Civic Engagement Coalition

Constitution Week: September 2012

This year's constitution week was filled with information aimed at educating SUNY Oswego's students on the important issues being debated leading up to the Presidential election. The week started with Bruce Altschuler, SUNY Oswego Professor of Political Science, explaining campaign finance. This was followed by a two day film series covering the two candidates views on education, the economy, healthcare, and abortion. Students were able to come to watch these films and share their thoughts. The following night was exciting as we brought in student representatives whose views mirrored that of the Green, Democratic, and Republican parties.

(Top photograph)

The week was capped off by the Civic Engagement Coalition and its volunteers (middle photograph) collecting registrations and absentee ballot applications at Laker Fest and the SAPB Fall Concert. This was also the kickoff week to our semester that included 15 events, weeks of tabling, and an amazing cooperative effort between a number of campus and student organizations as well as many faithful volunteers.

SUNY Oswego Rocks the Vote: October/November 2012

SUNY Oswego students showed that they were committed to making a difference in this year's election handing in 1,300 forms to the Oswego County Board of Elections. This was a major accomplishment not only for Civic Engagement, but for the entire SUNY Oswego campus.

On election night campus and student organizations came together to celebrate democracy by staying up to date on the poll numbers throughout the United States and having a little fun, too. Our cross campus collaborations included the Office of Business and Community Relations, the Civic Engagement Coalition, the Compass, Student Association, SAPB, WNYO, WTOP, the Oswegonian, the Political Science Club, Lifestyles, Auxiliary Services, Black Student Union, and Residence Life and Housing.

The Civic Engagement Coalition assists the Civic Engagement Coordinator in the creation of purposeful experiences within and beyond the classroom to develop knowledge, skills, motivation, and practice necessary for becoming responsible, engaged citizens in a pluralistic, democratic society.

The coalition is composed of students, faculty, and staff who are interested in furthering the mission of the committee and is chaired by the Civic Engagement Coordinator.

SUNY Oswego participates in New York Campus Compact webinar with other SUNY schools.

New York | **Campus Compact**

As we were working throughout the semester to register students to vote, our efforts were noticed by the New York Camps Compact. Our blog, SunyOswegoCivicEngagement.wordpress.com ,was being regularly updated by the Graduate Assistant Jon Zella to help students on campus find information on the election. However, representatives from the New York Campus Compact were also keeping up with what we were doing and at the end of October we were asked to contribute ideas to a webinar being put together with other SUNY Schools. The other schools that participated were Binghamton, Geneseo, Oneonta, and Plattsburgh. We were able to share what we had done up to that point in the semester, what worked, what didn't, how we wanted to improve that, what our goals were, compare strategies, and much more. The experience showed us that there was a lot of work to be done across New York State and that we were not alone in our efforts to educate college students about our political process. The experience left us refreshed and ready to for the rest of the semester.