# College Procedure: CVTC Free Speech and Public Assembly Procedure

## Purpose

Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) recognizes the rights set forth in the First Amendment. The objectives of this procedure are to:

- Protect and ensure the safety and security of the students, employees and visitors;
- Protect and ensure the mission of CVTC;
- Ensure the orderly conduct of CVTC business on College property and affected surrounding areas including no disruption of the learning environment

## Procedure

When the College receives information that an assembly is planned or in progress, notification will be made to the following:

- Public Safety Manager or designee
- Director of Marketing and Communication or designee
- Vice President of Finance and Facilities or designee

The College requests contact with the CVTC Facilities Office to secure space, equipment, utilities or support for free speech and public assembly as outlined in #3 below. CVTC Facilities office is located at the Eau Claire Business Education Center (BEC) campus, 620 Clairemont Avenue, Room 159. Phone number 715-833-6207.

- 1. CVTC hereby designates as Public Assembly Areas the locations identified in the appendices. These areas provide increased visibility to those using the Public Assembly Areas for Assembly and/or Expressive Activity without probable disruption of CVTC's academic, co-curricular and administrative responsibilities.
- 2. The Public Assembly Areas will be available for use between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Persons may request other areas if the designated Public Assembly Areas are already reserved. CVTC will consider any such requests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether another area is available and appropriate in light of all relevant considerations, including safety and security, educational activities, etc.
- 3. Members of the public, as well as students and employees, must reserve public assembly areas twenty-four (24) hours prior to anticipated use by visiting the CVTC Facilities office, so that the College can ensure that the facilities can adequately support the event (e.g., IT services, adequate parking, etc.).
- 4. The following restrictions apply to the manner of use of any Public Assembly Area:
  - a. Interference with the free flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic within Campus or the entrances or exits of any buildings on Campus is not permitted.
  - b. Interference with the orderly conduct of classes or other CVTC-approved activities, including ceremonies or events, is not permitted.
  - c. Use of Fighting Words, True Threats, other unprotected expression or activity, discriminatory harassment, sexual harassment, or violation of state or federal law while using or occupying any Public Assembly Area is not permitted.
  - d. Use of amplified sound within any Public Assembly Area must be intended to be heard only in the immediate vicinity of the Public Assembly Area in order to minimize any disruption to the central academic mission of CVTC. Volume levels may be restricted when necessary to prevent interference with any academic or

- other program/activity taking place on Campus areas nearby the applicable Public Assembly area.
- e. Damage or destruction of property owned or operated by CVTC or property belonging to students, employees or guests of CVTC is prohibited. Persons or organizations causing any such damage may be held financially and/or criminally responsible.
- f. All Public Assembly Areas must be left clean and in good repair after use.
  - Individuals and organization are responsible for cleanup, property restoration, and for any associated costs incurred by the College from their activities.
  - Individuals or organizations failing to comply may be held financially responsible for any resultant cleanup costs.
- g. Please note, state law strictly prohibits the use of CVTC facilities for solicitation of political contributions. Activities for such purposes may not occur on CVTC property. See Wis. Stat. s. 11.1207(3) and (4).

#### **Definitions**

For purposes of CVTC's Free Speech and Public Assembly Policy and Procedures, the term below are defined as follows:

- 1. "Assembly" a gathering of persons for the purpose of expressing, promoting, pursuing or defending ideas
- 2. "Campus" all property and facilities owned or controlled by CVTC
- 3. "Employees" all individuals currently employed by CVTC
- 4. "Expressive Activity" demonstrations, picketing, vigils, rallies, or performances. For purposes of this policy, Expressive Activity does not include social, random, or other everyday communications
- 5. "Fighting Words" Communication which, when addressed to an ordinary person, is inherently likely to provoke violent reaction
- 6. "Public Assembly Area(s)" the specific indoor and outdoor portion(s) of Campus designated by CVTC for Assembly and Expressive Activity
- 7. "Student" all persons currently enrolled in courses at CVTC, either full or part-time
- 8. "True Threats" statements where the speaker communicates a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals, regardless of whether the speaker has the ability to carry out the threat. True Threats do not include political hyperbole, jest, innocuous talk, expressions of political views, or other similar expression

### Enforcement

The right to restrict the time, place and manner of expression is specifically reserved by the College. Any acts that are disruptive to the normal operations of the College including, but not limited to, instruction, college business, or other actions which interfere with the rights of others will not be tolerated.

Non-compliance with this policy may result in denial of access to assemble on properties owned or controlled by CVTC. Further, any violation(s) by a College student or employee is subject to corrective actions or sanctions.

## References

CVTC references related to the scope and actions related to free speech and public assembly may include:

• Student Handbook

- Employee Handbook
- Campus Violence Policy and Procedure
- Advertising and Distribution of Printed Materials at the College Policy and Procedure

Procedure Owner: Vice President-Finance and Facilities

Category: General

Legal Ref:

Adopted 01/10/2018 Reviewed: 01/19/2020

Revised:

Appendix A - Photos







