

THE DIFFERENCE

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

**Consider yourself
an ally? Read up on
the importance of
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An ally is defined as a person or group that gives help to another person or group. This is a broad and simple definition of a rather complex and important experience of being an ally. What does it mean to be an ally and what does it have to do with solidarity? Solidarity can be understood as unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on a community of interests, objectives, and standards. Ally-ship and solidary can work together to make one a stronger advocate, listener, and participator in issues important to oneself and those they

Ally-Ship & Solidarity

What does it mean to be an ally? Consider these tenants and your own practices as an ally, or someone in solidarity.

consider themselves allies to.

Be flexible. Ally-ship can come in many forms. It can be heterosexuals in ally-ship with the LGBTQIA+ community and their needs, white people can be allies for people of color, rich people allies for the poor, etc. But Ally-ship is not just the “privileged” helping the “underprivileged”. It is people of color allies for one another, for the LGBTQIA+ community and vice versa. There is no one way to be an ally but there are ways to be a thoughtful, thorough, and less problematic ally. Adapt to what is needed from you as an ally.

Be humble. An important note to make is that Ally-ship is not inherited, it is granted. For example, one cannot consider themselves an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community by simply sympathizing with that community. Ally-ship is granted by that community in recognizing that that person or group is committed to their wants and needs, and takes direction from that community rather than providing direction. A tenant of ally-ship is to recognize your privilege and how it functions in different spaces.

Decenter yourself and consider the lived experiences of others. Ally-ship is operating in solidarity. This means taking action in the ways that you can to participate in achieving the goals of the community that asks for your help. Acting in solidarity means decentering yourself in the work you are doing. Instead, center those who are most affected by the issues you seek to alleviate or eradicate.

Reflect on your privilege. In order to decenter yourself, reflect on your positionality. How does your race afford you privilege? Your gender? Sexual preferences? Socio-economic

status? How can you use your privilege in those spaces to bring equity to those who are disenfranchised? If you are white, speak to your white community. If you are heterosexual, engage other heterosexuals. Sometimes work is better done in communities where you are situated, rather than entering another community to do work for or with them.

Impact is far greater than intentions. Intentions are often thought to be good. Concluding that intentions were not malicious when the impact was hurtful wrongfully excuses harmful actions. Privilege can often hinder someone from seeing the impact of their actions. Focusing on your impact considers only yourself and what you wanted, while focusing on the impact considers the affected person and how and why they are feeling how they are feeling.

Be okay with being called out. Making mistakes and being corrected on those mistakes is a tenant of growth. It is important to understand that everyone slips up, which is not to excuse it, but to say it is an important aspect in bettering yourself. Allow space for others to check you and hold you accountable for what you do and say. Accountability breeds change as it forces you to consider your actions, reflect on their impact, and change that behavior. Being called out doesn't always mean aggressiveness or embarrassment, so do not meet it with aggression or embarrassment. Rather, meet being called out with an attitude that it is an opportunity to reflect and grow.

Realize the connection between your life and those around you. Each of these considerations, from being flexible to being comfortable with being called out is meant to

garner a deeper sense of horizontal solidarity. This means that you consider your life in connection with others. You learn from others as they learn from you. This includes realizing the ways in which your life may differ, and how that affects someone's lived experience. As Desmond Tutu once said, "My humanity is bound up in yours for we can only be human together". Consider your humanity dependent on others, and as you aid others to reach their full human dignity, you also reach yours. But as others are dehumanized and continually oppressed, you compromise your humanity as well. We depend on one another to make

it through this life without fear, with love, and with the freedom and ability to live life on our terms, as we see fit.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDER AWARENESS WEEK

BREAK THE STIGMA

FEB 26-MARCH 4 2017

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF BODY POSITIVITY

"TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY, IT'S THE ONLY PLACE YOU HAVE TO LIVE."
- JIM ROHN

CHECK OUT SUMMIT FOR MINDFULNESS HIKES WITH THE ORC THIS WEEK

Mon Feb 27
Body Positive Yoga
 1-2pm, El Pomar Multipurpose Room
How to Support Someone With an Eating Disorder Workshop
 3-4:30pm, McHugh Commons
"EMBRACE" Screening
 7:30pm, Theater at Chapel Hills for \$12.65
GROW Meeting
 8pm, Sacred Grounds

Tues Feb 28
Creative Journaling Workshop
 3:30-5pm, Wellness Resource Center
Cooking Class
 With local dietitian Dr. Martha Rosenau
 5:30-7:30pm, Slocum Kitchen
Body Positive Yoga
 8:30-9:30 pm, El Pomar Multipurpose Room

Wed March 1
Yoga
 5:30-6:45 pm, El Pomar Multipurpose Room
Storytelling with Speakeasy
 7pm, Bemis Lounge
Fitness Center Orientation
 8-9pm, El Pomar Multipurpose Room

Thurs March 2
"ED Cares" Info Session & Screening
 12-3pm, Wellness Resource Center Office
Yoga
 5:30-6:45 pm, El Pomar Multipurpose Room
Fitness Center Orientation
 8-9pm, El Pomar Multipurpose Room
"The Illusionists" Screening
 8-10pm, Loomis Lounge

Fri March 3
"ED Cares" Info Session & Screening
 12-3pm, Worner 213
Dance Party
 9-11pm, McHugh Commons

Act in Solidarity with NEDA: National Eating Disorder Awareness Week Begins

Join NEDA for a week of body positivity including yoga, movie screenings, and cooking classes.

NEDA seeks to "Break the Stigma" around Eating Disorders and stimulate conversations concerning body positivity, self-care, and mindfulness. Activities like the Mindfulness Hikes also provide students an opportunity to put these values into practice and engage meaningfully with themselves and others.

Information on NEDA can be found on Facebook, SUMMIT, or on the Colorado College website. Email Talia Worth at talia.worth@coloradocollege.edu for information as well.

Student Group Spotlight: An Interview with The CC Dems

Steven Ortega, Junior and avid member and advocate of CC Dems took some time to answer some questions regarding the CC Dems and their campus presence. The CC Dems provide students a space to politically engage with one another, while also tackling issues pertinent to society as a whole. Join the CC Dems this week for Refugee Week of Action.

Why are you apart of CC Dems? Why do you think its important to have a group or space like CC Dems at CC?

Colorado College Democrats began in 2008 as a vehicle for students interested in progressive politics to connect with causes and campaigns that enable them to tangibly advance those values through political engagement. Our presence on campus varies year-to-year based on the election cycle, but most of our work these days revolves around organizing phonebanks to contact our national representatives about issues of concern, and canvassing for Richard Skorman and Jill Gaebler, two progressive candidates for City Council.

I joined CC Dems in 2014 as a way to try and recruit people for a state representative race I was working on at the time, but have stuck with it since then because it's an avenue to take action on issues I care about. CC students are one of the most well-informed/socially conscious groups of people you'll find, but it's hard to know how to turn the knowledge of injustice we acquire into practical action to reduce its presence in society. The history of the modern Democratic party offers some real guidance on how to do that; generations of activists transformed the Party from its origins as an alliance of arch-segregationists into the party that

enacted the Civil Rights Act, and the programs that make up the American welfare state. It's important for the CC Dems to exist as a means for students who are passionate about advancing and protecting these awesome accomplishments, and we strive to be an avenue for meaningful participation because of that.

What does CC Dems hope to accomplish? What kind of presence would CC Dems like to have on campus and how do you hope to achieve that?

The overarching goal of our group is to present an alternate, civically-engaged model of political life to the prevailing standard of becoming interested in politics every 4 years. There's really not a better time to try and shake things up a bit; there are fewer Democratic officeholders nationwide today than at any point since the 1920s, and a big part of that can be attributed to how infrequently Democratic-leaning voters actually come out to the polls. We're hoping to change that on campus by creating avenues for the campus community to take some form of political action on the issues we care about every day, whether that be calling our Senators or signing up to collect ballots for the City Council election in April. That election is a big test for us; CC students have historically had low voter turnout for a liberal-arts college, and the upcoming Municipal elections represent a real opportunity for us to change that.

To increase student participation, we aim to offer a variety of means for students to learn about and take part in this upcoming election. These include tabling with our community partner Unite Colorado Springs several days a week in Worner to provide students information about candidates in our district, organizing weekly canvassing opportunities in nearby neighborhoods, and advertising the election once ballots arrive in early March. Once ballots

arrive, we've planned forums for local candidates to come and make their case to CC students on why they should receive out vote on April 4th.

Could you tell me about Refugee Week of Action? What do you hope to achieve with this?

Refugee Week of Action is a collaborative effort between CC Democrats, The CC Refugee Alliance, and J Street U that aims to provide a space for students dissatisfied with current political rhetoric around refugees, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and other contemporary issues to voice our dissatisfaction to our national representatives. We will be tabling in Worner from 12:00 – 1:30 starting on Monday the 27th, and going until Friday, March 3rd, and encourage anyone who is interested to come by and learn how to make effective calls, which take only around a minute in total! Our loftiest goal is to make at least 1000 calls during the week, but ultimately we're most interested in continuing to provide spaces for students dissatisfied with the current political climate to participate in politics and remain engaged.

What types of action do you think are powerful for students to change society (if that is a goal)? How do you hope to galvanize students to engage more meaningfully to create this change?

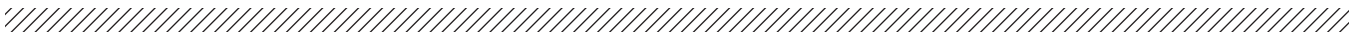
As the example of the change the Democratic Party has undergone throughout its history makes clear, true societal change is an undertaking measured more so in decades than in days or weeks.

“However, that’s not to say substantive change is a product of waiting for it to occur; it really is more so the product of the accumulation of many smaller actions that gradually lay the foundation for the great strides

our society has made across time. We provide students with the chance to take those actions, which follow a kind of progression.”

The most fundamental action of politics is voting, which is the foundation of one's political activity and makes perhaps the most direct political impact. Next, someone who votes has the capacity to influence their elected representatives by contacting them directly; phone calls tend to be the most direct way to accomplish this, as a staffer is required to answer every call, preventing your input from being passed over in the same way an email or letter might be. If done correctly and by enough people, this method of political activity can produce rapid change, such as when the profusion of angry constituent calls led the current House session to abandon a proposal to limit the power of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

You can further increase their political efficacy during elections by volunteering to canvass, make phone calls on behalf of a candidate, or collect ballots for other voters. Doing so directly multiplies the power of the individual, because the people you convince to vote for your candidate while canvassing, and the ballots you collect, multiply the number of votes you can influence. Lastly, someone who works to organize other volunteers, such as by taking on a leadership position in CC Dems, further multiplies their influence by encouraging many others to volunteer and fill these similar roles. On all counts, CC Dems seek to energize students to participate in these activities by continually creating new avenues of participation for students, and ultimately by providing a community to participate in, and share in the pursuit of our mutual goals.



How to: Receive a Community Engaged Leadership Certificate!

If you are a student interested in social issues, community engagement, and engaging in learning beyond the classroom, you should apply for the Community Engaged Leadership Certificate!

CEL Students are students who care – about the classroom, the community, the world, and the people in it. CEL provides students an opportunity to explore their options in how they can impact their respective communities. Students then experience meeting the needs of people/communities. Finally, students evaluate and determine their capacity and how to build upon it.

CEL students also work closely together to provide one another support and guidance as they each work towards a capstone project as the culmination of the knowledge they'd gained from not only the classroom, but their work in community engagement and social justice. Previous capstone projects can be found on the CCE website.

Certificates are given upon completion Senior year, along with graduation stoles, and a celebration.

To apply, go to the CCE website and click on "CEL Program". Applications are also available through Summit. Applications are accepted through March 6th (Third Monday).




NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE

COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEADERSHIP

CERTIFICATE

BECOME A CIVIC LEADER
TACKLE COMPLEX SOCIAL ISSUES
INTEGRATE ACADEMICS & CO-CURRICULARS
IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY

APPLICATIONS DUE
MARCH 6TH, 2017
(THIRD MONDAY)



TO APPLY, GO TO THE CCE WEBSITE, APPLY ON SUMMIT, OR SCAN THIS QR CODE
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 6TH (THIRD MONDAY)

Announcements & Events

CEL Info Session

Feb 28th, 3:00pm, Spencer Boardroom

Interested in applying to the Community Engaged Leadership (CEL) Certificate program, but have some questions? Come hear from current CEL students about the expectations and benefits of the program, and have a chance to get all of your questions answered! 2nd Tuesday (February 28th) at 3:00 pm in the Spencer boardroom. Know already that you want to apply? Applications now open – go to Summit or the CCE website.

National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, Feb 26-Mar 4

Next week is National Eating Disorder Awareness (NEDA) Week. Check with the Wellness Resource Center to check out their list of yoga sessions, workshops, film screenings and other exciting events.

Climbing Beyond Cancer: The Everest Challenge

Join us as we come together to honor cancer survivors, raise awareness about reducing cancer risk, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease.

Prepare to get pumped during this 6-hour event, Friday, March 3rd, from 6:00pm-12:00am! Teams will be divided based on class (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors), and you'll even have the chance to compete against your teachers and advisors in the faculty/staff league! Each class team will be competing against each other to climb the most vertical

feet, but all teams will collectively be trying to climb the height of Everest at 29,029'. Prizes donated by Black Diamond, Mountain Chalet, CityRock, and more will be offered to competitors who raise money at the \$100, \$200, and \$500 level, as well as those who climb the most vertical feet. Food, entertainment, and a great workout guaranteed! Go to main.acevents.org/everestchallenge to register, donate and find out more!

New Summit "Interest" Feature

You can now let community partners know that you're interested in future opportunities they may have. From the Student home screen, select "Browse Community Partners," and just click "I'm Interested" for community partners that pique your interest. It's that easy! And, if you ever change your mind, you can undo the decision the same way.

CCE Seeking Office Interns

Looking for a meaningful way to shape the direction of community engagement initiatives on campus? The CCE is currently seeking two student interns (unpaid) to join our team. Our office is piloting these positions this spring, and hope to transition them into paid internships starting this fall. These internships are a great way to provide the CCE ideas and feedback on programming with a low time commitment (~2 hrs weekly), and potentially lay the groundwork for a longer-term position in our office in the future. Please see brief position descriptions below, and e-mail jordan.radke@coloradocollege.edu to express interest or for more information.

radke@coloradocollege.edu to express interest or for more information.

2018 Block Break ED 250/SO 290: Youth Empowerment in the Neoliberal Age Info Sessions

March 8th or April 5th, at 12:15pm.

Examine issues of youth and politics inclusive of notions of citizenship and democratic engagement, with specific concentration on youth social justice activism in the U.S. Half-block: Learn about Youth Activism theories through readings and course activities & then be trained as a Public Achievement coach. Then, work in teams and coach small groups of 11th grade students at Mitchell High School. The extended block format requires 2 hours of work weekly at Mitchell High School & 8 evening class sessions during the Spring Semester.

March 8 or April 5, at 12:15pm. Pizza lunch provided. For more information, contact tina.valtierra@coloradocollege.edu or eric.popkin@coloradocollege.edu.

Join the CCE listserv for weekly updates on events, announcements, and information on the CCE, student groups, and partner organizations.

A Note from the Editor

In the fall semester, I spent 4 months in Central America in Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Centered on social justice and community engagement, my classroom was often a meeting with community members such as professors, women leading their coffee or weaving cooperative, or host siblings who wanted to know my opinion of MTV.

In each interaction, solidarity was mentioned as a need of the people and the tool in which a young person like myself from the United States could connect to a mother of two from Guatemala. But solidarity is magic in that way – it allows two people with two seemingly wildy different lived experiences to come to a common goal, which is to aid one another in living life on our terms.

Solidarity has the ability to move across time and space to bring people together. Consider your communities. They may seem separate, but how could they be connected? Solidarity is about bringing people together to realize our interconnectedness and how we rely on one another to not just live, but thrive. So build those connections, in even the smallest ways. Become a CEL student and act in solidarity with you various communities and learning spaces. Go to events put on by groups like NEDA or CC Dems. Engage with your community and spaces in a plethora of ways, and you will be suprised by how much you gain by doing so.

Sincerely,

Salem Tewelde

“I don’t believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person. I have a lot to learn from other people.”

Eduardo Galeano

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Phone: (719) 389-6846

Location: **Armstrong Suite 400**

Come by for a snack and meet the staff!



**COLORADO
COLLEGE**