

# THE DIFFERENCE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE **COLLABORATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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Students, faculty, staff, and community members gather in Slocum Commons to caucus on Super Tuesday.  
Photo Courtesy of Colorado College by Niyanta Khatri '17.

# Rethinking Voting

## *Exercise your right, and help others do the same*

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good. ‘Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.” Every vote of the roughly 146,311,000 people registered to vote in the United States will matter in deciding the course of this country, for the action of individuals accumulate as an action for society. Nearly three months are already gone for 2016, and we are closer to November than we may think. November 8 will be here sooner than we expect, and when it does, will you be ready to cast your vote?

Voting has long been held as our ‘civic duty’. A civic duty, as explained by a dictionary, is “the social force that binds you to the courses of action demanded by that force”, often used with examples such as voting and serving on a jury. In an article written by Stephen Dubner and Steven D. in the New York Times concluded that we vote because it is a social norm, correlating the definition of civic duty being a social force. But in 2012, almost 100 million people who could have voted did not. Imagine how these votes could have changed the course of the election. Let’s consider what may have kept millions of people from voting, and how we might alleviate those problems.

Consider a time 50 years ago when the Voting Rights Act had yet to be enacted. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed by President Lyndon Johnson, was federal legislation that was meant to put an end to racial discrimination in voting (though this did not entirely happen), particularly for Black people. Asian Americans were not able to vote until they were allowed citizenship in 1943. White women were given suffrage in 1920. Though voting is now seen as compulsory and dutiful, it was once a source of exclusion. Appreciating that voting was once for the privilege might make us more inclined to vote now. People fought and died for voting to be an available right for everyone, regardless of identity, to be able to vote without harm. Voting now can be seen as a silent thanks, an act of gratitude for those who worked for hard before us to have this right.

While peoples’ identities may not act as a much as a large deterrent to peoples’ ability to vote, other things like access may hinder people’s voting ability. Voting isn’t necessarily made easy. Before one can vote they must register. Jordan Fabian from Fusion reports that “just around half of eligible voters ages 18 to 29 are registered to vote in midterm years, but the rate is higher in the 10 states that allow Election Day registration. Seven of out of the 10 top turnout states in the 2012 elections (a presidential year) had same-day registration, vote by mail, or no registration required, according to a CIRCLE analysis... Young people are twice as likely to register online as older voters, but the practice is only available in 23 states.” Voter registration seemingly happens endless on college campuses, but for those outside of that reach or in a state that does not do online registration, registering becomes a burden to tackle. Meeting people where they are and making voting more accessible could make a huge impact in voter turn out.

Part of accessibility is also knowledge. People turn 18 everyday (in fact, 12,000 people turn 18 every month) but how many of them know the importance of voting, and informed voting? Politics is an intimidating field and is often ageist, meaning young adults across the country are inexplicably and explicitly deferred from voting. What could be considered a “rite of passage” is instead stifled. Educating young people, be it in or out of school, about voting will instill confidence in them to participate. For youth to know that their vote, and therefore their voice, matters could impact everyone’s empowerment.

*Colorado is a state that allows online voter registration for anyone with a Colorado driver’s license or ID card. For more information, visit <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/ccel/students/ccvotes/>.*

## Community Group Spotlight: Meadows Park Community Center

Meadows Park Community Center is a recreation center located in southwest Stratton Meadows that provides free and affordable programming for the community and is a safe and fun place for kids and teens to go.

Senior Esther Chan recently partnered with Meadows Park Community Center to create *In the Meadows* as part of her thesis project for her independently designed major in Visual Media and Social Change. *In the Meadows* is a community project in collaboration with Meadows Park Community Center and is a story about three individuals who live in a lower-income area of Colorado Springs, and who are constantly striving to break the cycle. Esther gave cameras to three people (Danielle, David, and Miguel) who work at the center and they took pictures of their lives. Siblings Danielle and David grew up going to Meadows Park with Miguel. At the same time, Esther also made a documentary about them to share their inspiring stories and showcase the work they do at Meadows Park, as well as the impact Meadows Park has had on them and their community. On March 4th, a community event was held to display a gallery of their photos and a screening of the documentary at Cottonwood Center for the Arts and catered by Mobile Meals. Over 250 people from CC and Colorado Springs attended and the event raised \$760 for Meadows Park Community Center. To view this inspiring documentary, please visit <https://vimeo.com/157929552>.

The event was co-sponsored by GlobeMed at CC, who has a growing partnership with Meadows Park. Each week members of GlobeMed at CC volunteer to help with the children who go to the Center. Meadows Park also brings local youth to campus for programming in the summer. For more information about Meadows Park Community Center, visit: <https://parks.coloradosprings.gov/explore-play/play-programs/community-centers/meadows-park-community-center>.



## Student Group Spotlight: *CC Farm*

The Colorado College Farm strives to promote awareness and evaluation of food systems and production by growing organic local produce on the 1.3 acre farm located on the Colorado College campus. The Farm at CC creates independent, empowered student leaders through supporting an innovative internship and volunteer program that will work in meaningful collaboration with the campus and local community. Bon Appetite supports funding of the summer farm internships in exchange for fresh local produce that can be served on campus. Once harvesting begins, you'll see signs at Rastall that show which vegetables came from the CC Farm. The CCE and Office of Sustainability also provide funding to support the farm interns.

Emma Brachtenbach is returning for her second year at the farm as this season's lead intern. Kelsi Anderson, Rebecca Glazer, and Siqi Wei are this year's new interns and they each bring very exciting new ideas and expertise. During the application process, each new intern proposed an individual project to try something innovative at the farm, and the team is currently exploring new ideas to improve access to fresh local produce to campus and community, increase sustainability, and better connect to the local community by partnering with area farmers, schools, and other community groups. Stay tuned for exciting developments!

Many thanks to the incredible Grounds Crew at CC for providing ongoing support to the farm - it would not be possible without them. The Farm is getting ready to begin this year's growing season and will be planting seeds in the greenhouse and prepping the farm during Block 7 and 8. If you are interested in volunteering at the farm, please contact Emma Brachtenbach at [Emma.Brachtenbach@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:Emma.Brachtenbach@coloradocollege.edu).

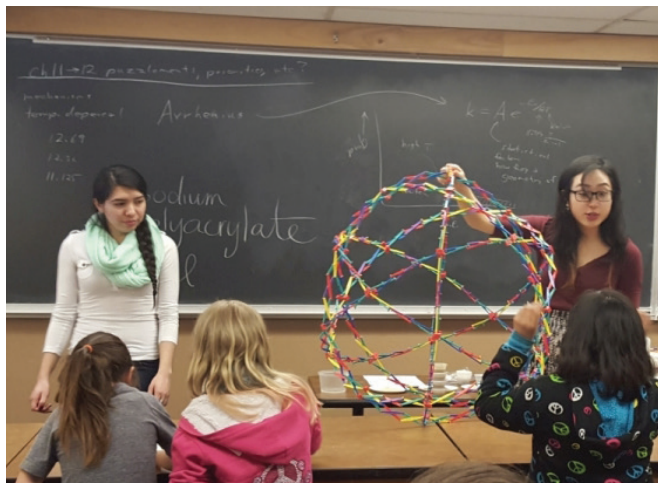


## Community Group Spotlight: *COOL Science Club*

COOL Science Club brings interactive science to local elementary and middle school students in the hopes of sparking interest and excitement in the fields of mathematics, science and technology. The organization has a long-standing partnership with the Colorado Springs nonprofit, Cool Science ([www.coolscience.org](http://www.coolscience.org)). Additionally, COOL Science Club regularly partners with Mann Middle School by hosting an event one to two times a year called Girls Day in the Lab where the middle school girls are invited to CC's campus for a day of science demonstrations and hands-on experiments to encourage the girls' interest in the field of science.

New this year, COOL Science Club welcomed third and fourth grade girls from Audubon Elementary School for Girls' STEM Day, providing science demonstrations and hands-on experiments geared towards elementary students to foster an early interest in science. Mark your calendars for The Big Cool Science Festival at Colorado College on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 10 am – 3 pm, visit <http://www.coolscience.org/BCSFCC/> for more information. If you are looking to become a member of COOL Science Club or would like to volunteer at The Big Cool Science Festival, please contact Haley Schroeder [haley.schroeder@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:haley.schroeder@coloradocollege.edu) or Stephanie Bui [stephanie.bui@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:stephanie.bui@coloradocollege.edu).

[www.coolscience.org/BCSFCC/](http://www.coolscience.org/BCSFCC/) for more information. If you are looking to become a member of COOL Science Club or would like to volunteer at The Big Cool Science Festival, please contact Haley Schroeder [haley.schroeder@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:haley.schroeder@coloradocollege.edu) or Stephanie Bui [stephanie.bui@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:stephanie.bui@coloradocollege.edu).



Audubon students check out their Film Cannister Rockets



**Women’s History Month:**  
*Activist Marian Wright Edelman*

American Activist Marian Wright Edelman is a prominent American Civil Rights Activist, Lawyer, and Writer. She was the first African-American woman admitted to the Mississippi State Bar . Her work lobbying for childrens’ interests drove Edelman to pursue her true interest in youth advocacy. In 1971, Edelman was named one of the top 200 young leaders in America after her work creating the Washington Research Project for the Southern Center for Policy Research, which lobbied for the alleviation of child poverty. Two years later, Edelman founded the Children’s Defense Fund, which remains an organization integral to the advocacy of children’s rights in health and education, and to end child abuse. The CDF worked especially for children with disabilities, impoverished children, and children of color. Her word for children and the public good have led her to receive awards such as the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**Awards Spotlight:** *Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair CC Award Winners*

The Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair is a science fair held at UCCS annually for 6th through 12th graders. CC sponsors four awards centered on excellence in Rocky Mountain Regional Research, Field-Based Research, Sustainability and Conservation, and Community and Social Justice. The following awards were given at the PPRSF this past February:

**Excellence in Community/Social Justice**

- o 1st Place: Katelyn Anderson, Edison High School. Teacher: Angela Golding
- o 2nd Place: Austin Debano and Karsten Garwood, Evangelical Christian Academy. Teacher: Karen Leidecker

**Excellence in Field Based Research**

- o 1st Place: Xander Duvall, Banning Lewis Ranch Academy. Teacher: Cari Dye
- o 2nd Place: Madelyn Letendre, Monument Academy. Teacher: Marty Venticinque

**Excellence in Rocky Mountain Regional Research**

- o 1st Place: Nathaniel Brim, The Classical Academy. Teacher: Candus Muir
- o 2nd Place: Michelle Kummel, Palmer High School. Teacher: Reed Carlson

**Excellence in Sustainability and Conservation**

- o 1st Place: Kathryn Kummel, North Middle School. Teacher: Erryn Tanner
- o 2nd Place: Charles Golding, Edison High School. Teacher: Angela Golding

**Congratulations to all the winners!**

# Announcements & Events

## Nominations now being accepted for the 2015-16 Community Engagement Recognition Awards

The Collaborative for Community Engagement is now accepting nominations for the 2015-16 Community Engagement Recognition Awards! All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to submit nominations. However, self-nominations will not be considered. The CCE will acknowledge the special work of five individuals from the CC community and one community partner. Find out more about each award and submit a nomination at <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/cce-awards>. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 8.

Additionally, five Sustained Commitment Awards will recognize students who have committed (and documented) the most time to the community this spring. A banquet honoring recipients will be held Thursday, May 5.

## Sustained Commitment Award/ Hour Log

The CCE will offer up to five Sustained Commitment Awards this spring, honoring students who have shown exceptional dedication and commitment to community-based work. The CCE will grant these awards to those students who have committed (and documented) the most time to the community during spring semester, measured simply as number of hours logged. If you are interested in being considered for this

award, please click here to find out more information. Click here to log hours!

## Position Announcement

Public Achievement has two openings for the site coordinator position in 2016-2017 – one for a middle school site and one for a high school site. These positions are open to students currently participating in the program as well as students who have previously participated in Public Achievement for at least one semester. Please contact Sarah Marshall at [sarah.marshall@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:sarah.marshall@coloradocollege.edu) for more information on the position and the application.

## Colorado College-Concrete Couch (“CC Squared”) Penrose Library Mural Project

Work with “the other CC”, students, faculty, staff and alumni, and your CS neighbors to create a fabulous tile and steel-relief mural for Colorado Springs! CC students are invited to come help with the Penrose Library Mural Project, Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30pm at the Morreale Carriage House. This will be especially valuable to people interested in public art, construction and community engagement. Everyone is welcome, but RSVPs are encouraged. To RSVP, or if you have questions, please contact Shanna Farmer at [Shanna.Farmer@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:Shanna.Farmer@ColoradoCollege.edu).

## A Note from the Editor

There is nothing quite like an election year. 2016 will be the first year that I, like so many college students around the country, will cast their votes for the first time. Voting has always been emphasized to me for various reasons, the most prevalent being that it is my civic duty. But what if we look at voting beyond a duty, but an act of participation, and an act of care? Voting is saying, "I care about what happens and I am going to something about it." So let us vote to do and to act in the name of something we care about, rather than just because we should.

Let's not forget that March is Women's History Month. Celebrate the women you know, and learn about those you don't. And while Women's History Month is a time for celebration, let it also be a time for reflection, critique, and growth.

Once again, thank you for reading The Difference. If there is something you would like to see in this newsletter, feel free to email me at salem.tewelde@coloradocollege.edu, along with your questions and concerns. This is the penultimate edition for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Salem Tewelde**

“You cannot, you cannot use someone else’s fire. You can only use your own. And in order to do that, you must first be willing to believe that you have it.”

**Audre Lorde**  
*I Am Your Sister: Collected and Unpublished Writings of Audre Lorde*

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