



TEACH, SERVE, AND LEARN

the newsletter for Applied Learning at Nassau Community College

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES TO BLOSSOM AT NCC

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The subcommittee for Applied Learning in Civic Engagement is pleased to update the community on our ongoing activities for the 22/23 academic year. We began the year with a virtual Constitution Day event on 9/20/22 from 10am – 3pm, which NCC co-sponsored with colleagues from SUNY Cortland, SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY Old Westbury, and the University of Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. The program, “Your Vote and the First Amendment,” featured a Syracuse University keynote; a video and talkback with elected officials across party lines, including our own Dr. Anissa Moore, Deputy County Executive, Nassau County; and a deliberative dialogue with nearly 100 participants in break-out rooms, each moderated by a SUNY or UMass faculty member. The day ended with a voter registration information session and “registration rush” for students. Given the program’s success, the team plans to make it an annual event, so save-the-date for this fall, 9/19/23. We encourage faculty to include the event in their course syllabi.

We also offered the campus community five deliberative dialogues during the evening activity hour timeslot, with two in the fall (October, November) and 3 in the spring (February, March, and April). Dialogue topics included: “The Issues You Care About and the November Election,” “Post-Election Debrief: Looking Ahead,” “What is the Role of Religion in Government Today?” “What is Critical Race Theory?” and “Proposed Sands Casino in Uniondale: Vice or Virtue?” This last topic was chosen by members of the student Civics Club, who also plan to moderate this hybrid dialogue on April 4, 2023, from 8:30pm – 9:45pm. Stay tuned for registration details and join us in supporting the students on their debut hosting this dialogue.

Speaking of whom, two club officers would like to share a few lines about their work in this area of personal and professional development:

In my role as President of the new Civics Club on campus, I have learned how much organization, planning, and communication goes into conducting a proper meeting, dialogue, or event. It’s important to learn about the perspectives and opinions of other students at NCC, just as much as those of staff and administrators. By hosting deliberative dialogues, the students have a voice on issues that matter to us, which demonstrates democracy in action. All of the topics we have discussed this semester have been productive and enlightening about our school and community. – Nicolette Levine, A.A. candidate, Business Administration.

As the Secretary of the Civics Club, I have benefited tremendously from attending deliberative dialogues, and serving as the student representative on two faculty civics committees (NCC and SUNY+). The dialogues offer many perspectives on issues that aren’t always discussed civilly and inclusively. I believe civic learning needs to make a mainstream comeback in U.S. schools, including K-12, colleges and universities, and vocational schools. Civic literacy enables individuals to participate in democratic practices that potentially enable the world to live in peace as one people. I am thankful to be a part of this vital work at NCC and across the other SUNYs, such as attending the Walk the Talk Peace Summit at SUNY Old Westbury. I look forward to participating in Civics next year. –Joshua Vijayarajah, A.S. candidate, Computer Science.



The AL Civics subcommittee meets on alternate Friday afternoons where we generate ideas for dialogue topics, “staff” the dialogues, and create a question “guide” to assist moderators of the dialogues. In addition, we discuss collaborative programming ideas with our SUNY partners and enjoy lively exchanges on civic issues of the day. We always welcome new faculty and students interested in civics, government, or dialogues to join our meetings; so, if you would like to get involved in the fall, please be in touch. Next year, we look forward to partnering with our colleagues in DEI, Faculty Development, NYPIRG, Campus Compact, and League of Women Voters to help more students register to vote – and then rock their vote. Our Civics Club also looks forward to hosting more speakers and events on campus, creating opportunities for more folks to get involved in civic issues that concern us all.



THE FULFILLMENT PROJECT

Richard Seibert, Adjunct Professor (Biology Dept.)

As a professor in the biology department at Nassau Community College, I teach a human nutrition course. The standard in one of these courses is the history of nutritional deficiency syndromes. I often remark to the class that it is difficult to teach this in the United States because our food supply is quite adequate (although not always the most nutritionally supportive!), and we infrequently will see conditions such as rickets, scurvy, and pellagra, etc. When my student Gabriel Bauer noted that he had seen children and adults with these conditions, my first question was where do you live? He explained that his family is originally from Colombia, and he still has relatives living there. When he visits, he notes that he sees these children with bowed legs, skin rashes, loose teeth, and bleeding gums and how he is involved in a foundation that helps these children.



He then told me that his uncle has a nonprofit organization called the 33 Dreams Foundation that helps children in the town of Cazuca Bogota, Colombia, who have been displaced by war. The foundation helps provide food, clothes, toiletries, and other essentials for these children (and their families). I then called my

representative, Juliana Murphy, at one of the nutrition companies that we use as a supplier, which is Designs for Health. Mrs. Murphy was kind enough to donate a case of 12 mixed bottles of powdered supplements for children who are not old enough to swallow pills and capsules for adults.

It is standard procedure to obtain a physical examination and history and to do bloodwork and perhaps urinalysis, however in this case, we are merely offering a blanket safety net to fill in the missing nutrients that are clearly not being supplied in their diet.

The US food supply is fortified and enriched with vitamins and minerals that may have been lost during food processing at times, we will rarely see nutritional deficiency syndromes in our country. An important note, however, is that many people are walking around with sub-clinical levels (in other words, they do not display signs of pellagra, scurvy, and berri berri, etc.), but indeed they may display classic signs such as fatigue, lack of focus, brain fog, weakness, lethargy, bowel disturbances, muscle weakness, etc. These can be treated with a proper nutritional protocol program.

So, on the completion of our course at NCC, I invited Gabe to come to my office to pick up a case of donated multivitamin-mineral formulas in both capsules (for adults) and



powder for infants and children, courtesy of Designs for Health. He was delighted by this and will be sending them to Bogotá to start a happy and HEALTHY year for the people of this small village!

We would like to continue sending vitamins to these people in need through a shipping company in Hempstead, so we are asking everyone to donate just one bottle of vitamins (capsules, powder, chewable or prenatal) to this cause. You can order from any of the companies listed on my website (Designs for Health, Metagenics, or Xymogen) and have them sent to our office or bring them in person.

We call this The Fulfillment Project. Let's keep it going!!!

HUMAN SERVICES STUDENTS EXPLORE THE NCC COMMUNITY

Vondora Corzen-Wilson, Associate Professor (Sociology Dept.)



This year the InterAct club participated in two conferences that count as active learning exercises. The first event occurred in the Fall 2022 semester. Students participated in the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless Keys conference, where they prepared a poster about homelessness and college students. They also attended workshops on addressing homelessness, and finally, they attended a workshop on caring for themselves and others. The last workshop was well attended, and many students commented on learning much from the discussions. Students made an interesting link between the work they want to do as social workers and the stories they heard about people in the field encountering fear and distrust in their personal lives, which they stated generated from their work as social workers, not an expected link for our InterAct students. However, many said they would find ways to address this, so it does not become paralyzing, as it was for one woman who spoke. Mindfulness was at the forefront of everyone's mind. I wish the students held a session about college students, the homeless, and hunger. But most presenters were social workers with advanced degrees in social work, so we settled on the poster that many reviewed since it was at registration.

The second conference another student attended was the campaign school for social workers. The conference started with the announcement, "We hope you all run for office because we need you there to help marginalized communities." I am not sure many wanted to run for office, but they all were energized by the prospect of helping people and using policy and the electoral process. As with the Keys conference, students did not participate but attended eagerly, absorbed the information, and planned to apply it in their future works. Both conferences served as a motivating tool and a place for our students to show what they knew by asking questions, which made us very proud. As usual, NCC InterAct students were poised, professional, and good-natured, in addition to their desire to help people. They exemplified hope.

APPLIED LEARNING TODAY

Dr. Nicole Schiffmacher Chairperson, Applied Learning Committee

Since 2015, SUNY has required components of Applied Learning at all of its campuses. In the 2021-2022 academic year, NCC reported 2,752 students participating in designated Applied Learning courses. This includes “SUNY Serves” - service learning and community service projects, “SUNY Works” - clinical placements, internships and work study, and “SUNY Discovers” - creative works, research, and field study. Our college system has increased the high impact practice of providing our students with hands on use of didactic knowledge in their field. We are experts in career readiness. With this growth in Applied Learning outcomes, many colleges and universities around the country have realized that we can use a similar model to improve Civic Engagement. Many of the skills sought by employers and cultivated by applied learning experiences- the abilities to problem solve, collaborate with others, communicate fluently - are also skills that are necessary for civic engagement. However, the majority of our students are not participating in civic engagement - “taking responsibility to improve your community.” There is a growing movement to require time spent in civic engagement for graduation in higher education institutions across the country. There are several SUNY schools who have already adopted this requirement, although it is not yet a SUNY-wide action. However, the new SUNY Gen Ed Framework, which goes into effect for NCC’s AA and AS degree programs in the Fall of 2023, includes “US History and Civic Engagement” as well as “Diversity: Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice.” The Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Coalition, a group of state and higher education departments including Middle States Commission on Higher Education as a partner, has created a Learning Statement and commitment to “Democracy Learning as a Top Priority for Postsecondary Education.” This initiative is the wave of the future for every major and every field to find a way to become engaged in creating better policies and communities. Learn more at collegeciviclearning.org

The SUNY Student Success Summit will take place virtually April 26-28th. This summit is FREE of charge to all SUNY faculty, staff and students. Tracks include: Developing Comprehensive First Year Experience programs, Designing Holistic Supports for Adult Students, Enhancing Student Retention Strategies Post-Pandemic, Student Coaching and Mentoring Models, and Promising High-Impact Practices. Register at <https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/sss2023/>

Are you involved in career services, internship placement or work study programs? If so, the SUNY Career Development Organization Annual Conference is taking place in Albany June 14-16. Register at <https://sunycdo.org/annualconference>

Are you interested in including internships in your class, but don’t know where to start? Forage is an online platform that hosts virtual internships with many reputable companies in a wide variety of industries. It is free to educators and students, and you can embed internships within your Blackboard or Brightspace page. Forage provides support including ideas for reflection activities to assess student learning. Forage hosted a demonstration and webinar for the Applied Learning Committee last year, and I attended another interesting webinar highlighting Forage, sponsored by the Society for Experiential Education, this spring. Forage is very responsive in supporting faculty in using their 245 and growing internships. Find more information at theForage.com

Each year, the Applied Learning Committee partners with the First Year Experience Committee to bring you the Annual Volunteer Fair on NCC Day of Service. This in-person fair allows

faculty and students to network with agencies that have volunteer internships and service-learning opportunities. If you are interested in adding a service-learning component to your class, please attend!

Did you know that NCC can award digital badges for Applied Learning activities completed within class or co-curricular activities such as clubs?

For more information about any of the above opportunities, please email Nicole.Schiffmacher@ncc.edu



On March 2, the Physical Therapist Assistant Club presented guest speaker, Jaqs Hughes, PTA. Jaqs is not only the Clinical Coordinator for Northwell STARS physical therapy clinics, but also, a graduate of the program at NCC! She presented on professional behavior during clinical internships, and a “day in the life of” a STARS Physical Therapist Assistant. Student comments after the presentation indicated that it was very helpful to learn from the person who interviews and places all PTA interns in STARS facilities. The Physical Therapist Assistant sophomore students began two back-to-back, 6-week clinical placements on March 27th.

The newly launched, open-access Journal of the Scholarship of Engagement (JoSE) is dedicated to the SUNY community of Applied Learning practitioners. The journal can be found at <https://digitalcommons.cortland.edu/jose/> and its editors are actively seeking both faculty and student authors and peer reviewers. For more information please email Laura.Dunbar@cortland.edu

Faculty: are you interested in mentorship in Applied Learning? Let us help! Members of the Applied Learning Committee are available to speak with you. You can also enroll in an online course to obtain a digital badge in Applied Learning! Email Nicole.Schiffmacher@ncc.edu for more information!

EMPOWERING AND CONNECTING WITH TODAY’S COLLEGE STUDENT

Deborah Kilmnick, Professor (Communications Dept.)

Applied Learning is an integral part of a student’s education. When the pandemic hit, we all saw how mental health became a growing concern for our students, faculty and the world. As a result, I wanted to bring students and faculty together and provide a little light during a dark time. I was thrilled to receive Applied Learning and Faculty Development grants to offer a special applied learning opportunity for the students and faculty at NCC in the Spring 2022 semester. I invited Erin Gruwell, the inspirational teacher from the film, Freedom Writers, and founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation, to speak with students and faculty at NCC. These presentations were co-sponsored by the NCC Foundation, Applied Learning, First Year Experience



Committee and the Student Activities Office, and connected the college-wide initiatives of student engagement, student retention and enrollment, faculty development and guided pathways.

What was most exciting is how this applied learning presentation spiraled into bringing NCC on to the national scene with this nationally/internationally known author, lecturer and speaker. The first workshop was for all NCC faculty, “#BeTheTeacher You Want to See in the World: Empowering and Connecting with Today’s College Student.” Ms. Gruwell led this workshop so that faculty participants could review the ways we can connect and empower today’s community college students,



as the needs of our students are evolving, and student retention is of utmost importance. A few weeks later, the second presentation, “Face Your Fear, Share Your Story, Tell Your Truth,” was led by Gruwell, an original freedom writer, and our very own NCC student and new generation *freedom writer*, Alexi Rodriguez. Alexi’s story is featured in Erin Gruwell’s book, *Dear Freedom Writer*, and was used as the Common Read and theme, *Tell Me Who You Are*, for the First Year Experience course. Alexi was also granted a once-in-

a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Freedom Writers training institute and book launch held in Los Angeles at the Freedom Writers Foundation. Following this training, Ms. Gruwell returned to NCC at the start of the Fall 2022 semester for a book signing and an incredibly moving presentation with approximately 150 students in attendance.

As a result of the positive feedback, she and one of her original freedom writers were invited back to NCC this semester to speak with the faculty and students and encourage our students to share their stories and own their paths to success. I think it is fitting to close this article with a quote from a bookmark that Ms. Gruwell placed on every chair: “when diverse worlds come together, beauty is inevitable.”

NUR 105 COMPREHENSIVE NURSING CARE I STEPS OUT!

Written and experienced by Joanne Gabrus, Associate Professor (Nursing Dept.)

NUR105 Comprehensive Nursing Care I students stepped outside the acute care facility into our communities in Fall 2022 for the first time.

The Fresenius Kidney Care dialysis center in Mineola, opened their doors to our NCC nursing students without hesitation, representing over 2400 facilities nationwide that care for people living with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage renal disease (ESRD). Their teams of professionals are dedicated to helping people thrive on dialysis and live longer, healthier lives.

Fresenius staff were role models for NCC students while providing emotional, medical, dietary, and financial resources to those in the community we serve. Teaching kidney health, eating well while living with CKD and understanding the choices of the treatment available is important for both patients and student nurses to understand.

NUR105 Comprehensive Nursing Care I, has the nursing specialty, Behavioral Health, embedded in its curriculum. The program student learning outcomes (PSLOs) are the expectations for registered nurses supported by the National League of Nursing (NLN) and adopted by the NCC-ESC Multi-award program at Nassau Community College. These PSLOs are reflective of the core values and integrated concepts of patient-centered care exhibited throughout healthcare.

The specific PSLO, Human Flourishing, teaches students to advocate for patients and families. In this case, the role of advocate promotes the patient’s self-determination, integrity, and ongoing growth as human beings. The students from NUR105 in their behavioral health rotation, were sent to the Fresenius Kidney Care dialysis center with the clinical objective of observing anxiety, depression, and other psychological issues associated with living with a chronic disease.

This gave nursing students an opportunity to use their therapeutic communication skills taught earlier in the semester. The students spoke about their experience at the end of the semester using an open discussion format with their peers and faculty. In this forum, students expressed the value of this experience as it relates to their Med Surg Clinicals. Kidney disease and hemodialysis treatments are more prevalent than ever and treated in outpatient facilities throughout Nassau County.

Through this unique opportunity, the NCC-ESC nursing students were privileged to be part of community members’ lives and will remember this forever as they grow in their career as professional Nurses.

