

SUNY Cortland

Institute for Civic Engagement News

February 2018

Volume 11, Issue 5

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



Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



New Interns Boost Capacity of Institute for Civic Engagement



Meet ICE's new team of dedicated interns (left to right) – Shannon Hanmer, Kayleen Driscoll, Nicole Powers, Mariah Asencio, Austen Johnson, Ryann Hudson, Kaley Decker, and Patrick Schetter. Absent: Lindsay Dieumegard

The Institute for Civic Engagement is getting a capacity-building boost with the addition of nine interns, each of whom will focus on one of four projects. Interns will collaborate in ways that develop professional skills while advancing SUNY Cortland's priorities.

One project is the new campus food bank: The SUNY Cortland Cupboard. Kaley Decker, a senior majoring in Business Economics, is the Student Coordinator on the Cupboard's Board of Directors. She ensures that the Cupboard is stocked, organized, accommodating, and publicized.

Decker acquired experience in managing budgets as treasurer of her sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha. She earned additional organizational experience when she served as a Student Activity Board representative with the Student Government Association.

A second initiative is the Regional Voter Education Project. Austen Johnson, Ryann Hudson, and Patrick Schetter will co-develop this three-campus plan.

Johnson is a junior majoring in Political Science; he served as president of his residence hall during spring 2017.

Hudson is a sophomore majoring in both Political Science and Communications Studies.

Schetter, a senior majoring in Sociology with a minor in History, has worked as a counselor for children at baseball camp for many years; he currently serves as the SUNY Cortland Baseball Team's captain.

Schetter, Hudson, and Johnson will help the project meet its goal of helping people become more engaged in civic decision-making by developing skills for civil and informed discussion.

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Nominate an individual or group to receive a
Leadership in Civic Engagement Award

Details and a link to nomination form on page 2

New Interns Boost Capacity of ICE continued from page 1
Coming Events
February 9
SafeZone Training

1:30 – 4:30 pm

Corey Union Fireplace Lounge

Contact Multicultural Life

and Diversity Office at

multicultural.life@cortland.edu

February 19-24
Body Appreciation Week Launch
Monday, Feb 19

9 am – 10 pm

Corey Union Function Room

Contact Lauren Herman at

lauren.herman@cortland.edu

Wednesday, February 28: Higher Education Day.

Meet with elected officials in Albany to support the funding of higher education.

Contact NYPIRG Project Coordinator, Elisabeth Lareau, by 02/23/18 at elareau@nypirg.org

March 21
State of Poverty Simulation

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.,

Corey Union Function Room

Contact John Suarez at

john.suarez@cortland.edu

To help publicize these and other projects, Shannon Hanmer and Nicole Powers have teamed-up to serve as Publicity interns. Both interns will compose articles for the Institute's newsletter, and they will interview people for the "Humans of Engagement" series. They will also photograph students engaged in applied learning projects.

Hanmer is a senior majoring in Professional Writing and Art. She works for ASC's Bistro; she previously worked as an administrative assistant in an environmental firm.

Powers is also a senior majoring in Professional Writing; she is minoring in Sociology, and has studied abroad in Fulda, Germany.

Mariah Asencio, Lindsay Dieumegard, and Kayleen Driscoll will develop and conduct presentations through the fourth project: Promotions. They will promote applied learning at Open Houses, SGA club meetings, academic class meetings, and at other campus and community events.

They will also develop and conduct in-class participatory activities, such as the socio-economic docudrama, which is a way of building awareness of, and empathy for, people in different life situations.

Asencio is a senior majoring in Communications with a minor in management. She has developed extensive skills in recruiting volunteers, coordinating events, and managing public relations and social media as a member of Delta Phi Epsilon.

Dieumgard is a junior with a double major in Business Economics and Communications, with a concentration in Human Resources. She recently shadowed staff of the Development and Fundraising Department at Good Samaritan Hospital, where she learned about office management and fund raising.

Driscoll received her Associate's Degree from Onondaga Community College in 2015 and is currently a senior majoring in Communications. She has worked in retail and has a good deal of experience in interpersonal communications. She has also worked as a child care assistant at the Syracuse YMCA.

The Institute's director, John Suarez, described the Institute's approach to the Action Team's interns: "(Community Outreach Coordinator) Cyndi Guy and I

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Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards

Honoring Outstanding Volunteers in our Community

Since 2005, the Institute for Civic Engagement has presented *Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards* to students, staff, faculty, and community members.

These awards recognize the initiative, leadership, and length of service of people who have volunteered to improve Cortland County's quality of life.

Awardees will be recognized at a reception in Jacobus Lounge of Brockway Hall at 4:30 pm on April 26.



For more information, and to nominate yourself or an individual or group (either on campus or in the community), use the link below.

<https://goo.gl/owsZua>

CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT

**YOUR VOTE
IS
YOUR VOICE**

Regional Voter Education Project

Promoting Education on Issues and on Civil Discourse

*By Shannon Hanmer
and Nicole Powers*

Are you looking to take action to change political and community issues? Do you feel like you don't have a voice in your political community? Curious if your community can respectfully come together despite opposing beliefs? The Regional Voter Education Project (RVEP) is designed to create campus and community-wide cultures of civil and informed civic decision-making.

It is also poised to increase the number and percentage of people who register to – and actually do – vote. The goal is to increase students' feeling of political engagement and empowerment.

To reach this goal, the RVEP has established a solid objective: to supply the information and tools that enable people to assess political information and discuss potentially contentious topics even if they have opposing viewpoints. The program will create an environment where people with dissimilar political opinions can respectfully acknowledge and understand one another.

The RVEP will provide a platform to transform the *desire* for change into *action*.

How can we decide on issues? How can we generate good information? How can we develop a more understanding and respectful political community on and off campus? What can we do to motivate active civic engagement? These are the types of questions that the Regional Voter Education Project aspires to answer.

The Regional Voter Education Project will feature educational and participatory events during the semester. One such event will help

people with opposing viewpoints develop mutual respect by helping them find common ground.

Another kind of event, the Deliberative Dialog, uses trained facilitators to help participants identify common values as they discuss controversial issues.

In addition, the project will feature speakers, panel discussions and debates where participants can learn about important issues to consider in the November 2018 midterm elections.

There will be discussions on how the state and national legislatures work, as well as the steps you can take to be more politically-engaged. Another goal of the project is to convince students that each and every vote counts!

The group behind the Regional Voter Education Project stretches from SUNY Cortland to TC3 and Cornell University.

Members include interns Ryann Hudson, Austen Johnson, and Pat Schetter; Daniel Chamberlain (Cornell U. student), Cynthia Guy (Community Outreach Coordinator, Institute for Civic Engagement), Christopher Kuretich (Assistant VP for Student Affairs), Elisabeth Lareau (NYPIRG Program Coordinator), Ezra Lencer (NY23Votes), Ayesha Mazhar (Biological Sciences major and Fulbright Scholar), TC3 Professors Kerry Curran (English) and Kelly Wessell (Chair, Environmental Studies Program), and John Suarez (director, Institute for Civic Engagement).

Involvement with the RVEP can strengthen your community voice. Participants will be recruited beginning in February. If you are interested in attending an event, contact Austen Johnson at

austen.johnson@cortland.edu.

Contact Information

John Suarez, Director
 (607) 753-4391 or
John.Suarez@cortland.edu

Cynthia Guy, Community Outreach Coordinator
 (607) 753-2481 or
Cynthia.Guy@cortland.edu

Shannon Hanmer, Reporter.
Shannon.hanmer@cortland.edu

Nicole Powers, Reporter.
Nicole.powers@cortland.edu

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Action Team Intern Kaley Decker describes the campus food pantry at Wellness Wednesday event

Wellness Wednesday Features the Cortland Cupboard

Out of 301 students surveyed last semester, 38% went to bed hungry while attending college due to lack of money. To help, the SUNY Cortland Cupboard provides food-insecure SUNY Cortland students with non-perishable goods and other daily essentials.

During the January 31 Wellness Wednesday event at the Cupboard (located in the Interfaith Center), 30 students, Ellen Howard Burton, and President Bitterbaum learned about, and discussed, the Cupboard.

Cortland Cupboard Hours
Monday - Friday 12-1
Thursday 3-4

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provide the interns with the resources they need, then we get out of their way so that they can create and collaborate on successful projects."

In this semester's first two weeks, the Action Team interns have already collaborated on each other's projects and on others, such as the Compass mentoring program, the *Cortland Connects* program, and Cru's *Hurricane Harvey Relief Project*.

Visit the Internship section of the ICE website to read about updates to ongoing work and projects, at:

<http://www2.cortland.edu/civic-engagement/>

Invitation to *The State of Poverty Simulation*

Frustrating! Life-changing.

Experience the emotion and insight that people gain at *The State of Poverty Simulation*.

You, your students, or your staff try to survive low-income life in this participatory event conducted by the Cortland County Community Action Program staff.

Wednesday, March 21. 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

SUNY Cortland's Function Room.

Contact John Suarez at
john.suarez@cortland.edu.

Not fair! *Eye-opening.*"

CHILL OUT DOWNTOWN!!



Chillabration

Saturday, February 17, noon - 4:00pm
 Online ticket sales end noon, Feb. 16

In-person sales start February 12 at *Cortland Beer Company & The Local Food Market & Cafe*. There are 26 samples to look forward to tasting!