May 29, 2014

Dear First Year Civic Scholar Class of 2018,

Welcome to Drew and to the Civic Scholars Program! Let me begin by congratulating you on being among a select number of students whose commitment to community service has earned them a Civic Engagement Scholarship. Your accomplishments are admirable, and we look forward to supporting your continued work to benefit others.

As a Drew Civic Scholar you will have a number of special opportunities, and also some special obligations. Each year all Civic Scholars at Drew contribute a minimum of 100 hours of community service and complete the Civic Scholars Program for their class. The Civic Scholars Handbook, which you will receive when you arrive in August, describes program expectations (for a preview, check out the Civic Scholars section of the Center for Civic Engagement website at drew.edu/cce).

First-year Civic Scholars who live on-campus will be housed together as one of Drew’s living-learning communities. All Civic Scholars (including commuters) are automatically enrolled in a College Seminar for Civic Scholars only that examines the meaning of “community,” the significance of “service,” and what happens when we put these two powerful words together. Working off-campus with our community partners is an important part of this class and of your education as a Civic Scholar.

In addition, all first-year Civic Scholars are automatically enrolled in a 1-credit Civic Workshop each semester. This class meets Tuesdays 4:30-5:45pm and focuses on building skills that strengthen your ability to engage effectively with communities. Each spring, first-year Civic Scholars plan and implement projects that benefit a community outside of Drew; these projects are the Workshop’s major assignment. Check out a few of last year’s projects on our website under Civic Scholars.

During summer Registration Days on June 23, 24, and 25, the Center for Civic Engagement, located in Davies House, will be open. Please stop by while you are on campus to meet our Assistant Director, Amy Sugerman (and possibly some current Civic Scholars who are on campus) and to ask any questions you may still have about the Civic Scholars Program or civic engagement at Drew. See the enclosed flyer for more information about what to expect and how to prepare for your first year as a Civic Scholar.

Finally, I would like to share my personal excitement about the Civic Scholars program. You and your fellow Civic Scholars are leaders in creating new pathways for Drew students to connect learning with action for the greater good. I very much look forward to working with you to achieve this goal. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (973-408-3208) or email (akoritz@drew.edu) with questions, comments, and ideas as you plan for your first year as a Civic Scholar at Drew.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Koritz
Director, Center for Civic Engagement
General Information for First Year Civic Scholars

June Registration
Many of you will be visiting campus to register for classes on June 23, 24, or 25. Please stop by to see us! We’d like to welcome you personally and answer any questions you might have about the program. Your schedule that day will be a busy one, but there will be time in the afternoon for you and your family/friends to visit us in Davies House.

Orientation Day of Service
On Labor Day, September 1, we invite you to participate with your fellow Civic Scholars and Drew 2018 class members at an off-campus service opportunity. We had a huge turnout last year when we went to America’s Grow-a-Row where we harvested over 200 pounds of string beans. Grow-A-Row provides fresh produce to food pantries, soup kitchens, and food desert areas all over New Jersey. There is limited space, so watch for sign-ups to be announced later this summer at Drew.edu/orientation.

Save the Date for our Fall Retreat
Current Civic Scholars have been busy planning for your arrival as well. Among these plans is a Retreat & Day of Service for all Civic Scholars, during the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 7. Details will follow, and will include a brief meeting followed by an off-campus service opportunity. This is a required event, so please mark your calendars now!

Community Partner Placements
You will be placed in teams with a community partner in the first or second week of classes based on your interests and class schedules. Service with your community partner – for approximately 2 hours per week – will be your introduction to the important work of these organizations. To find out more about them visit our website—look for “Community Partner Highlights” under “Get Engaged.” We hope you will be intrigued and inspired!

Transportation to Community Partner Sites
Our community partners are within walking distance or reachable by public transportation and/or by taxi service provided by a local company under contract with us. Arrive at Drew with sufficient funds (about $50) to cover the costs of train or bus tickets (taxi service is pre-paid by the University). We reimburse eligible expenses up to $100 per student each semester for travel to your service sites, but you will need to be able to fund your travel up front.

LIKE Us!
If you have social media accounts, Like us at “Drew University Center for Civic Engagement” on Facebook. We post regular updates that share pictures from our Civic Scholars’ events, announcements of service opportunities, and news about our Center and our community partners. Join your fellow C’18 Civic Scholars on the group page “Civic Scholars 2018.” And finally, follow us on Twitter @drewengage.

Questions? Contact Amy Sugerman, Assistant Director, Center for Civic Engagement at 973-408-3069, or by email at asugerma@drew.edu.
Information for First Year Civic Scholars

Residing in the Residence Halls

**Living on Campus**
The Center for Civic Engagement endeavors to create the best experience possible for you as a Civic Scholar. One of the hallmarks of our first-year program is the Civic Scholars Living Learning Community. Those First Year Civic Scholars who live on campus will reside together in Welch Hall, rooming with other first year Civic Scholars. Living in this community will allow targeted programming specific to Civic Scholar students’ interests and an environment conducive to group work for your shared classes, workshops, and projects. Please visit the Residence Life website to learn more about the Civic Scholars Living Learning Community (drew.edu/reslife under the links to CLA Special Interest Housing).

**Roommates and Room Assignments**
In creating Living Learning Programs, studies and experience show that intact cohort communities create the optimal environment for the best student experience. For this reason, your roommate will also be a first year Civic Scholar student.

**Commuters and Students with Medical Needs**
For those students who choose to commute to campus, as well as those students who have medical needs that are met in other residences halls, you will still be able to partake in the Civic Scholars Living Learning Community. We will arrange for you to have access to the floor so that you can be a full member of this community.

**Questions?**
We work closely with our partners in Housing and Residence Life. Room assignments will come out in early August. Information about Residence Life programs will be coming out to all first year students by the beginning of July. This will include important policy information as well as information on microfridge rentals, loft rentals, and care packages. Please feel free to contact either office or visit their website:

**Housing, Conferences and Hospitality:**
Telephone: 973-408-3681  
Website: [http://www.drew.edu/housing/](http://www.drew.edu/housing/)

**Residence Life:**
Telephone: 973-408-3394  
Website: [http://www.drew.edu/reslife/](http://www.drew.edu/reslife/)