Pontiac, OU students glean insight from election experts

More than a hundred students from the International Technology Academy in Pontiac were on hand for the 2016 Campaign Roundup held at the school this past Monday. A busload of Oakland University students also turned out for the event, which featured a panel of experts who provided analysis of the election results.

Panelists included Chuck Stokes from WXYZ Channel 7 and Bernie Porn from Lansing-based polling firm EPIC-MRA, along with OU political science faculty members Dr. David Dulio, Dr. Terri Towner and Dr. John Klemanski.

Also in attendance were Pontiac Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman and OU/Pontiac Partnership Co-Chairs Dr. Robert Maxfield and Thomas Kimble.

OU has hosted a Campaign Roundup for the past eight elections – dating back to 2002 – and this year marked the first time the event was held in Pontiac.

“We decided to shake things up a bit and ‘take the show on the road. Given Oakland University’s partnership with Pontiac, there was no better place to have it than the city,” said Dr. Dulio, chair of the Political Science department.

“We are deeply appreciative that the ITA allowed us to come in and spend some time with their students. The discussion was terrific and I was incredibly impressed with the nuanced questions the students asked.”

Much of the discussion, which included a question-and-answer session – centered on the results of the presidential election. Panel members offered perspectives on how campaign decisions and circumstances influenced the outcomes of the election cycle, as well as how those outcomes will impact public policy and government in the coming
In addition to OU’s Department of Political Science and the International Technology Academy, the event was supported by the OU/Pontiac Partnership.

“This was a great event that further demonstrates how Oakland University and the Pontiac community can come together around mutual talents, needs and interests,” said Dr. Robert Maxfield, special assistant to the President and Provost for the OU-Pontiac Partnership. “It further exemplifies the commitment of our faculty to community engagement. Kudos to the panel and the faculty, staff and students at ITA.”