

Columbia County's Board of Supervisors invites high school juniors & seniors to **virtually** participate in the **2020-2021 F.L.A.G.** Program

FUTURE

LEADERS

ACTIVE in

GOVERNMENT Program

Coordinated by UW-Madison Extension Columbia County

Sponsored by Columbia County Board of Supervisors



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COLUMBIA COUNTY



COLUMBIA
COUNTY

*“Communities with **strong indicators of civic health** as measured by the Civic Health Index have **higher employment rates, stronger schools, better physical health**, and more **responsive governments**. We think of civic health as the manner in which communities organize to define and address public problems.”*

– National Conference on Citizenship

COLUMBIA COUNTY'S F. L. A. G. Program

What is **virtual F.L.A.G.**:

As a student in F.L.A.G., you will have the opportunity to explore Columbia County, WI Legislative and local government's decision-making process along with youth from other area high schools.

The purpose of the Columbia County F.L.A.G. Program is to:

- ★ Increase youths' understanding of local government roles, responsibilities and decision-making outside the classroom.
 - ★ Connect youth to how citizens work within government to meet public needs.
 - ★ Provide a platform that promotes intergenerational learning & understanding among youth, county board members, county department staff, public issue professionals, and state legislators.
 - ★ Build civic understanding, engagement and leadership within youth's sphere of influence using 21st century skillsets.
 - ★ Increase youth's capacity to voice their opinions in the public arena.
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Participants*:

Students — Columbia County high school juniors & seniors recruited in early fall.

Sponsor — Columbia County Board of Supervisors will provide scholarships to all selected student candidates.

Coordinators & Instructors — UW-Madison Extension Columbia Co.

Partners — Co. Board Supervisors, Co. Departments Staff, Extension Specialists, Public Issue Professionals, & Area High Schools.

**All participants will need to have access to Zoom.*

**Inclement weather policy — F.L.A.G. session will be cancelled if any of the participating school districts is dismissing or cancelling the school day due to bad weather conditions.*

Expectations: Schools



- ★ Inform students of F.L.A.G. program opportunities & expectations.
- ★ Recruit and nominate students who have an enhanced interest in politics, current events, history, government and public policy/engagement.
- ★ Communicate any scheduled school dates that conflicts with 2020-21 FLAG dates.

Students

- ★ Have a heightened interest to learn & experience the in's and out's of local government;
- ★ **Make every effort to attend all sessions and be prepared to engage;**
- ★ Be respectful to fellow participants, instructors and guests;
- ★ Be an engaged & contributing member of a "Capstone" team; and,
- ★ Be present, willing to engage and connect positively to the F.L.A.G. challenge!
- ★ Adhere to UW-Madison Extension **COVID-19 safety & health guidelines.**

2020-2021 F.L.A.G. Program Schedule

Session Dates & Time:	Session Focus
ALL @ 9:30 am — noonish Coaches @ 9-9:25 am	
October 21, 2020, Wed.	F.L.A.G. Kick-off , Real Colors/Team Building; Program Expectations; Discover Who's Your Supervisor & Invite to interview; In the News & Opinion Line (I-t-N & OL)
November 11, 2020, Wed. / Co. Bd. Involvement (CBI)	Government Around the Clock; What is a Public Good & Being a Public Servant; Identify "Public Issues that Matter" Teams; Supervisor Interviews ; ID and invite Co.
December 2, 2020, Wed.	Capstone Projects — Public Issues in Columbia Co. Gov't Interviews ; Speed-dating/Team Building;
December 16, 2020, Wed. / CBI	Capstone Projects — Public Issue Professional Interviews ; Team Building; I-t-N & OL
January 20, 2021, Wed.	Capstone Projects — Developing message points around public issues with WI Counties Association
February 10, 2021, Wed.	Zooming with your WI Legislators
March 17, 2021 Wed. / CBI	Capstone Public Issues Open House ; I-t-N & OL
April 20, 2021 Tues. / CBI	County Board on the floor & Public Issues that Matter; Recruiting 2021-2022 Coaches; Graduation



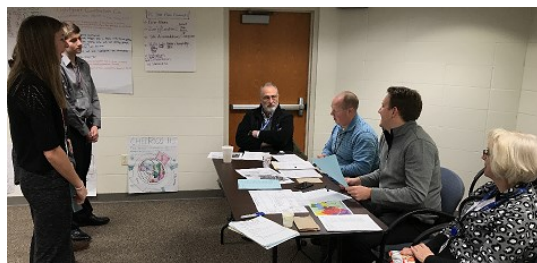
"Be the change you want to see in the world." -- Gandhi

2019-2020 F.L.A.G. class at Capitol



Above: 2019-2020 F.L.A.G. participants during Co. Bd. Supervisor interviews.

Below: 2019-2020 student participants presenting "F.L.A.G. City" design plans around public issues that matter to mock planning commissioners (e.g., co. bd. supv., co. staff & public issue professionals) during planning simulation.



Student Testimonials:

- *"I thought that this was a great year for FLAG. I really think that with all of the things we've done this year, I've gained amazing leadership and communication skills. I also came back for a second year because I thought FLAG was really interesting."*

☆☆☆☆

- *"I do feel that I learned more about my local government. Being able to job shadow, and meet with people from the county helped me to learn what actually happens within the county. Also, the time we spent meeting with the legislators was very informative. Throughout this experience FLAG helped increase my level of understanding government..."*

☆☆☆☆

- *"...I wanted to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the FLAG program over the past two years. I am excited to let you know that the program played a significant role in my decision to major in political science at Edgewood College. I was wondering if you knew of any ways that I could more actively participate in my local government as a college student...I would love to have a position that gives me experience in my field, especially after making so many connections through FLAG."*



For additional information contact:

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