coming Events

Oct. 5. *Sustainable Travel Domestically and Abroad*. Sandwich Seminar. 12:30-1:30, Old Main #220. Hugh Anderson and Kenneth Cohen

Oct. 5. *Organizational culture & ethics from an entrepreneurial perspective*. Institute for Ethics in Public Life, SUNY Plattsburgh. 12:00-1:00. [Zoom](#).

Oct. 6. Community Roundtable. *Getting Cortland County more democratically engaged*. 8am-9am. Park Center's Hall of Fame Room. Mayor Scott Steve, Legislator Cathy Bischoff, LWV/CC President Sheila Cohen, and John Suarez.

Oct. 12. *Free Speech and the First Amendment*. Brooks Museum event. 4:30-5:30 in Moffett Center #115. Nina Brown, Syracuse University.

Oct. 28. *Campus Structures for Applied Learning, a Roundtable Discussion*. 1pm-2pm. SUNY Applied Learning Community of Practice.

Nov. 2. *Back to Work: How should we rebuild our economy?* 6pm-8pm, Old Main #220. Deliberative Dialogue focused on Cortland-sized communities. Armani Ortiz (Business Economics), Action Team intern.

Nov. 9. *Policing: What should we do to ensure fair treatment and keep neighborhoods safe for everyone, including police?* 6pm-8pm, Old Main #220. Deliberative Dialogue focused on Cortland-sized communities. Sean Campbell (Sociology/ Criminology), Action Team intern.



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## Constitution Day 2022

SUNY Cortland celebrated Constitution Day on September 20 with a three-part event: *Your Vote and the First Amendment*.

Syracuse University's Senior Vice President & Chief Student Experience Officer, Allen Groves, delivered the keynote, exploring the role of money in election campaigns.

Groves distinguished between American and European concepts of free speech, with Americans typically calling for a lack of government intervention.

He described the effects of the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which lets organizations and wealthy individuals give unlimited amounts of money – often undisclosed – to Super Political Action Committees ("Super PACS"), which send messages that support particular policy proposals and political candidates, though they are prohibited from working with candidate campaigns directly on messaging.

In effect, wealthy people and organizations have more freedom of speech than other people and groups.

Groves linked freedom of speech to fake news, starting by quoting Thomas Jefferson, who wrote that, "whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."

With well-informed citizens in mind, Groves emphasized that "the Internet/ social media have the potential to elevate the speech of average citizens, but that potential requires us to 'do the homework' and fact-check what we see before 'retweeting' or 'liking' a message. Individual citizens must educate

themselves on issues and be informed voters." After Groves answered questions, the event moved to a discussion with elected officials in Plattsburgh and Nassau County, who described the role of money and influence in their campaigns.

The third part of the event was a deliberative dialogue in which participants, in small groups, compared three options for addressing the influence of hidden money in elections.

Constitution Day, September 17, was on a Saturday this year, so organizers held it on National Voter Registration Day.

The event ended with voter registration activities, including those conducted by NYPIRG at SUNY Cortland.

NYPIRG's Project Coordinator at SUNY Cortland, Marissa Pappas, said that, so far this semester, she and her interns and volunteers have registered over 600 SUNY Cortland students.

SUNY Cortland faculty and staff collaborated with colleagues at SUNY Nassau (which hosted the Zoom meeting), SUNY Plattsburgh, and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education' Director of Civic Learning and Civic Engagement.

Students from SUNY Old Westbury and Alfred State also participated in this freedom of speech-themed event.

Freedom of speech is the theme for the October 12 Brooks Museum event, *Free Speech and the First Amendment*, by Nina Brown, Assistant Professor, Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. The event will begin at 4:30 in Moffett Center #115.

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