Winter Park Campus Overview, 2019-2020

Valencia College's Winter Park Campus (WPC) is a central, convenient, tucked-away powerhouse of learning nestled in the heart of Winter Park, at the corner of Morse Boulevard and Denning Drive, steps from the popular Park Avenue shopping district and SunRail station. As one of Valencia's smaller campuses, WPC primarily offers courses towards the Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree and is a learning-centered, academic community composed of students, faculty, and staff. WPC provides a supportive environment that encourages and challenges individuals to think, communicate, value, and act in order to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their goals. WPC offers a variety of learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom, to ensure a positive and successful learning experience for our diverse community.

Campus Initiative Highlights

- International Partnership- In February 2020 WPC faculty (Suzette Ashton, Jason Balserait, Jamie Prusak, and Val Woldman), staff and students hosted twenty-one students from Valencia's sister college Koning Willem I College from the Netherlands. Students worked on numerous class projects together, creative thinking, PJI crucial conversations, recorded in the East Campus studio and experienced some of Central Florida's many attractions.
- **Biweekly** *Coffee and Conversation* with Executive Dean Terri Daniels provides students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to converse with the Executive Dean over coffee in the student break room.
- Illyse Kusnetz Writing Festival- An open mic showcase was organized in October 2019 by WPC Communication Manager Chris Brown, features poems and literature written by Valencia College faculty, students and Central Florida community authors. Throughout the festival, the audience members voted on their favorite piece. First, second and third place winners received a cash prize. The highest voted Valencia student work was also awarded a prize.
- Valencia's Brain Bowl team, led by WPC English faculty Chris Borglum, won its ninth national championship in February 2020, beating their rivals from Chipola College (in Marianna, FL) in the final match 260-210. Valencia's team went undefeated in the 24-team tournament, which brought students from colleges in 11 states to the West Campus. Prior to the pandemic, the team was scheduled to compete against university teams at the National Intercollegiate Tournament in Chicago.
- Medieval and Renaissance Fair, hosted by WPC part-time Humanities faculty Elizabeth Falcoun, students and local
 medieval and renaissance re-enactors in October 2019, offered a wide assortment of interactive activities including
 a table exhibiting some of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions, a card-weaving loom and a colorful textile dyeing
 demonstration. WPC humanites students researched, developed and created all artifact displays including the use of
 herbs in the medieval period, medieval armor and interactive displays detailing the impact of the bubonic plague.
- Free Loving Kindness Meditation & Koru Mindfulness classes for students, faculty and staff were offered weekly by WPC counselor Marcia Roman, Certified Koru Mindfulness Teacher. Koru is a curriculum developed by Duke University psychiatrists has show to have significant effects on improving participants' ability to cope with stress and anxiety, improve sleep, self-compassion and increase focus.
- Faculty Leadership- For 2019-2020, Jaime Prusak served as WPC Faculty Assemply President, with Paul Chapman as Vice President. Several WPC faculty also voluntarily stepped into collegewide leadership roles on various teams to assist with online transition: John Niss- Instructional Materials; Dr. Upasana Santra- Online Course Development; and Val Woldman-Academic Integrity.

Community Engagement Highlights

• **Gus Henderson Scholarship Committee**- included key residents of Winter Park to participate in a fund raising campaign that raised over \$50,000 between September 2019 and January 2020. The newly endowed scholarship honors the legacy of Winter Park editor and activist Gus Henderson. Henderson played a pivotal role in the incorporation of the City of Winter Park when he led a large contingency of registered black voters from Hannibal Square to cast their ballots in 1887.

- **Peace and Justice Institute**, housed at the Winter Park Campus, hosted numerous community activities throughout the academic year including panel discussions, workshops, film screenings, teacher academies, and Global Peace Week. A noted highlight of Global Peace week was the inaugural Peace Day in the Park festival in September 2019.
- **Central Florida Table Talks participation-** WPC hosted two tables for this community discussion initiative in October 2019.
- **Community Chess Night** Since summer 2019, WPC Technical Support Specialist Fernando Gutierrez and the Orlando Chess Club have teamed up to host chess events every Thursday night on the Winter Park Campus. An elderly community member who expressed feelings of isolation and loneliness at Table Talks on campus started attending chess night. One Thursday in February 2020, the Winter Park Campus received a surprise visit from International Chess Grand Master Julio Granda. He was visiting Orlando and heard about the chess nights from community chess members. More than 25 people attended the event and were astounded as Julio played over 10 games at the same time and had not eaten lunch that day.
- Other Community Initiatives- Eatonville Neighborhood Center for Families Advisory Committee, 1st Female Welbourne Nursery Celebrity Reader, Orange Technical Community Festival, Pace Center for Girls Gift Drive



WINTER PARK CAMPUS

Big enough to serve you, small enough to know you

FALL 2019

