

October 2018
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President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member With Distinction



Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



National Voter Registration Day Another 167 Students Registered ...and Counting

On Tuesday, September 25, 28 SUNY Cortland students registered 167 other students to vote.

Students across political perspectives partnered for this project's success.

Those students were members of the Political Science Association, College Republicans, Young Democrats, NYPIRG, HLH 203 (*Community Health*), AED 315 (*Foundations of Secondary Social Studies*), and the Institute's *Action Team*.

Julianna Santamaria, an Action Team intern, credited SUNY Student Assembly Advocacy point-person Alyson Tuffillaro with helping the clubs and organizations work together to "table" around campus from 10am to 5pm.

NYPIRG Project Coordinator Ethan Gormley was instrumental in recruiting students and in instructing them on principles of apolitical communication.

Gormley also distributed registration forms to students at the four tabling locations; he then collected the completed forms and delivered them to the Cortland County Board of Elections.



Santamaria said that Gormley's biggest take-away from this year's event is that students made Voter Registration day fun, saying, "that's when it takes off and becomes a holiday!"

The League of Women Voters, Cortland County, registered people to vote at the YWCA and at Bru coffee house.

Ryann Hudson, an Action Team intern and a member of the League's Board of Directors, partnered with Board member Sheila Cohen to distribute table-top banners and promotional *Vote on November 6th!* pens.

Cohen secured a \$700 grant to help pay for those items. The League and the Institute also contributed.

Nationally, this effort is led by organizations such as *All-In-to-Vote* and *National Voter Registration Day*, which reports that more than 800,000 people registered to vote on that day.

NYPIRG Project Coordinator Gormley reports that, since August 27, 1,270 SUNY Cortland students have registered to vote.

Students are continuing this effort – *Cortland Votes* – with more events.



Constitution Day: Freedom of Speech on the Public College Campus



Students, faculty, staff, and community members participating in the Deliberative Dialogue.

Coming Events.

Free and open to the public

Tuesday, October 23,
Temporary Homelessness in Cortlandville Deliberative Dialogue. 4:30 – 6:30 pm, Old Main’s Colloquium (#0220). To register, email john.suarez@cortland.edu.

October 25 *Extreme Weather Events in Cortland County* Deliberative Dialogue. 4:30 – 6:30 pm, Park Center’s Hall of Fame Room. To register, email john.suarez@cortland.edu

Sunday, October 28
Trick or Eat food donations for local food banks. Contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator, Ethan Gormley, at egormley@nypirg.org.

November 14. *Sandwich Seminar: I Learned by Doing*, conducted by the Institute for Civic Engagement’s *Action Team* Interns. 12:30-1:30, Jacobus Lounge.

SUNY Cortland students from a variety of political perspectives have been working to nurture the free and civil expression of ideas on campus.

One way in which they have done so is by designing, promoting, and conducting the *Freedom of Speech on the Public College Campus* deliberative dialogue for our September 17 Constitution Day event.

Political Science Professor Timothy Delaune set the stage for that dialogue by delineating differences in freedom of speech requirements between private and public colleges.



Professor Delaune addresses the Dialogue’s participants

He noted that “public institutions are the government, so they must follow the constraints of the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause, as applied to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment’s *Due Process* Clause.”

He then identified free speech considerations for students and faculty

(“classroom speech”) and for invited speakers and uninvited speakers.

“The bottom line,” Delaune said, “is that public institutions must allow an uninvited or unwanted speaker on campus – although the colleges can impose restrictions on time, space, and manner of message-delivery.

“They cannot, however, restrict viewpoint or content.”

With Delaune’s information in mind, the 36 participants split into groups of nine to decide on a way of promoting freedom of speech at SUNY Cortland.

The tables’ facilitators were Michael McDonough, Connor Vick, Ryann Hudson (who teamed with Vick), Austen Johnson, and Alison King (President, League of Women Voters of Cortland County).

To focus discussion, participants referred to the information “placemat” (handout) that was designed by three of the Institute’s Action Team interns: Alexandra Galus, Austen Johnson, and Ryann Hudson.

The placement described three options:

1. Use technology to broadcast the speech.
2. Require controversial presenters to speak as part of a panel.
3. Ask the NYS Legislature to outlaw suppression of free speech and to penalize though who do suppress free speech.

Continued page 4

DO GOOD;
LEARN WELL.

(Voter Registration, continued from page 1.)

Students' poly-political partnership continues with state-wide resources.

Because the percentage of 18- to 29-year-olds who voted in the 2016 election was the lowest of any age group, the SUNY Student Assembly is leading a system-wide *Student Voter Registration Campaign*.

SUNY Student Assembly (SUNYSA) President and Trustee Michael Braun (2018) is leading the #SUNYVotes effort.

Braun was SUNY Cortland's SGA President in 2017-2018.

To help ensure this effort's success, SUNYSA is partnering with BallotReady (<https://www.ballotready.org/ny/>), which offers at least two resources.

Braun explains that BallotReady offers ballot guides that "allow voters to compare candidates on their backgrounds, experiences, and their stances on a variety of issues."



A second resource is the organization's "Make a Plan to Vote Tool," which provides students with "information on their polling location and the date of the election.

"BallotReady will automatically send text and email reminders to students based on this scheduled time to ensure that they get to the polls on Election Day."

Students can personalize their own ballots at <https://sunnyvotes.civicengine.com/>.

SUNYSA and SUNY Cortland are using three kinds of activities to get students to the polls: Voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote.



SUNY Cortland's voter-education events include deliberative dialogues. This semester's first dialogue was the September 17 Constitution Day event. A review of that event is on page 2.

Upcoming voter-education events include two deliberative dialogues: The October 23 event addresses Temporary Homelessness in Cortlandville; the October 25 event tackles Extreme Weather Events in Cortland County.

Additional details are in the *Coming Events* section on page 2.

Transfer Network Team

by Kristie Roth

This year, SUNY Cortland introduced a new way to help transfer students adjust to their new environment: The *Transfer Network Team*.

The transfer network team, led by Emily Quinlan, is made up of seven young women transfer students who are at different stages in their college career.

Because these individuals experienced transferring first-hand, they are a good resource for knowing how this process can be made easier.

This network team is here to help transfers connect to campus resources, offer a social support system, encourage involvement in campus activities, and more.

The Transfer Network Team takes part in leadership and team building workshops to ensure that they are helping other students in the best way possible.

(Dialogues, continued from page 2.)

After exploring each of these options, the tables' participants brainstormed additional options.

During the *plan-of-action* portion of the event, participants unanimously voted for the option that requires a controversial speaker to speak as part of a panel.

Some of the participants have already been inviting controversial speakers to serve on panels, through which a wide variety of perspectives will be raised.

Participants were honored that Fan Zhang, a visiting professor of law at the School of International Trade and Business in Guangzhou College of Commerce in Guangzhou, China, joined the dialogue.

Also participating in these discussions were UPD Lt. Frank Cullen and Professors Christopher Badurek (Geography), Laura Dunbar (English), Eric Edlund (Physics), Mary McGuire (Political Science), and Brian Williams (Political Science).

Each participant received a League of Women Voters *2018 Voters Guide*, and voter registration forms were available. One student registered to vote.

This dialogue was another voter education event in the Action Team's *Cortland Votes* project.

Cupboard Update

by Julianna Santamaria

On September 13, The SUNY Cortland Cupboard's Board of Directors conducted a Sandwich Seminar.

The Cupboard, located in the Interfaith Center (7 Calvert Ave), is completing its first year of supporting SUNY Cortland students struggling with food insecurity.

The Board's chair, Lauren Scagnelli, said the Board is working to extend hours by creating a way for students to have card access through their student ID's.

The Board plans to have volunteers available during the Cupboard's open hours, but hopes that card access will allow students into the Cupboard even when volunteers are not there.

Last year, 28 students visited the Cupboard over 64 visits. The Board is planning to increase traffic this semester by promoting the Cupboard through a greater variety of methods.

With that in mind, Saynyenoh Warner, the Cupboard's Student Coordinator, said that "Giving is not all. By getting the word out there you may be able to help a student who is in need."

The Cupboard's hours: Monday-Friday, noon to 1:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 3:00 to 4:00.

NYPIRG Kick-Off Celebration

by Matt Dorazio

On September 19, NYPIRG held its kickoff celebration. Ethan Gormley, NYPIRG's Project Coordinator, discussed this year's goals and he introduced NYPIRG interns.

On October 7, some of those interns partnered with the SGA club, Men of Value

and Excellence (M.O.V.E). A team of thirteen students from both organizations cleaned-up Water Street.

NYPIRG's next event is the October 28 *Trick or Eat* food donation drive for local food pantries.



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