Weekly Back!
On behalf of The People’s Pitzer, welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful winter break. Though Pitzer classes and TPP remain virtual for now, we still can’t wait to foster civic engagement in our community.

Weekly Spotlight: What’s Next for TPP

Our current projects include ongoing efforts to connect students to community groups enacting change in the greater L.A. area, hosting activists and scholars at the front lines of civic engagement as guest speakers and workshop leaders, continuing Pitzer College’s involvement in the Project Pericles Letters to an Elected Official Competition (deadline March 11, 2022), partnering with student groups to host educational and action-oriented events, and supporting the development of legislative responses on a wide-range of issues in local CA communities and beyond.

2022 presents an exciting opportunity to foster engagement in the November midterm elections. TPP also plans to continue our student voter mobilization efforts in partnership with the NAACP Pomona Valley, participate actively in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, support organizing and policy work with community partners, and host inspirational and informative speakers.

Volunteers Needed
Looking for a way to practice civic engagement in our community this semester? The National Lawyers Guild is looking for multiple Spring 2022 interns. The NLG’s mission is to “use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an
effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights and the rights of ecosystems over property interests.” Positions available include Legal Observer, Data Analyst, Story Collector for Street Vendor Advocacy, and Media Intern. Interested in applying? Email NLG Mass Defense Program Coordinator Rebecca Brown at rebecca@nlg-la.org with your resume and one sentence about you.

Upcoming Events

In lieu of TPP events this semester, we will be putting efforts in supporting voter mobilization organizing with the NAACP Pomona Valley. If you would be interested in supporting these efforts or connecting with an organization on- or off-campus already working on voter mobilization, please reach out to us right away to be added to our mailing list! We anticipate meetings taking place on a bi-weekly basis.

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Weekly Spotlight

The Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective is a grassroots non-profit organization located in the Inland Empire. They are led by undocumented youth, and their goal is to advocate for and support young immigrants. Focusing on community organizing, advocacy, and power building, they describe themselves as “autonomous leaders who build power from the networks [they’ve] created to influence policy at the county, state, and federal levels.” The IEIYC has three primary areas of focus: building young leaders, protecting families, and ensuring healthy communities.

Volunteers Needed

Looking for a way to practice civic engagement in our community this semester? The Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition is looking for spring 2022 Outreach Volunteers to publicize workshops and events. To learn more, contact Pitzer Hecker Community Fellow Ari Wood at ari_wood@pitzer.edu.

Upcoming Events

Pitzer Community in Action: Community Groundwork and Winning Margins
featuring Michael Ceraso ’14 and Associate Professor of Political Studies, Will Barndt
Wednesday, February 2, at 4:30 p.m. PST
Register here
Join the Office of Alumni & Family Engagement and Annual Giving for a dynamic conversation with Will Barndt, associate professor of political studies, and Pitzer alumnus Michael Ceraso '14, founder and executive director of Winning Margins, a firm created to bring resources to underfunded candidates in underserved communities. With over a decade of experience in local and national electoral campaigns, Ceraso also co-founded Community Groundwork, which offers tools and expertise to pursue careers in politics and public service to community college students. Will Barndt has been a professor at Pitzer since 2013, teaching courses such as Power and Participation in America, Agriculture & Political Rebellion, Comparative Politics, and Campaigns & Parties Practicum.

Pitzer Industry Series: Public Policy/Government
March 1 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Virtual Event

Hosted by Career Services, this event will feature a winter break shadowing host working in public policy and government at Google.

This program is part of a series that provides us with a regular platform for Pitzer alumni and families as well as employers to discuss careers in a variety of fields. In typical Pitzer fashion, we have specifically designed these series events to be small, approximately 10-15 students, to allow for meaningful conversations. Contact tamara_muir@pitzer.edu for more information.

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Weekly Spotlight : California Center for Ethics and Policy
The California Center for Ethics and Policy (CCEP), located in Pomona, focuses on the intersection of policy and ethical challenges in California. Recognizing our state’s role in national and global leadership, the CCEP identifies and helps implement “reasoned, evidence based solutions” to ethical legislative challenges.

Want to learn more? Check out their website or podcast: Securing Justice: A CCEP Podcast on Housing Insecurity in California.

Volunteers Needed

Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Competition
Every year, Pitzer works with Project Pericles to promote civic engagement within higher education through a letter-writing project: Debating for Democracy (D4D). D4D is an annual competition where students research, develop, and advocate their opinions and positions on current public policy issues. Pitzer students will produce a co-written (two Pitzer/non-senior students minimum), two page letter to a federal or state elected official advocating for a legislative response to a current issue. The primary goal of D4D is to inspire and encourage all participants to become successful and resourceful advocates in their community. Out of the thirty Periclean institutions, five winning teams will be selected to receive $500 towards mobilizing on their issue back at their home college the following year.

Interested in participating? Learn more about this competition by reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP) here and our rubric based on the RFP to guide letter writing here. Letters are due in March 2022 but we recommend getting started as soon as
possible. You can view previous winning letters here as well as a helpful infographic we have created here. TPP will host a letter-writing workshop later this month to assist students interested in participating. If you need more information, please reach out to aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu.

Upcoming Events

**Laspa Center for Leadership Elect Her Training**

February 25 @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Virtual Event

The Laspa Center is again partnering with Running Start to host the Elect Her Training on February 25 from 10:00 - 12:30 p.m. It will be virtual this year. Student and alums across the 7Cs are invited to participate. This is a unique nonpartisan training for women and gender fluid individuals on how to run for political office. The goal is to advance gender equity in this and other arenas.

The training includes a 1-hour panel discussion with elected officials that they hope to announce soon. Attendees will also have a chance to develop an elevator speech about an issue they care about and map out a potential network of support. Past participants report that the Elect Her training had a positive impact on their confidence, intention, and decision to run for student government and public office.

All 7C students are invited to take advantage of this great training as it is only offered every 2 years.

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Weekly Spotlight: League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is “a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.” They were founded in Chicago in 1920 by suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association before the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified. Now, the LWV’s organizing strategies include advocacy, education, and litigation at federal, state, and local levels. Some of their top priorities include ensuring everyone has access to voting information, improving equity around exercising the right to vote, reducing the influence of money in politics, and opposing partisan and racial gerrymandering. Among other topics, they advocate for equitable health care reform, reproductive justice, environmental protection, and compassionate immigration policies.

Volunteers Needed

The following information can be found on the League of Women Voters website.

Tell Your Senators to Support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
The Senate just introduced the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA), which will fully restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and ensure renewed oversight, accountability, and justice in our democracy. We must ensure that every voter is treated fairly at the ballot box and has equal access to vote.

Call on the Biden-Harris White House to do everything within their power to protect voting rights
The freedom to vote is under direct assault across the country, especially for women, Black and brown Americans, and people with disabilities. Federal voting rights protections cannot wait and are vital to saving the soul of our democracy.
Reach out to your Senators now and urge them to support legislation to remove the ERA’s ratification deadline
Congress must remove the ratification deadline of the Equal Rights Amendment to get it across the finish line and added to the Constitution.

Urge your Senators to support the full rights of DC residents
The people of Washington, DC deserve the same rights as any American living in our 50 states. They deserve full representation in Congress and to be free of Congressional interference in their local governance.

Tell your Senators to pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and take a stand against the epidemic of gun violence
Now is the time for Congress to step up and pass common-sense gun violence prevention reforms, such as universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, and banning assault weapons.

Stand with the League in our fight to ensure our elections are always free, fair, and accessible
Across the country, there has been a concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate. Legislators and election officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions.

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Weekly Spotlight

National Lawyers Guild is an organization aiming “to use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights and ecosystems over property interests.

NLG is dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. NLG is anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-racist and we strive to bring in anti-oppressive practices to all aspects of our organization. Through the national office, local and law school chapters, national committees, independent projects, and individual members, the Guild helps to support social justice movements on the ground as well as provide solidarity to international struggles.”

Volunteers Needed
National Lawyers Guild is in need of volunteers to document law enforcement activity at collective actions, support data from the Superior Court System, interview street vendors in Santa Monica to document violence and issues with police (bilingual), and volunteers with Canva experience for making more exciting/presentable guides/information. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities please contact the CEC’s Hecker Community Fellow, Ari Wood, at ari_wood@pitzer.edu.
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Meet winter break shadowing host Sean Sullivan ’10 a Strategy and Innovation Manager at Google for a discussion on Public Policy and government

Note: Due to Pitzer’s COVID restrictions, this program will be virtual. https://pitzer.zoom.us/j/7143224139

Legal Observer Training with the National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles
March 22 @ 5:30 pm
Virtual Event

“NLG-LA works to ensure the legal and practical access to demonstrations in Southern California by regularly providing legal observers at demonstrations to observe and document potentially unlawful or unjustified interference with demonstrators’ rights by law enforcement.” Join the CEC and National Lawyer’s Guild of LA for a training to be certified as a legal observer. Spanish translation will be available. For more information, contact immediate_action@pitzer.edu. Interested in collaborating with TPP? Contact TPP Program Assistant aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu or CEC Assistant Director, Jessica Chairez, Jessica_Chairez@pitzer.edu. Check
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Weekly Spotlight

Fighting Against Farmland Destruction in Ontario

Next week, on March 1st, the Ontario City Council will vote on the General Plan amendment for the South Ontario Logistics Center Specific Plan to rezone an area of the city, the Borba property. The farmland will be destroyed to make way for warehouse development.

Many individuals and community-led organizations in the Inland Empire have formed a coalition fighting against the destruction of over 200 acres of prime farmland in Ontario to make way for more polluting warehouses. The coalition includes the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, American Farmland Trust, and the League of United Latin American Citizens, among others.

In a letter of opposition to rezoning to the Ontario City Council, the coalition states that rezoning is "designed to pave the way toward industrialization rather than agro ecological stewardship of the remaining agricultural land in Ontario." The letter cites the negative impacts of warehouse growth that have affected Ontario communities for generations and the harms of exacerbating climate destruction.

The coalition envisions a no vote that will pave the way for “considering long-term investments in a regenerative, sustainable agriculture zone that can feed our communities, promote biodiversity, create climate resilience, and provide housing and education for generations to come.”

Volunteers Needed

Join the Ontario City Council meeting happening tonight at 6:30pm at City Council Chamber, 303 East B Street, Ontario, CA to support the coalition urging the Ontario City
Council to vote no on the zoning change from agricultural to industrial on the Borba property.

Or, submit a comment of opposition online by filling out a Public Comment Form by 4pm TODAY. You may also submit your comments by email no later than 4pm today by emailing your name, agenda item you are commenting on and your comments to publiccomments@ontarioca.gov. All comments received by the deadline will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration before action is taken on the matter. Please refer to this document for talking points.

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Weekly Spotlight: Community Groundwork

Information below taken from Community Groundwork’s website.

Community Groundwork is an organization helping community college students become engaged, effective, and equal citizens through careers in public service. Co-founders Michael Ceraso and Elizabeth Emera established Community Groundwork to give two-year college students the same tools to pursue careers in politics and public service available to students at four-year institutions.

Co-founder and Executive Director Michael Ceraso's long political career started at a community college. After completing his A.A. degree from Citrus Community College, he went to work on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign in New Mexico. He discovered his skill-sets and professional networks were behind his campaign peers who completed political internships and training programs at four-year schools unavailable to two-year students.

Recognizing that community college students might lack the practical know-how or confidence to participate in a sector that feels resigned to university and Ivy League students, Michael’s goal is to demystify the process and instill confidence in two-year students whose careers in government advocacy political campaigns are within reach.
To fulfill that mission, Community Groundwork programs provide stipends to supplement lost wages from missed shifts and cover expenses like transportation and food to remove as many practical impediments as possible for those students with the passion, curiosity, and work ethic to participate.

Community Groundwork training and mentorship programs offer access to accomplished political professionals who volunteer their time to teach courses on everything from networking and resume-writing to digital storytelling and data analytics. After these quarterly programs, students leverage job shadowing and placement opportunities with elected officials, local races, and city agencies near each partner college.

Volunteers Needed

Ontario for Agriculture Organizing Interns needed!
Many individuals and community-led organizations in the Inland Empire have formed a coalition fighting against the destruction of over 200 acres of prime farmland in Ontario to make way for more polluting warehouses. The coalition includes the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, American Farmland Trust, and the League of United Latin American Citizens, among others. They need to collect 10,000 signatures by March 31st for a referendum in the city of Ontario to prevent farmland destruction. If interested in helping out collecting signatures and community organizing, email ontario4ag@gmail.com.

Interested in TPP’s work? We are looking for two more student interns! If interested, contact aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu. Work-study preferred.

Looking for a summer internship? TPP has compiled a list of volunteer and internship opportunities relating to government, public policy, and civic action. See some internships highlighted below and be sure to check out our website for more information!

A Collaborative Study of Social/Political Psychology of Online Communities | University of Michigan

**Deadline** | March 31st, 2022

**Location** | Remote

Legal Assistant Intern | Orange County Public Defender's Office

**Deadline** | April 28th, 2022
Location | Fullerton, CA
Public Policy Internship | Tesla
Deadline | May 2nd, 2022
Location | Washington, D.C., Palo Alto, CA, Remote
Policy & Legislative Affairs Intern | Orange County Board of Supervisors
Deadline | May 5th, 2022
Location | Santa Ana, CA
Associate Social Justice & Activism Podcaster | The Creative Process
Deadline | May 27th, 2022
Location | Los Angeles, CA
Development Intern – Grant Writing | Mother and Child Education Center
Deadline | September 1st, 2022
Location | Portland, OR

Upcoming Events

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Weekly Spotlight: Public Citizen

Information below from the Public Citizen website.
Public Citizen is a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that champions the public interest in the halls of power. We defend democracy, resist corporate power and work to ensure that government works for the people – not for big corporations. Founded in 1971, we now have 500,000 members and supporters throughout the country.

We don't participate in partisan political activities or endorse any candidates for elected office. We take no government or corporate money, which enables us to remain fiercely independent and call out bad actors – no matter who they are or how much power and money they have.

We use every tool at our disposal to take on big fights – and win. We mobilize activists to grow democratic movements, watchdog Congress, sue the government when it fails to do its job, petition regulatory agencies to safeguard the public and engage in cutting-edge research that effects change.

Volunteers Needed

**Public Citizen**

Interested in gaining internship experience with an organization that fights for a more equitable government? Public Citizen is currently looking for candidates for Summer 2022 paid and unpaid internships. Open positions include Advocacy Internship, Legal Internship, Communications Internship, Democracy Fellow, Global Trade Watch – Legal Research Internship, Medicare for All Organizing Internship, and Environmental Policy and Advocacy Internships. Check out their website for more information.

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**Ontario for Agriculture Organizing**

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**Deadline** | May 2nd, 2022

**Location** | Washington, D.C., Palo Alto, CA, Remote

Policy & Legislative Affairs Intern | Orange County Board of Supervisors

**Deadline** | May 5th, 2022

**Location** | Santa Ana, CA

Associate Social Justice & Activism Podcaster | The Creative Process

**Deadline** | May 27th, 2022

**Location** | Los Angeles, CA

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Cesar Chavez Day
March 31, colleges observe March 25

Information below from Wikipedia.

Cesar Chavez was an American labor leader and civil rights activist. Along with Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which later merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) to become the United Farm Workers (UFW) labor union.
Cesar Chavez practiced leftist community organizing tactics to advocate for Mexican-American farmworkers. In the 1960s, he began organizing strikes among farmworkers, most notably the successful Delano grape strike of 1965–1970. Influenced by the Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, Chavez emphasized direct but nonviolent tactics, including pickets and boycotts, to pressure farm owners into granting strikers' demands.

He became an icon for organized labor and leftist groups in the U.S. His birthday is a federal commemorative holiday in several U.S. states. In 1994 he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**The 18th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast with Latino and Latina Roundtable**
Friday March 25 @ 9 - 10:30 am
Virtual Event

The Latino and Latina Roundtable invites you to the 18th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast honoring individuals who are living out the core values of the late civil rights activist and labor leader. This is also a fundraiser for our organization. In the
spirit of Cesar Chavez, we continue to organize and build leadership through our collective power and unity.

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Weekly Spotlight: Senate Bill 851

**SB-851 Cal Grant Program: independent institutions of higher education**

This bill, written by Senator Anthony Portantino, expands support for low-income college students who attend independent California colleges and universities by reviewing guidelines around associate degree transfers and Cal Grant award amounts and expanding eligibility for parents of Cal Grant recipients and foster youth. This bill affects existing laws that currently exclude low-income students from parts of the Cal Grant program if they attend independent schools.

The bill has passed the California Senate Education Committee and will “remove arbitrary limits on student access to higher education and provide broad equal opportunity for undergraduates to thrive at institutions of higher education across California,” according to Senator Portantino.

Want to learn more about expanding educational opportunities for all? Check our TPP community partner College for All, a community coalition supporting education access in California.

Above information provided by Professor José Calderón - thank you!

Volunteers Needed

**High School Students - Apply to Future Voters Action Week with The Civics Center!**

FVAW is a five-day virtual workshop for high school students interested in developing their leadership skills. The program trains students to develop public narratives and voter registration action plans and also offers an opportunity to collaborate with other students. There is no cost to apply or to attend. Applications for Future Voters Action Week are due April 1. The Civics Center is a
nonprofit project of Community Partners, a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to building the foundation of youth civic engagement. More info can be found on our website.

Ontario for Agriculture Organizing
Many individuals and community-led organizations in the Inland Empire have formed a coalition fighting against the destruction of over 200 acres of prime farmland in Ontario to make way for more polluting warehouses. The coalition includes the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, American Farmland Trust, and the League of United Latin American Citizens, among others. They need to collect 10,000 signatures by April 8th for a referendum in the city of Ontario to prevent farmland destruction. If interested in helping out collecting signatures and community organizing, email ontario4ag@gmail.com.

The People’s Pitzer
Interested in TPP’s work? We are looking for two more student interns! If interested, contact aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu. Work-study preferred.

Other Opportunities
Looking for a summer internship? TPP has compiled a list of volunteer and internship opportunities relating to government, public policy, and civic action. See some internships highlighted below and be sure to check out our website for more information!

A Collaborative Study of Social/Political Psychology of Online Communities | University of Michigan

**Deadline** | March 31st, 2022
**Location** | Remote

Legal Assistant Intern | Orange County Public Defender’s Office

**Deadline** | April 28th, 2022
**Location** | Fullerton, CA

Public Policy Internship | Tesla

**Deadline** | May 2nd, 2022
**Location** | Washington, D.C., Palo Alto, CA, Remote

Policy & Legislative Affairs Intern | Orange County Board of Supervisors
Deadline | May 5th, 2022
Location | Santa Ana, CA
Associate Social Justice & Activism Podcaster | The Creative Process
Deadline | May 27th, 2022
Location | Los Angeles, CA
Development Intern – Grant Writing | Mother and Child Education Center
Deadline | September 1st, 2022
Location | Portland, OR

Upcoming Events
Art Exhibition: Pau S. Pescador: Working
March 29, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Pitzer College Art Galleries

Pau S. Pescador: Working explores the stories of trans individuals who work in the civil service sector in a time when legal protections have become contested ground and successive Presidential administrations have issued opposing orders on the rights of employees based on gender, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Pitzer College Art Galleries is open for groups of up to 6 people for one-hour visits. Appointments are offered Tuesday through Saturday on the hour at 1, 2, 3, and 4 pm. Make a reservation to visit our current exhibitions, and complete our online health check form on the day of your visit, prior to arriving.
My Law School Experience: Application to Post-Graduation!

March 30, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Pitzer Career Services

Meet a Pitzer alumna who is a recent law school graduate from American University Washington School of Law. She will share her journey to law school and her post-grad experience. Come prepared with some questions for our Q&A portion.
RSVP in Handshake for Zoom Link.

Cesar Chavez Day
March 31, colleges observe March 25

Information below from Wikipedia.

Cesar Chavez was an American labor leader and civil rights activist. Along with Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which later merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) to become the United Farm Workers (UFW) labor union.

Cesar Chavez practiced leftist community organizing tactics to advocate for Mexican-American farmworkers. In the 1960s, he began organizing strikes among farmworkers, most notably the successful Delano grape strike of 1965–1970. Influenced by the Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi,
Chavez emphasized direct but nonviolent tactics, including pickets and boycotts, to pressure farm owners into granting strikers' demands.

He became an icon for organized labor and leftist groups in the U.S. His birthday is a federal commemorative holiday in several U.S. states. In 1994 he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Interested in collaborating with TPP? Contact TPP Program Assistant aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu or CEC Managing Director tricia_morgan@pitzer.edu. Check our website for additional information and updates.

Connect with Us

Want to hear more from The People’s Pitzer? Join our email list here. Want to get involved in the Community Engagement Center in other ways? Fill out our volunteer interest form here.

Follow our Instagram and Facebook (@ThePeoplesPitzer) for updates, and be sure to check out our website to see all our resources. Keep an eye out for future newsletters as well!

Further questions? Comments? Concerns? For more information about The People’s Pitzer, as well as how to get involved in our team, contact Alaina Neuberger at aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu.