Western NY Leadership Conference

Leadership on Campus and Beyond: 2018 Western New York Student Leadership Conference

On September 29, 2018, students from schools around Western New York convened at SUNY's Alfred State Campus in Alfred, NY, for a day of workshops, learning and inspiration. The annual Western New York Student Leadership Conference offers students and faculty from regional colleges the opportunity to build leadership skills through a series of workshops, lectures and activities. This year’s keynote speaker was Darren Cotton, founder of University Heights Collaborative, a community group in Buffalo focused on bringing residents and businesses together for “… beautification, business involvement, communication, neighborhood watch, and landlord outreach.” He spoke about the importance of civic engagement in leadership and talked about the merits of social capital.

Attendees at the conference were able to build their social capital by participating in interactive workshops where they had the opportunity to network with students from other schools. Aliyah Dandy, a sophomore from Medaille College in Buffalo, NY, expressed her enthusiasm about the workshops she had attended at the conference, stating, “I learned ways to work with people who come from different backgrounds and also had the chance to network with people from around campus.” She said that the workshops offered opportunities to learn about others’ goals as well.

Alfred State students were also excited about the skills they had learned. Lee Krisher, an Architecture Student, found the workshops to be “engaging and insightful.” She was able to attend three of the workshops, and learned about working toward sustainability, working with others in team settings, and empowering team members. Riko Hayano, a student leader at Alfred State, said that she would recommend the Western New York Student Leadership Conference to all students, even those who already consider themselves experienced leaders. “We all have a lot of room for improvement, in every aspect,” she said, when asked about why leaders should consider future opportunities like these.

The Western New York Student Leadership Conference came to a close in the SLC with tables full of “swag” from the attending colleges and a final thank-you speech from Troy Morehouse, Director of Student Engagement at Alfred State. During his closing remarks, he discussed the importance of being grateful and thankful people who have helped students and professionals grow and become who they are. He had thank-you cards available for students to take with them for the purpose of showing their appreciation. He said, “Part of being a good leader is showing appreciation and gratitude.” Next fall, the leadership conference will take place at another campus in Western New York. If you are interested in leadership on campus or future opportunities like this one, contact the Office of Student Engagement to find out how you can get involved.

-Cassandra Robbers
ERGO COVER CONTEST
The Committee for ERGO, Alfred State's Literary Magazine, will be hosting a cover contest because it's almost crunch time for the Fall 2018 ERGO publication. Wondering what to submit? Full wrap cover (front & back) 17.25" wide by 11.25" high or just the front cover 8.75" wide by 11.25" high, 300 dpi, jpeg. All entries must fit these specifications for consideration.

The due date? Friday, October 26, 2018
And better yet, there's a prize! Winner and a runner-up will both get a $100 gift certificate for the ASC Campus Store, and boasting rights for being featured as the author of the cover on the Fall 2018 ERGO publication!
Send your cover submission to ERGO@alfredstate.edu. We can't wait to see what you send us!

Constitution Day at Alfred
On Monday, September 19, students and faculty honored the Constitution of the United States by participating in a Constitution Day Forum. The event was centered around the discussion of such topics as freedom of press, freedom of speech, and fake news.

The emphasis of the discussion fell naturally upon the issue of fake news. At the beginning of the event, Professor Michael Colomaio gave a brief overview of the history of fake news. He explained that it is not a new issue, but one that has a rich history extending back as far as the industrial genesis of the press itself. The discussion then shifted to the exploration of the line between selectively putting “spin” on information and blatant misinformation. This is a line that is not always easily drawn, as the present moment, increasingly dominated by internet information sources, makes abundantly clear. Those in attendance were asked to help demonstrate this by creating both positive and negative ways to present two pieces of information they were given. For example, a 3.8% unemployment rate could be presented positively as a sign of rapid economic growth, or negatively as a sign of an approaching inflationary gap. This demonstration seemed to lead to the suggestion that a portion of the responsibility to make this delineation must be shouldered by the consumer of the information. The event concluded with the presentation of the CRAAP (currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, purpose) method. In this method, the currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose of a piece of information are examined in order to judge the overall value of the information.

There will be more events of this kind held in the near-future: on October 8th there will be a discussion on the impacts, good and bad, of technology; and on November 12th, a discussion will be held to explore the problem of rural addiction. These events are tri-sponsored by the Student Senate, the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, and the Center of Student Engagement.

-Joshua Glass

ERGO (ALFRED STATE’S LITERARY & ARTISTIC PUBLICATION)

ERGO is funded by the Student Senate and is freely distributed each semester and is also available to view on Pioneer Link.

We are accepting new submissions for the Fall 2018 Ergo publication if you would like to contribute. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit their original works of art, poetry, and prose by sending them to ergo@alfredstate.edu. Dr. Aniko Constantine (SDC Bldg., Rm. 309), is the Faculty Adviser for ERGO. She can be reached at constaav@alfredstate.edu. If you wish, your submission could be published anonymously or under a pseudonym.

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The opinions expressed in this issue are those of the writers themselves. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the college and its administrators. Submit material via TorEcho@alfredstate.edu.

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