Student Voter Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goals of this plan are to introduce students to civic engagement and assist them in developing their opinions of the democratic process. This action plan was built upon the plan presented in 2020, which served as the baseline and foundation for civic engagement action plans to follow. Over time, we will grow our partner base as many organizations, talents, and resources will be needed if we are to continually be successful in this mission. Our priority is our students. In all this, we will continue to be proactive forward thinkers and strategists.

Wor-Wic Community College leads in the enhancement of the quality of life for tri-county and tri-state (VA, MD, and DE) residents by implementing best practices to produce a world-class workforce and providing excellence in education and training through consistent professional and student development.

Wor-Wic is a comprehensive community college that enhances local economic growth by addressing the educational, training and workforce development needs of the residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties in addition to the states of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. The college serves a diverse student body through its high quality, affordable educational offerings and comprehensive support services designed to facilitate student goal completion.

Our efforts span over three counties and three states as the Office of Student Engagement is responsible for disseminating information to Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, in addition to Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties, which are in Maryland. The civic engagement team has performed wondrously and will continue along that same path over the next years.

According to the American Association of Colleges and Universities (Ehrlich, 2000), civic engagement is "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. In addition, civic engagement encompasses actions wherein individuals participate in activities of personal and public

concern that are both individually life enriching and socially beneficial to the community."

Wor-Wic Community College's commitment is to this work and to our communities, fostering strong collaborative relationships while promoting civic engagement. Our college and the Office of Student Engagement will continue to meet its civic engagement goals by executing every resource available to ensure that students and the local community can rely on this organization to present accurate information on the civic engagement process.

Wor-Wic's Civic Action Plan will be implemented using the collaborative efforts of the Office of Student Engagement, the college's sixteen (16) clubs and organizations, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community Priority Team, the College Council, the Administrative Council, the Department of Student Services et. al, and the Faculty Council. Each of these entities will provide support to the plan with the same motivation, rigor, and enthusiasm as they have over the past forty-seven (47) years of service to the tri-county communities and our campus being named a Voter Friendly Campus.

The mission of this plan is to provide our college's internal and external constituents with the knowledge they need to explore their political beliefs and enact their privilege and constitutional right to vote. This plan will engage the college's internal (students, faculty, administrators, staff) and external (tri-county and tri-state) community stakeholders by providing programs, workshops, and resources in the following areas:

- **Voter Registration**
    - **Goal** – Ensure that every person who is not registered can register at our campus voter registration tables (Voting for Victory Festival) with a benchmark of greater than 50% of eligible stakeholders registering.
    - **Goal** – To certify one faculty/staff member and one eligible student to become a certified election official.

- **Voter Education**
  - **Goal** – Provide forums, workshops, webinars, videos, panel discussions, classroom lectures, and meetings to inform students of the importance of voting, absentee voting, and the electoral college with a benchmark of ten (10%) of the student body participating.
- **Voter Engagement**
  - **Goal** – To enact activities such as Student Advocacy Day, Constitution Day, Democracy Day, Stroll to the Polls, Your Daily Voting Vitamins, debates, a forum on the restoration of voter rights, and election forums with a benchmark of ten (10%) of our students participating in these events.
- **Democracy Day**
  - **Goal** – To encourage students, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders to participate in workshops, webinars, panel discussions, forums, and activities (i.e., Voting for Victory Festival) to promote civic engagement and community building with a benchmark of ten (10%) of the college's stakeholders participating in these events.
- **Electoral Enlightenment**
  - **Goal** – To apprise citizens of the importance of voting through Lunch n Learn lectures on the Electoral College with a benchmark of three lectures with 25% of the college's stakeholders in attendance.

These goals will be established through the efforts of the Office of Student Engagement, which oversees the Student Government Association, the DEI Priority Team, and serves five other committees thereby promoting the works of this document. This document will be reviewed by the college's leadership and the deans of enrollment management and student services for clarity and credibility, being used to rollout the plan for the plan's success. The plan will be implemented by guidance of the Office of Student Engagement, the Student Government Association, the DEI Priority Team, faculty, students, and community stakeholders.

Considering the looming COVID-19 virus, the democratic engagement process must continue implementing all the college, state, and nation's mitigation

strategies (face masks, hand sanitizing, tool sanitizing, and social distancing) to protect all those involved.

ACTIVITIES

August 2022

- The following sites were utilized to obtain resources and ideas:
    - Studentvoting.org
    - Plan-to-Vote-2022
    - Voteearlyday.org
- Voter registration link on the college's website
- Paper registration and voting information is always available in primary student traffic locations around campus (ie, Brunkhorst Hall, Hazel Center)

September 2022

- The following sites were utilized to obtain resources and ideas:
    - Studentvoting.org
    - Plan-to-Vote-2022
    - Voteearlyday.org
- Constitution Day
- Voter registration link on the college's website
- "Self-service" voter registration table on National Voter Registration Day
- Sent emails to students and staff regarding same day voter registration and voting for the state of Maryland.
- Created "Voting In ..." infographic specifically for Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia
- Provided QR scan code for stakeholders to register to vote using their phones.
- Provided links to the following information:
    - Where do I vote?
    - Am I registered to vote?
    - How do I change or update my residency and polling place?

- o Explained the age requirement for voter registration.
- o How do I become an election judge?
- Assisted in the recruitment of Election Judges by creating a concise email and graphic to send to students and staff. Information was also disseminated to students via our Welcome to Monday weekly vlog.
- Created infographics, which were provided to students and staff via email and posted to social media.

October 2022

- The following sites were utilized to obtain resources and ideas:
  - o Studentvoting.org
  - o Plan-to-Vote-2022
  - o Voteearlyday.org
- Voter registration link on the college's website
- Sent emails to students and staff regarding same day voter registration and voting for the state of Maryland.
- Provided links to the following information:
  - o Where do I vote?
  - o Am I registered to vote?
  - o How do I change or update my residency and polling place?
  - o Explained the age requirement for voter registration.
  - o How do I become an election judge?
- Assisted in the recruitment of Election Judges by creating a concise email and graphic to send to students and staff. Information was also disseminated to students via our Welcome to Monday weekly vlog.
- Created infographics, which were provided to students and staff via email and posted to social media.

November 2022

- Voter registration link on the college's website

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    o Am I registered to vote?
    o How do I change or update my residency and polling place?
    o Explained the age requirement for voter registration.
    o How do I become an election judge?

December 2022

- No activity

January 2023

- Filed Voter Friendly Campus Report
- Paper registration and voting information is always available in primary student traffic locations around campus (ie, Brunkhorst Hall, Hazel Center)

February 2023

- Student Advocacy Day
- Diversity Day

March 2023

April 2023

- Student Government Association elections

May 2023

- No activity

STUDENT VOTER ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS

Who are your campus community student voter engagement partners?

The Office of Student Engagement, in collaboration with the Student Government Association, and DEI Priority Team is the lead on the implementation of this plan. These groups provide access and leadership to all student groups, staff, faculty, administration, and has access to community stakeholders as needed. These three teams will collaborate with the listed groups to obtain assistance and focus for programs, activities, and strategy so the goals of the plan will be achieved.

Oversight and implementation of this plan will be led by the <u>director of student engagement</u>, who also serves as the college's <u>student voting coordinator</u>, and lead <u>logistician for the college's clubs</u>, <u>organizations</u>, and <u>former chair of the DEI Priority Team and Cultural Diversity Committee.</u> The plan will gain momentum and success with additional collaboration from:

- Office of the College President
    - College Council
    - Administrative Council
    - Faculty Council
- Office of Enrollment Management and Student Services
- Office of Service Learning
- President of the Student Government Association
- Student Ambassadors
    - Social Media Influencer
    - Technology Specialist
    - Recruitment/Outreach Specialist
    - Event Planning Assistant

Our civic action plan will be supported by the following campus departments/positions:

- Office of Student Engagement/Director of Student Engagement
- Office of Student Engagement/Coordinator for Civic Engagement

- Office of Student Engagement/President – Student Government Association
- Office of the President & Institutional Advancement/ Chair – DEI Priority Team
- Information Technology/Web Administrator
- Faculty Council/ Advisor – Office of Service Learning
- Office of Student Services/ Outreach Coordinator, Director of Admissions, Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Director of Financial Aid, Director of Student Success

Our plan will be further supported by:

- Office of Public Safety
- Office of Facilities Management
- Office of Human Resources
- Office of Institutional Advancement and Research
- Campus Bookstore
- Office of Communications
- Director of the Board of Electors

STUDENT VOTER AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GOALS

What are your campus student voter and civic engagement goals?

- **Voter Registration**
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FIRST YEAR STUDENT VOTER PARTICIPATION

Information regarding voter registration and civic engagement is consistently before students, with regularly held events and activities. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in events such as Student Advocacy Day, Student Government Association elections, Constitution Day, and Democracy Day. The college's sixteen clubs and organizations have access to and utilize a voting platform to select organization officers. Additionally, each club is required to annually review their constitutions and by-laws, updating them as necessary. On average, Constitution Day garners 10 new voter registrations.

ADDITIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION FILES