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# Community Partnerships Newsletter November 2016

Michaela Smith  
*Connecticut College*

Jay Carrasquillo  
*Connecticut College*

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.



# Winthrop Fall Fest

On Thursday, October 20, the Connecticut College Women's cross country team went to the Winthrop Elementary School to help with their Fall Fest. A group of Coast Guard students also assisted with the program. Once the doors opened to students and families, the Winthrop lobby immediately filled with eager monsters, skeletons, and princesses waiting to begin trick or treating indoors. A haunted house and a gym full of Halloween-themed activities also awaited the youngsters. The cross country team enjoyed helping with the various activities and loved to see the smiles upon the faces of the Winthrop students and family members.

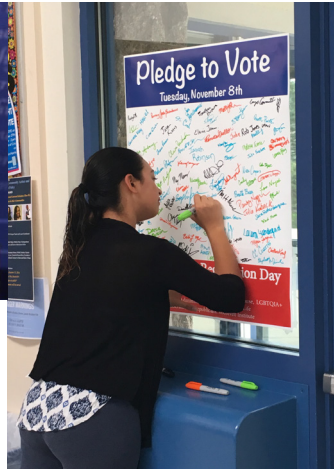


## Voting In A Difficult Election

*Michaela Smith '19*



Politics have never really been an area of interest for me. There seems to be a lot of confusion and inconsistency because of varied opinions or party affiliations. I vaguely started checking into the presidential elections when I was in middle school. This was partly because sixth-grade me was familiarizing herself more with the world but more so because Senator Barack Obama (who would become our nation's first African-American President) was running for office. Being a multiracial individual with parents who are African-American and Caucasian, this election meant so much to me. Even with the "progress" that our nation has made regarding racism, it is so rare to see people of color holding positions of authority and power, let alone running the United States. Since then I have become a bit more involved in the happenings of politics, watching the debates any time that I could and keeping myself up-to-date of the election and the candidates. I have never realized the true importance of voting until now. I met the legal voting age a little over a year ago so this is the first presidential election that I can participate in making my voice count in deciding the future of the country. While engaging in recent conversations with friends and family about the candidates who are currently running for a spot in the White House, it hit me. I finally saw that the election is much more than a couple of debates and public service announcements about a



candidate's stance or their opponent's flaws. Members of the voting population need to thoroughly consider how the candidates will act following the presidential race— if they are professional and worldly enough to handle international relations, if they will listen to the needs of all citizens, and if they will pay attention to the actual issues that the country is dealing with.

Boy did I choose an interesting presidential election to join the voting world on, the race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. Due to Trump's celebrity status, Clinton being a woman, and both candidates having ties to scandals, I feel as though this election has not been one with the clear purpose of selecting the next President of the United States. Instead, I see the candidates taking turns attacking one another and the majority of news stations playing into the gossip and "cat fights" rather than discussing the actual national issues and content that the election should revolve around.

I strongly encourage you all to vote this November if you can, even if you do not feel a strong attraction to either candidate. You have been granted the privilege of making your voice count, of being heard, something that can not be said by each person living in the United States or an American territory. Please visit the polls on Election Day and support a candidate, even if it purely means choosing the lesser of two evils because you do not fully agree with Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump's platforms. Yay Democracy!

# Why Conn?

Jay Carrasquillo '20

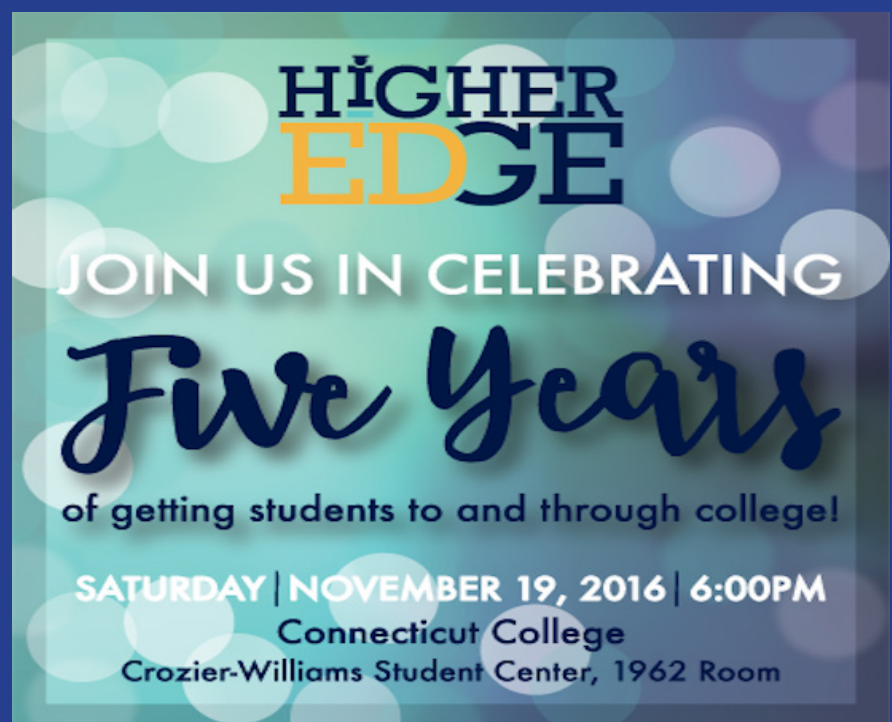
In the Connecticut College mission statement it states, "Rigorous academic standards, innovative and engaging faculty members, and a diverse classroom curriculum challenge students to reach their full intellectual potential. The College expects students to learn outside the classroom as well, through such activities as research, travel, and internships." When reading this off the bat I knew coming in I would be challenged and pushed to my fullest potential both in the classroom and outside the classroom. I often get the question why Conn? I simply reply why not? I play a sport called squash which is a sport that consists of a combination between racquetball and tennis and comprises of very similar rules. I've been playing squash since the 4th grade through a non-profit youth enrichment program called CitySquash. CitySquash helped me apply and attend Connecticut College. CitySquash has opened doors for me such as giving me the opportunity to attend a boarding school called Suffield Academy. At Suffield I played varsity squash for all

4 years ultimately contributing to the team's successful 2015-2016 season by playing #2 on the ladder and helping lead our team to the A Division at New England's, which has only been done one other time in all of Suffield Men's Varsity Squash history. So when applying to Connecticut College one thing I strongly wanted to persist was continuing to play squash and I heard Conn was in the mid stages of rebuilding its squash program, similar to how Suffield Academy was when I applied. I saw how I was able to contribute to the team at Suffield and make history and I can see myself doing the same thing here at Conn along side my diligent and hardworking teammates. Since Suffield I've come to enjoy smaller schools because in a sense it brings the community together and you are then able to form stronger relationships with people than you would at a school with thousands upon thousands of students. Connecticut College definitely fits that description for me. I've only attended Conn for a couple of months now but I can truly say Conn feels like

a second home to me. Overall the folks here at Conn are amazing, kind-hearted and really genuine people. Apart from squash and academics I am a community site driver for Community Partnerships. Community Partnerships provides an opportunity for students to get involved outside of the classroom while also providing transportation for students who go into New London to spend time at local schools, hospitals, courthouses, and many other places. Since working as a driver, I've met some very unique people and have formed relationships with people that I probably wouldn't have without it. One of the things I hope to take out of being a part of Community Partnership is to get to form connections with more people in the Conn community and also to get to know the city of New London a lot better. From what I've learned about New London thus far is that it's very diverse which I really like. The diversity here reminds me of the area I call home in New York City. That's a bona-fide attribute about New London and Connecticut College that I really value.

A long time partner,  
Higher Edge,  
is celebrating its 5th  
year of getting local high  
school students to and  
through college!

Saturday, November 19th  
6:00pm  
Cro 1962 Room





What are Connecticut College students saying about the upcoming election and why they are going to vote?



Now that I have a chance to vote I have a chance to put my money where my mouth is. That's why I vote.

*-Jihmmy Sanchez '17*

There are many people who wish to vote and cannot so thus I am choosing to exercise my privilege.

*-Heidi Munoz '17*

I vote because I want to make living situations in this country better for everybody.

*-Aaron Swenson '18*

I believe that voting is important for changing the world and that exercising my right to vote contributes to my upward mobility. I am an advocate for myself and overcoming the silencing of my community.

*-Shameesha Pryor '17*