

Concord University Voter Engagement Activities

Several Concord University student organizations have worked throughout the year to improve civic engagement generally and electoral participation specifically. *Pi Sigma Alpha*, the political science honor society, has partnered with both the College Republican and Young Democrats in cross-, bi-, and non-partisan efforts to improve engagement. Those efforts have included an April “Pizza and Politics” event, moderated by students, that featured presentations, questions, and answers from dozens of candidates for state and federal office; approximately one hundred students and community members attended this pre-primary forum. The organizations also partnered to promote Concord’s Constitution Day event (see attached).

Additionally, many members of all three aforementioned organizations are active in Concord’s Student Government Association (SGA) and, individually, in partisan campaigns. As both members of student government and in volunteer and professional campaign roles, student leaders have encouraged their fellow students to register to vote (see the attached press release regarding the Bonner Scholars voter registration drive, which was supported by the SGA).

Finally, we anticipate post-election events, including a meeting with the Hope College Voter Registration and Engagement Project Initiative, headed by the Reverend Matthew J. Watts.



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 9, 2018

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**CONCORD UNIVERSITY BONNER SCHOLARS
HOSTING VOTER REGISTRATION TABLE**

ATHENS, W. Va. - Concord University Bonner Scholars will be hosting a voter registration table on the ground floor of the Jean and Jerry L. Beasley Student Center from October 10 to October 12. The table will be set up from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. It is free and open to the public.

The table will be hosted by volunteer Bonner students as well as the Bonner graduate assistant, Sarah Fancher. There will be multiple laptops at the table with direct access to the Secretary of State's webpage where any West Virginia resident can register to vote, regardless of party affiliation.

If already registered to vote, students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the community, will have the ability to switch party affiliations at the table if they wish. There will also be more information at the table about voting and other civil rights sponsored by Southern Poverty Law Center, also known as SPLC On Campus.

The deadline for any West Virginia resident to register to vote, whether registering at the table, online, or through the mail, in order to be able to take part in the upcoming election is October 16.

For more information about this event, please contact Kathy Ball, director of the Bonner Scholars Program, at 304-384-6009 or bonner@concord.edu. You can also visit the Secretary of State's webpage at <https://ovr.sos.wv.gov/Register/Landing#Qualifications>.

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This press release was written by Peyton Brown from Jesse, WV. She is a junior at Concord majoring in Communication Arts with an emphasis in Public Relations and is a student in the Public Relations Workshop at Concord University.

Persons with disabilities should contact Nancy Ellison, 1-304-384-6086 or 1-800-344-6679 extension 6086 if special assistance is required for access to an event scheduled by the University on campus.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 11, 2018

After 4 p.m.
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CONSTITUTION DAY PRESENTATION SCHEDULED AT CONCORD UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, W.Va. – Pi Sigma Alpha, Concord University’s Political Science Honor Society, will host a Constitution Day Presentation on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

The program will be held from 7-8 p.m. in the Wilkes Family Chapel in University Point on the Athens campus and will feature a panel discussion on “Higher Education and the Arts”. Panelists will include Larry Groce, host of West Virginia Public Broadcasting’s Mountain Stage; Dr. Timothy Mainland, Concord University Professor of Music; and Mr. James Biggs, Concord University Associate Professor of Art.

There is no admission charge and the general public is invited to join the Concord campus community in attending the event. For additional information contact Dr. James White at jwhite@concord.edu or 304-384-6061.

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