

*The following project proposal was created by a community partner of the Upstate Institute to describe the way they would like to engage with a Colgate student this summer. The research project proposed will be a full-time research project conducted by a Field School Fellow this summer. Below, the partner describes their organization and the research project, as well as a statement of benefit derived by the community for this project. The proposal also mentions logistical considerations and required skills for a student interested in doing this work.*

*\* Please note that we anticipate partnering this project with that of Friends of Rogers, also described on our website.*

**The Carol Kinne Memorial Columbus Center, LLC: c/o Robert Huot, 339 Spurr Street, Sherburne, NY 13411 (607) 847-8124.**

The Carol Kinne Memorial Columbus Center is an historic building in the Town of Columbus, gracing a hillside at the intersection of New York State Route 80 and Columbus Hill Road.

Built beginning in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the post-and-beam structure served the Town and area for generations as a Presbyterian and Congregational church. In 1927, after a period of declining church attendance, the building was deeded to the Town of Columbus.

For decades thereafter, the Town Hall, as it came to be known and used, was the seat of government in this farming community in the northeastern corner of Chenango County. Although revered by many, the building suffered a slow structural decline, perhaps owing to the transitory nature of town government.

In 2016, Town officials decided to auction off the building, knowing that former Town Councilman Robert Huot was among those determined to restore it. At an auction that year, Mr. Huot did in fact purchase the building. Over the next 18 months, after consulting with historic and engineering experts, Mr. Huot oversaw a cellar-to-roof renovation that has given the building and hamlet of Columbus new life.

Renamed the Carol Kinne Memorial Columbus Center, in honor of Huot's late wife, artist Carol Kinne, the former church and town hall now is a showcase of her art. At openings this year, the community poured out to peruse the art on display as well as startling improvements to the building, which presently looks not only historic, but renewed.

**This purpose of this application is to seek support for completing the mission of the Kinne Center project by retaining a student to:**

- \* Identify appropriate and desired community uses for the property, via a public presentation and outreach, including a survey of residents and other stakeholders.

- \* Research the building's history and contributions to the Town and area, information to be displayed for visitors at community events.

- \* Organize and catalog Kinne's extensive body of work so that it may be shared with the public.

A student working on this project will gain an understanding not only of community life in our region, but the history of a small upstate New York Town, as seen from the perspective of an iconic building at its center. The student also will gain an understanding of talent and growth in an artist at the forefront of adopting modern artistic methods.

A student accepting this assignment will have an opportunity to meet with local government leaders and older residents with first-hand knowledge of the building in its former roles. She or he also will be involved in ongoing programs at the Kinne Center during its upcoming season.