SUNY Cortland
Institute for Civic Engagement

08 January 2025

Dear Professor Ortiz,

I am pleased to write that the Cortland Applied Learning Practitioners *Democracy Engagement Fellowship* Applications Review Committee has accepted your application – *Congratulations!*

Committee members appreciated the democracy engagement spirit of your FSA 100: It connects the relevance of societal structural concerns to teaching and learning, thereby justifying the need for teachers to advocate for policies that improve students' lives and learning. In effect, future teachers model civic decision-making for their students.

One reviewer noted that your "teaching goals are well defined and respond to student learning and beliefs." Another wrote that your "focus on creating welcoming spaces for difficult discussions could be valuable for all of us, especially given the current political polarization."

Your proposed FSA 100 clearly aligns with the intent of the CALP DE Fellowships and with SUNY's new (for fall 2026) *Civic Discourse* Core Competency.

For next steps, please –

- Email me, by Monday, January 20, your spring 2025 *available* meeting times: Monday through Friday, from 8am to 6pm. By Wednesday, January 22, I will email you our meeting schedule. We will meet in the Institute's office: Moffett Center #102.
- Sign and return (with Professor Burns Thomas' signature) the Agreement form that you received as an attachment along with this letter.

Again, Congratulations! I am looking forward to working with you and our other Democracy Engagement Fellows as we help our students use their academic learning to become engaged citizens.

Sincerely,

John Suarez
Director, Barbara A. Galpin Institute for Civic Engagement

CC:
Anne Burns Thomas
Andrea Lachance

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