

December 2022

Volume 16, No. 4

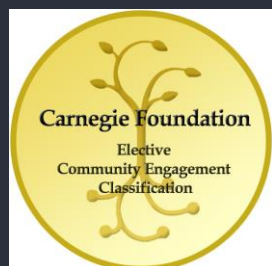
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Initiative and Collaboration In Action

Since fall 2015, 65 students have served as interns with the Institute for Civic Engagement, 49 of whom have been Action Team interns.

The Team began in spring 2018, with a focus on initiative, collaboration, and creativity. Interns design, promote, and run campus- or community-based projects.

With guidance from Nan Pasquarello (Director, Career Services), interns in the past few semesters have identified ways in which their internships have helped them sharpen skills identified in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) document, *Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce*.

The Institute for Civic Engagement's three fall 2022 Action Team interns reviewed that document before, during, and after conducting their respective projects.

Doing so has helped them articulate their experience-based learning.



Action Team intern and Newman Civic Fellow, Nia Vega

One intern, **Nia Vega**, is SUNY Cortland's 2022-2023 Campus Compact *Newman Civic Fellow*. She participated in a Newman Convening Fellows Conference in Boston, where she expanded her professional network and sharpened leadership skills.

[Please nominate a student for our 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellowship by following the instructions in the article on page 5.]

SUNY Cortland named an ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting



In November, The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge recognized SUNY Cortland as an *ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting*.

ALL IN is a national nonpartisan initiative of Civic Nation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

ALL IN collaborates with over 960 higher education institutions to engage college students in democratic engagement activities during *and between* elections.

The organization works to make college-level civic readiness education “an accepted and expected part of the culture and curriculum so that students graduate with the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and values needed to be an informed and active citizen.”

The SUNY Cortland chapter of NYPIRG deserves a good deal of credit for this recognition. Its volunteers, interns, and Project Coordinator – Marissa Pappas – have tirelessly conducted voter-registration, -education, and -turnout events.

In this work, NYPIRG has collaborated with organizations on- and off-campus, including other SGA clubs, the Institute for Civic Engagement, and the League of Women Voters/Cortland County.

Pappas is in her third year in this role, and collaborates routinely with the Institute for Civic Engagement.

An [article](#) in the November 22 issue of SUNY Cortland's *Bulletin* provides additional detail.

Continued on page 9

Empowering Strategic, Academic, and Innovative Leadership: SUNY SAIL Academy Update

Emily Dejoy (Pre Law) and Olivia Grover (Health Care Administration) will soon complete the [SUNY SAIL](#) Institute's Leadership Program. In mid-program updates and during a November interview, both seniors recommended the program for its guidance and inspiration. The program emphasizes the role of reflection as part of a personal and professional growth "mind-set" – always working to be a more effective leader. SAIL teaches that reflecting on experiences can help develop self-awareness, a key to effective leadership.

Dejoy explained that "being more self-aware builds self-confidence – that's important for a leader because it helps you accept and use constructive criticism so that you're continually improving."

Constructive criticism relates to "two of the lessons that really impressed me, Dejoy added, "those were the ones on setting realistic goals and personal accountability."

For Grover, a major suggestion was, "If you're not confident, 'Fake It 'Til You Make It!' People want leaders who come across as confident."

Grover also said that a person is more likely to be confident if they know their facts because that builds a professional image, which builds confidence.

She also appreciated the lesson that "you cannot control people's reactions – you control *yourself*. This was something that really hit home for me because, as a people pleaser, I want everyone to be happy with the situation and I will sacrifice my happiness in order to please others."

Another component of leadership is knowing the perspectives and expectations of the people you work with. Grover expanded on this idea, noting that effective leaders know the appropriate approach to take with people, such as relaxed or formal.

Dejoy recounted a related SAIL lesson: Self-awareness and an understanding of other people's opinions can help a leader conduct successful crucial conversations – conversations in which people disagree on plans or actions.

"A self-confident leader knows their audience and respects their audience," she said. "That builds mutual trust, respect."



Emily Dejoy

Each student is making sure to remember and apply their SAIL lessons daily. Dejoy, for example, is building a sense of accountability by using planners and by making to-do lists.

Grover, in spite of her shyness, is pushing herself to speak up in classes, even if she thinks that she might be asking a foolish question. As the unintended president of the Health Care Management Student Association (SGA Club), she is taking the initiative to reach out to people (strangers to her) whom the club is inviting as guest speakers.

Both students highly recommend the SUNY SAIL Leadership Program. Dejoy referred to sessions' panelists who shared perspectives on leadership.

"There were a lot of things that I had not considered to be part of leadership," she said. "I realized also that other people also face adversities as they learn to be leaders."

Grover named benefits such as knowing how to recruit mentors, knowing ways of networking, and setting priorities, adding that "we learned a lot of tools that help us learn about ourselves as individuals and as leaders."



Olivia Grover

The four-month program's six two-hour online sessions provide lessons on topics such as

- Set Yourself Up for Success in College
- Know Yourself to Lead Others
- Communicating with Impact
- Managing people responsibly: Creating Cultures of Accountability for Yourself and Others
- Creating inclusive environments as a student leader

Many of these topics relate to competencies in the National Association of Colleges and Employers' *Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce*.

This competitive-entry program recently won the *Best Talent Development Program Award* from the Association for Talent Development, CNY Chapter.

Merissa McKasty, the SUNY SAIL Leadership Development Manager, said that the next SUNY SAIL application round will be announced by mid-March.

The Institute for Civic Engagement will promote that opportunity as soon as it is announced.

SUNY Cortland Cupboard Thanks and Update

A Special Thanks! to Emma Trulock

The SUNY Cortland Cupboard's Board of Directors gives a special *thanks* to Emma Trulock, who served on the Board as its spring and fall 2022 Student Coordinator.

During that time, Trulock led projects that increased the number of student visits to the Cupboard through messaging at the Cupboard's Instagram account, through the design and running of a student survey (fall 2022), and through her spring SHARE (Student Hunger Awareness Resource Event).



Trulock (left) conducting her SHARE event.

During SHARE, she used her skills as an educator to mentor a Community Health student volunteer (who later became an Action Team intern).

She also regularly conducted organized inventories, maintained the Cupboard's cleanliness, kept the shelves stocked, often on Saturdays.

During the second half of the fall 2022 semester, she opened the Cupboard for an extra hour on Friday evenings – after returning to Cortland from student-teaching,

Reflecting on connections between her role at the Cupboard, Trulock wrote that “working at the Cupboard and focusing on students experiencing food insecurity will allow me to view my future students holistically and understand that their lives outside of school may be affected by issues such as food insecurity.

“I plan to have a ‘cupboard’ of my own in my future classroom; I will have an area of the classroom filled with snacks and food for my students to use at any time, as I know students will be unable to focus and learn if their basic needs are not being met.”

Our colleague Emma Trulock graduates this semester. We wish her well, and we are happy for the students who will benefit from her skills, dedication, and care.

Cupboard updates

Donations and additional thanks

Another word of thanks goes to NYPIRG interns and volunteers, whose *Trick or Eat* project brought a donation of 923 items to the Cupboard.

Board member Carol Costell Corbin (Advisement) volunteers with the Seven Valleys Health Coalition. In that role, she worked with the Coalition's *Food Rescue* Program to donate fresh strawberries to the Cupboard, all of which were enjoyed by students.

The Board again thanks CAS for its generous Fridge-Filled Friday donations. Students ate and appreciated all of the November 4th event's 72 meals.

Swipe-Out Hunger

An [article](#) in the November 22 *Bulletin* describes a partnership between the SUNY Cortland Cupboard, CAS, and the nation-wide [Swipe Out Hunger](#) organization.

Cupboard Board members Lauren Scagnelli (Chair) and Carol Costell Corbin, along with CAS Marketing Manager, Rebecca Sexton, partnered with Swipe Out Hunger to launch the program at SUNY Cortland.

As the Bulletin article notes, “Those interested in receiving donated meal passes should fill out the meal request form at www2.cortland.edu/cupboard or email Cortland.cupboard@cortland.edu.

“Students do not need to have a SUNY Cortland meal plan to receive donated passes, and only SUNY Cortland Cupboard and Cortland Auxiliary Services will know their identity.”



Moffett Café Supervisor Jackie Morse with a *Swipe Out Hunger* donation card.

The Cupboard's Costell Corbin notes that this program protects the privacy of students who use

In Context: A December 3 *Cortland Standard* article describes the work of community agencies that have been creating a “network of resources” to address the county's 12% rate of food insecurity, which is 15% above the national average and is continuing to grow.

Usage

- in the Cupboard's first year (November 6, 2017-May 2018), 101 students visited the Cupboard
- in the first 10 ½ weeks of fall 2021, 150 students visited
- In those same 10 ½ weeks in 2022, 379 students visited.

Location and winter hours

The Cupboard is located at the Interfaith Center, caddy-corner across the street from Dowd Fine Arts Center.

Its winter hours are Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm. It will be closed December 26-27, 2022 and on Jan. 2, 2023.

Town Gown Steering Committee Update

The Town/Gown Committee continues to be productive. Two highlights of the committee's recent work are –

1. A Cortaca Debrief

Overall, the events surrounding Cortaca 2022 ran smoothly.

Through three meetings and over email, committee members planned details on topics ranging from event messaging to minimizing drunkenness to detailing the items and steps needed for an effective day-after Clean-Up.

Cortaca debrief topics during the most recent (November 21) meeting dealt with

- The effectiveness of the Emergency Operations Center, which was set-up downtown to centralize operations.
- The expense of \$14,000 in police overtime.
- The success of strategically-placed Port-A-Potties and extra garbage cans on the day of Cortaca, which helped maintain cleanliness and orderliness.
- Addressing some off-campus housing's offensive banners.
 - Mayor Scott Steve, Roy Everett (City of Cortland Code Enforcement Office), and others traveled the city to ask students to remove banners.
 - Committee members discussed the related concern of freedom of speech. Eric Mulvihill (Economic Development/Community Relations Specialist, Cortland County Business Development Corporation), suggested that “we can take a collaborative approach by rewarding positive, creative messages and professional-looking banners.”
- The Community Clean-Up on the day after Cortaca, Committee Chair Sandra Wohlleber (Associate Director, Campus Activities) said “we had a good turnout for a well-organized event. Many residents appreciated the work of students in their neighborhoods.”

2. A draft of the new *Introduction to Cortland County brochure*.

Gretchen Hazard, who is interning at the Mayor's office, designed the brochure.

- Mayor Scott Steve explained that “the brochure is intended for the community as a whole. It's intended to increase awareness and quality of life for all residents – including college students.”
- The mayor added that the brochure will be updated yearly.
- The brochure includes a “College Corner” section. SUNY Cortland's Director of Communications, Fred Pierce, suggested including “a link that would take readers to a list of campus events.”

At the committee's next meeting, the focus will be on coordinating the scheduling of events so that the city and college avoid cross-programming *and* so that they can support each other's events and collaborate on dual events.

The committee was created in June 2022, based on Mayor Scott Steve's interest in nurturing a more cohesive Cortland community through positive personal relationships.

The committee has already generated good will and effective collaborations through its monthly meetings.

In addition to Gretchen Hazard's participation, Armani Ortiz, an Action Team intern with the Institute for Civic Engagement, also participated in committee meetings. The Committee welcomes student participation as participating members and as guests on specific topics. For more information, contact [John Suarez](#).

Coming Event: BridgeCortland's *Bridge the Gap*

Bridging the Gap – Tuesday, December 6, 7pm-8pm in Park Center's *Hall of Fame* Room.

The SGA Club BRIDGECortland is hosting a *Bridging the Gap* event in which participants will break into groups. Each group will discuss/debate issues at a table for 15 minutes, then move to another table to debate a different issue.

Each table will have a moderator.

Participants will use guided questions as they share perspectives on topics such as abortion, Ukraine, guns, climate change, and dealing with traffic tickets in the city of Cortland.



Applications, Nominations, and Invitations

Students can apply for 2023-2024 Civic Engagement Scholarships

Students can apply for scholarships – including civic engagement scholarships – until February 1, 2023.

Please encourage appropriate students to apply at Financial Aid's scholarships [webpage](#).

Listed to the right are our civic engagement scholarships.

- BorgWarner Morse TEC Scholarship for Community Service Volunteers
- Cathleen McDermott Lavelle '91 Scholarship for Student Leaders
- James H. and Dorothy A. Sarvay Scholarship for Community Service
- Judson H. Taylor Community Service Scholarship
- Helen Downing Good Deed Scholarship. This scholarship involves an Institute for Civic Engagement *Action Team* internship.
- ImPACt Applied Learning Scholarship

Nominate a student to be SUNY Cortland's 2023-2024 Newman Civic Fellow

The Institute for Civic Engagement invites nominations for SUNY Cortland's sixth Campus Compact *Newman Civic Fellow*.

Before being nominated, previous Newman Fellows had already demonstrated collaborative action to address social injustice and political divisiveness.

Shaneya Simmelkjaer, for example, had already been elected Secretary and Vice President of SUNY Cortland's Black Student Union and of its Multicultural Dance Team.

She had also organized town-hall meetings to foster civil discourse on issues surrounding racial justice; these meetings led to institution-wide changes in dealing with such issues.

Through these actions, Simmelkjaer also showed promise of continuing her work, all of which made her an ideal Newman candidate. The photo below shows her registering students to vote.



[Campus Compact's Newman Civic Fellowship](#) "is a year-long program that recognizes and supports student public problem solvers at Campus Compact member institutions."

The program's materials explain that "throughout the fellowship year, Campus Compact provides students with opportunities to nurture their assets and help them develop strategies for social change—creating a network of connected and engaged student leaders who can support one another in making positive change."

Campus Compact offers its Fellows opportunities for in-person and virtual collaborative learning.

Those opportunities include

- Regular virtual events on skill development
- An annual in-person Convening of Fellows
- One-on-one leadership development with a local mentor. At SUNY Cortland, that mentor is the Institute for Civic Engagement's director because the Fellow serves as an Action Team intern.
- Connection to a nationwide network of student leaders, both during and after the fellowship year
- Public national recognition
- Special scholarship and career opportunities
- Opportunities to present or publish work through Campus Compact

To nominate a student for this fellowship,

- Submit a letter of recommendation to [John Suarez](#). That recommendation should detail ways in which your nominee has been
 - Engaging in collaborative action with others from campus or from surrounding communities to create long-term social change
 - Taking action to address issues of inequality and political polarization
 - Demonstrating the motivation and potential for effective long-term civic engagement
- Keep in mind that Campus Compact encourages nominators to give preference to students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Between January 23 and 27, SUNY Cortland's Newman Nominations Review Committee will meet to select our Fellowship nominee.

Contact [John Suarez](#) with questions or and/to volunteer for the Review Committee.

Descriptive portraits of our previous Newman Civic Fellows are on the next page.

Descriptive portraits of our previous Fellows:

Alexandra Cicero had been a NYPIRG volunteer before her 2017-2018 Fellowship, registering students to vote, conducting a “Know Your Candidates” voter-education game (“It was fun – and it was surprising how much there is to learn about candidates!”), lobbying in Albany for educational equity, and organizing activities to address hunger in the greater Cortland community.

As a Service-Learning Corps intern (2015-2017), she participated in the effort to create the Cupboard by (for example) helping to locate it, name it, and construct its initial budget. She also successfully presented the official request for funding to President Bitterbaum and his Cabinet. In her Fellowship, she was the Cupboard’s first Student Coordinator.

As Deputy Director of the SUNY Student Assembly’s Sustainability Committee, she encouraged SUNY Administration’s Executive Committee to form a task force on student’s food insecurity – which it did (2017).



“Alex” Cicero at the SUNY Cortland Cupboard

Ryann Hudson (2018-2019) organized and conducted voter-registration, and -turnout events. She worked with other interns to arrange for a panel discussion by local elected officials from both major political parties, two debates between College Republicans and Young Democrats, and deliberative dialogues on a variety of issues, including one on climate change that led to the running of a National Science Foundation-designed *Extreme Weather Simulation* – which she moderated.

Hudson was the first SUNY Cortland student to join the League of Women Voters/Cortland County, and the first elected to the organization’s Board of Directors.

She addressed the October 2018 American Association of University Women’s Leadership Conference, where she described her role as a community student leader.

Hudson reflected on her participation in the Newman *Convening of Fellows* Conference: “The most valuable moments for me came when I got to hear about other Fellows’ projects and stories. The projects that students are working on are so amazing that I felt prod to be with them in the Fellowship.”

Shaneya Simmelkjaer (2020-2021) hosted the “Youth and Opportunity” public deliberation, as well as the “Our Vote Counts, Too: Disenfranchisement and Voter Suppression in Historically Underrepresented Communities” panel discussion. She registered students to vote and trained to be a deliberative dialogue moderator.

Simmelkjaer said that, through her Action Team internship, “I gained a lot of passion and respect for social justice and advocacy.”

In 2021 she earned the *SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence*.



Patricia Winston (2021-2022) had been active in equity instructional and leadership roles at SUNY Cortland even before her Fellowship, serving as an *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* teaching assistant, as a Residence Hall Assistant, and as a member of the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office.

She also helped with the 2021 *Community Matters Fair* in the City of Cortland.

Nia Vega ('22-'23) was President of Students Active for Ending Rape and of Men of Value and Excellence before becoming a Newman Fellow.

She was also one of five students working with two Sociology professors on a research project that explored perceptions and experiences of race/racism on campus and in the community.

In spring 2023, she will serve as the SUNY Cortland Cupboard’s next Student Coordinator.



Nia Vega at the April 2022 Cerri Banks and Allen Groves *Freedom of Speech* presentation.

Nominate a person or group for a Leadership in Civic Engagement Award

The Institute for Civic Engagement invites you to nominate a person or group, on-campus or -off, for a *Leadership in Civic Engagement Award* in recognition of their exceptional contributions to our community.

2023 will be the Award's 18th year.

There is no age limit; high school students and retirees have earned this recognition.

The nomination form asks for your name and contact information and the same for your nominee and, ideally, for an individual who can provide additional support for your nominee.

The form also asks for a 150-word (maximum) detailed description of your nominee's civic engagement efforts.

Those details could provide information such as

- The number of people recruited and/or helped
- The number of items or dollars donated
- Other results, such as learning or health outcomes
- The length of time on which the person (or group) has been conducting their project(s)
- The project's significance to the community

Examples of awarded civic engagement activities include

- Creating a civic engagement organization or project
- Raising funds for specific causes
- Strengthening community cohesiveness
- Researching and using community safety ideas
- Volunteering with a government agency's grant-funded project to improve safety in low-income family's houses
- Addressing hunger or homelessness
- Collecting new or gently-used clothing and other items
- Improving a school's operational safety
- Conducting youth development projects
- Advocating for youth and social justice
- Providing international student experiences
- Longevity on one or more volunteer projects

With a rare exception, individuals and groups receive the Award only once.

The link for nominations will be sent by mid-December. Nominations are due by March 24, 2023.

Awardees will be announced on April 17, with the online celebration running during the week of April 24 through 28.

Invite students to develop civil discourse skills through Unify America

We know that—unlike the stereotype— people on college campuses do represent a wide variety of political perspectives. We also know that many individuals need guidance and practice in civil discourse.

To help address this concern, SUNY Cortland administration, faculty, and staff have provided programs for faculty/staff and for students. The pre-COVID *Crucial Conversations* Program, for example, was for faculty/staff. Deliberative dialogues are mainly for students.

Another student-oriented program is the [Unify America Challenge](#) *College Bowl*, in which two students from different colleges and with different backgrounds or political perspectives are paired in a guided online discussion about major issues.

The program is free.

The first step in inviting students to participate is for a faculty member to register by completing this short [form](#). (The information in the form helps Unify America tailor a College Bowl toolkit for that faculty member.)

Club advisors can also register and encourage the club's members to participate.

The second step is for students in that faculty member's class (or in the advisor's club) to register for a discussion.

Unify America hosts the College Bowl twice per year. The Spring 2023 College Bowl dates are

- February 21, 22, 23, 28 at 5pm and 8pm
- March 1, 2 at 5pm and 8pm

Conversations run between 60 and 90 minutes. Students in a class can be on at different times.

In the past year, 2200 students from nearly 80 universities strengthened their civil discourse skills by sharing perspectives in a guided one-on-one conversation.

Many students learned that people with opposing views are good people, and that they often agree on basic values and goals.

72% of students felt more hopeful about the country's future, 89% rated the experience an 8 or higher (on a 10-point scale), and 95% of professors plan to offer the program again.

For answers to questions about the College Bowl, please feel free to schedule a [meeting](#) with Abby Ferguson, Unify America's Director of Partnership.

Invitations:

Read the latest issue of the *Journal of the Scholarship of Engagement*

Submit a proposal for the April 2023 Student Success Summit

The Journal of the Scholarship of Engagement

The SUNY *Journal of the Scholarship of Engagement* (JoSE) recently published its [new issue](#). Its articles are

[A multidisciplinary collaboration between graphic design and physics classes responding to COVID-19](#). Szilvia Kadas and Eric M. Edlund, SUNY Cortland

[High-Impact Learning Experiences and Post-Graduate Outcomes: Exploring the Influence on Employment, Continuing Education and Salary](#).

Alison Handy Twang, SUNY Binghamton

[Staying Engaged while Staying Home?: Service-Learning, Writing, and COVID-19](#).

Christopher Iverson, SUNY Farmingdale

JoSE is an online, peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to research into, and to the practice of, all forms of applied learning as they relate to students' career- and citizenship-readiness.

Housed at SUNY Cortland but committed to developing SUNY-wide partnerships, JoSE accepts submissions from faculty, professional staff, and students.

In September and October, 53 people from institutions in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Ethiopia, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States downloaded articles from JoSE.

Contact co-managing editors, Dr. [Laura Dunbar](#) (English) and John Suarez



SAVE THE DATE for the Student Success Summit: *Meeting Students Where They Are* April 26-28, 2023

The 2023 Student Success Summit:
Meeting Students Where They Are

Attend &/or submit a presentation or an *Ignite Session* proposal.

SUNY campuses increasingly recognize the importance of being student-ready and culturally responsive, thus meeting students where they are in order to facilitate the co-creation and attainment of personal, academic, and professional goals.

This conference will focus on evidence and results-based practices that prioritize a diversity of student voices and experiences to ensure relevant and sustainable sources of equitable and timely assistance focusing on the whole student.

The Summit will be via Zoom and free for SUNY campuses; the *Call for Proposals* will be announced by mid-December.

Please bookmark the [event](#) website for information regarding registration, speakers, event details, and to view previous Summit session recordings.

Descriptions of the session formats:

- *Presentations*, 45 minutes in length. They could consist of an academic paper, campus initiative, and/or discussion of programs or services offered in reference to the chosen track. Q & A and handouts are strongly encouraged. Summit organizers prefer no more than 4 speakers.
- *Ignite Sessions* are 6 minutes and 40 seconds in length within a 45-minute concurrent session. Participants are invited to present a short compilation of 20 slides, each slide lasting only 20 seconds and set to rotate automatically.

An ignite presentation is meant to “ignite” or “spark” ideas in others. Get others excited and showcase your campus initiative, best practice, or passion for a new teaching tip, technique, or tool.

Summit organizers prefer one presenter per Ignite session.

Action Team, continued from page 1

Vega's primary internship responsibility was in the Counseling Office of the *Seven Valleys New Tech* (high school) *Academy*, where she designed and delivered lessons on topics such as mental health, getting back on track with classes, applying for college, and voting rights.

Regardless of the topic, she noted that "a lot of what I worked on had to do with trust – or a lack of it – between students and sometimes between students and older adults."

Vega, who is also President of the SGA club MOVE (Men Of Value and Excellence), worked to help her students develop a sense of self-worth and integrity.

One of Vega's Action Team colleagues, **Sean Campbell**, designed and, in November, moderated a deliberative dialogue that focused on small cities, allowing student participants to apply knowledge from the event to locations where they will live after graduation.

Campbell, a senior and Sociology major/Criminology minor who is working toward a career with the New York State Police Department, composed an issue guide focused on the City of Cortland.

The issue guide helped participants address this challenge: *How do We Build Mutual Trust between Police and Residents in a Small City?*

Deliberative dialogues are designed to help people with opposing opinions discuss issues in a civil and productive way. They include a large-group introduction, small-group deliberation, and a large-group debrief. A deliberation's issue guide gives participants background information and two or three options, with drawbacks, to address the challenge under discussion.



Sean Campbell providing background at his deliberative dialogue.

Campbell's issue guide grew from his Memorial Library database research and from interviews, including one with UPD Lieutenant Jason Welch.

One of his options was community policing; the other was the use of technology to prevent and solve crimes.

After considering these options, participants in his dialogue decided that a third course of action would be to organize moderated meetings between police and residents.

Six participants signed a page indicating their interest in developing this idea in the spring 2023 semester.

The Team's third member, **Armani Ortiz**, developed and moderated a deliberative dialogue entitled *Strengthening a Small City's Economy*.

Ortiz, a senior and a Business Economics major, interviewed Professor Timothy Phillips (Economics) and Eric Mulvihill, Economic Development/Community Relations Specialist at the Cortland County Business Development Corporation.



Ortiz (far right) during the small-group portion of his deliberative dialogue. Wilson is at the upper right, and Mulvihill is in the vest at left.

Ortiz and Mulvihill are members of the Town/Gown Committee. [Refer to the article on page 4 for an update on the Committee's work.]

Mulvihill said that, "as an economic development professional in the Cortland Community, I appreciate working alongside students at SUNY Cortland to develop innovative strategies to address the challenges we face."

He added that "engaging local students in the future of our community is key to keeping young people in Cortland County and advancing creative solutions to complex problems."

Mulvihill and Professor Benjamin Wilson (Chair, Economics) were two of nineteen people who participated in Ortiz's deliberative dialogue.

Like Campbell's issue guide, Ortiz's guide offered two options. One was for the City of Cortland to review its comprehensive land-use plan to determine areas of the city that could be rezoned for commercial and industrial uses.

The second solution was for the city to focus on resources for new workforce development programs, especially STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs, in ways that emphasize innovation.

Drawing on this dialogue, Wilson is developing a service-learning project for his spring 2023 *Urban Education* (ECO 393) course.

In that course, Wilson will highlight the strengths of Ortiz's issue guide options, using geographic information systems and learning-by-doing projects that support the goals and objectives set forth by the [Cortland Food Project](#), on which Wilson has been working since its inception in 2016.

If you are interested in this course, contact Professor [Wilson](#) to discuss enrollment – a limited number of seats remain.



Sponsors

The Office of the President

The Office of the Provost

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

The Cortland Fund

The Cortland College Foundation

The Division of Institutional Advancement

As a Team, this trio conducted an *I Learned by Doing* Sandwich Seminar on November 10 to describe their projects, challenges, solutions to those challenges, and their experience-based learning.

Vega said that “just working on all the details for the [Newman] Conference, coordinating with Eunice Miller (Staff Associate to the Provost) was an eye-opener. There’s a lot to coordinate on traveling to an event, never mind planning one.”

She continued, saying that “I learned lessons on leadership and teamwork – like using questions to help Sean and Armani sharpen up their dialogues. And to help [high school] students figure out solutions for themselves. I started turning into a leader who leads from behind.”

Campbell, reflecting on his experience, said that the deliberative dialogue moderator training helped his listening skills, “especially paraphrasing what other people say, for clarification.”

He added that “moderating this event, plus researching it and promoting it and coming up with the idea in the first place, it all made me think about something I’ve always wanted – being my own boss.

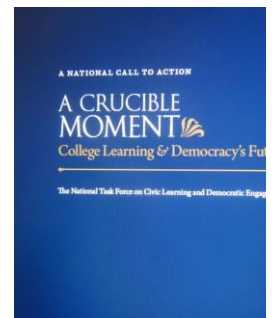
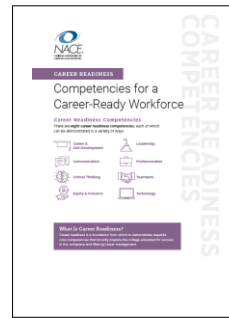
“But now after this experience, I never realized just how much work goes into being your own boss.”

Ortiz explained that this deliberative dialogue project “helped me learn how to critically think about information that I found in databases and that I learned from interviews.

“I also improved my communication skills, especially my confidence in speaking to groups of people, like at the Town/Gown Committee meetings and moderating the deliberative dialogue. I was able to stay composed and coherent.”

This spring, the 50th Action Team intern, Sarah Burbige (President, BridgeCortland) will conduct a survey to determine why some SUNY Cortland students do not register to vote, or – if registered – why they do not vote.

During some spring 2023 reflections, Burbige and Vega (who is continuing her internship into the spring) will identify personal internship-based skills from an Institute-developed table that lists overlapping skills named in the NACE document and in the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ *A Crucible Moment*.



That document describes skills that we need as participating citizens in a democratic republic. Many of the skills mirror those listed by NACE.

Burbige has already begun connecting her work as BridgeCortland president with her internship and with *Crucible Moment* skills: “At Bridge, we conduct events like *Bridge the Gap* [refer to page 5], where students share their opinions in non-confrontational ways. I hope that my research will help us figure out how we can get students to learn more about issues and to take action on them, regardless of whether they’re liberal or conservative.”

The Institute will provide announcements about, and updates on, Burbige’s survey.

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