

ALL-IN ACTION PLAN, 2018

SUNY Cortland, May 2018

Leadership

The Institute for Civic Engagement's director, John Suarez, chairs the leadership team.

Goals and Assessment

Goals. We will

- Collaborate with at least three members of the community who work on voter-related projects.
- Register at least 500 students and 50 people from the greater Cortland community
- Show at least a 50% voting rate (up from 2016's 42%) among SUNY Cortland students
- Involve an average of at least 50 people, including people from the greater Cortland community, in each of our Deliberative Dialogs (which are part of our Voter Education project)

Assessment

We will measure and assess the extent of our success on the basis of

- The number of campus/community "connections."
- Voter registration numbers, on- and off-campus.
- The number and percent of student voters (including those voting through absentee ballots) in the November midterm election.
- The number of participants in our Voter Education events, and the number of people who volunteer as a result of participating in those events.

Assessment of Current Work and Outcomes

Current work has involved preparation for (in the short term) the November midterm elections, and (in the long term) on-going voter-related activities. Preparation has focused on relationship-building and on voter-education. The spring 2018 semester generated productive on- and off-campus relationships and new voter-education projects.

One set of relationships is represented by the Institute for Civic Engagement's new *Action Team*. The Team's interns are charged with building the Institute's capacity in four areas, including voter-related activities.

Relationships spread out from there: Action Team Interns are now partnering with the college's Sustainability Coordinator, with NYPIRG, and with two Student Government Association clubs – the Political Science Association and the Young Republicans. Two interns are forming a chapter of Generation Vote, which focuses on local issues.

The Team is also working with people in the greater Cortland community, including the chairs of the local Republican and Democratic Parties, and with the League of Women Voters of Cortland County (LWVCC). In June, three students – two of the Team’s interns and the previous president of the Young Republicans Club – will become members of the LWVCC’s Board of Directors.

Through these relationships, the Team is working to develop voter-registration, get-out-the-vote, and voter education efforts on campus and in the greater Cortland community. The Team’s interns are partnering with faculty to conduct voter-registration visits at COR 101 classes during the second week of the fall 2018 semester. Interns will also partner with the LWVCC to conduct voter-registration events in the City of Cortland. Get-out-the-vote efforts will take place on- and off-campus, with students possibly participating in political parties’ phone-bank efforts.

The Team’s voter-education activities are mainly participatory, especially in Deliberative Dialogs. These civil and informed discussions of controversial issues are part of the Team’s Voter Education efforts. In March, interns used materials developed by the *National Issues Form Institute* ([www.http://nifi.org](http://nifi.org)) to conduct two Dialogs: *Where have all the voters gone?* (12 participants) and *Mass shootings* (63 participants). Community members participated in each of these events, and each event produced actionable steps that we will take in the fall semester.

To increase the number of participants in dialogs, promotional activities will be tailored to specific groups, and they will be connected to certain events. For example, a Dialogue will follow a Constitution Day speech, and another Dialogue will follow a *State of Poverty Simulation* (which is conducted on campus by one of our long-time community partners, the Community Action Program of Cortland County). In preparation for large numbers of participants, we will conduct at least one Dialogue *facilitator training* event in early September.

After the November election, we will conduct a post-election analysis and we will begin planning new voter-education events for the rest of the academic year.

Team and Timeline

Team. Our leadership coalition includes

- The Institute for Civic Engagement’s *Action Team*, especially the three Voter Project interns. The team is a confederation of interns who have their own projects: Voter, SUNY Cortland Cupboard (a pantry for food-insecure students), Homelessness, and Marketing). Interns collaborate in support of each other’s projects.
- The presidents and other members of student clubs, including the Political Science Association, the Young Republicans, and SUNY Cortland’s chapter of Generation Vote.
- The New York Public Interest Research Group.
- The League of Women Voters.
- The chairs of the local Republican and Democratic parties.

Timeline. Note: Many of these events include people from the greater Cortland community.

- By August 15 –
 - Confirm dates of 22nd Congressional District nominees' panel discussion (LWV).
 - Make arrangements for promotion of that discussion and for transportation for students to the event.
 - Schedule voter-registration visits to COR 101 (first-year experience) classes
 - Schedule Deliberative Dialogue Facilitator Training events.
 - Schedule Deliberative Dialogs (part of our Voter Education efforts)
 - Constitution Day (Sept. 21) event on the First Amendment regarding guest speakers at colleges.
 - Climate Change.
- September 26 – National Voter Registration Day
- October 9 – Absentee Ballot Day
- November 6 (Tuesday) – Election Day (celebratory) events
- November 14 (Wednesday) –
 - Presentation of election analysis
 - Begin planning the Voter Project in preparation for the next year.