



Cedar Crest College

Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Point of Contact for Designation Process

Name: Tammy E. Bean

Institution: Cedar Crest College

City/State: Allentown, PA

Title: Director of Community Service Programs

Email: tebean@cedarcrest.edu

Phone: 610-606-4666 ext. 3392

Overview:

Cedar Crest College is a liberal arts college for women with a focus of preparing students for a life in a global community. The college is set to celebrate 150 years of educating women in 2017 and completed a year of celebration in 2016 for 20 years of civic engagement through the Lutz Center for Community Service. Cedar Crest College has a strong ethic of service with civic engagement, social responsibility and service listed as one of four areas of program development for the last two campus strategic plans and through the inclusion in the President's Community Service Honor Roll since 2007. While engagement in the community has been a strong component of a Cedar Crest College education, becoming a voter friendly campus is a newer initiative for the campus community. With a focus on re-engaging the Political Science major, opportunities to engage students in voter education and opportunities has begun to grow. As an institution dedicated to educating women, it is imperative that education on the importance of participating in the democratic process be part of the civic engagement initiatives for the campus community.

Goals:

- 1) Increase voter registration numbers from 30 in fall 2015 to 60 for fall 2016 (an increase of 50%)
- 2) Increase voter education programming and voter registration opportunities for students from 3 in 2015-2016 to 9 for 2016-2017 (an increase of 66%)

Coalition:

Members of the team that are involved in the All In Democracy Challenge:

Campus Planning Committee Members

Tammy Bean
Director of Community Service Programs
tebean@cedarcrest.edu

Dr. Christine Carpino
Assistant Professor
Political Science
ccrpino@cedarcrest.edu

Dr. Megan Monahan
Assistant Professor
History
memonahan@cedarcrest.edu

Ashley Schoenenberger
Senior
Major: Psychology and History
Lutz Center for Community Service representative

Tomey'cia Diamond Scott
Junior
Major: Communications Studies
Student Government Association, treasurer

Caitlin Bell
Sophomore
Major: Gender Studies
History and Political Science Club representative

Melea Roman
Sophomore
Major: Biochemistry

Marie Spuches
Sophomore
Major: History
History and Political Science Club representative

Community Partners

1. League of Women Voters
2. Local chapter of the America Association of Women (AAUW)
3. Next Generation Climate Change
4. Southeastern PA Girl Scout Council

Voter Education

Democratic National Convention: Have five students and one faculty member participate as volunteers at the Democratic National Convention held in Philadelphia in July 2016.

Constitution Day: Have students participate in constitution day programming including a scavenger hunt and quiz on Friday, September 16, 2016.

Elections and Social Media: Students will have the opportunity to learn about various non-partisan and party specific social media apps and platforms (including iCitizen, Hear My Voice, and Polinav) related to the 2016 political races. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2016 and Friday, September 23, 2016.

First Year Friday Programming: Elections & Civil Engagement presentation for all first year students on Friday, September 23, 2016.

Presidential Debate Parties and Discussion: The College will host four debate watch parties (September 26, 2016, October 4, 2016, October 9, 2016 and October 19, 2016) with group discussions after the debates take place. The debate parties will take place at various locations on campus with the last debate taking place at the home of the college president.

Political Polls Brown Bag Lunch: A faculty member will host an information session and brown bag lunch on political polls and what they mean to campaigns on Friday, October 14, 2016.

Real Girls Run for Office: A service opportunity with the Southeastern PA Girl Scout Council working with all levels of girl scouts on the importance of being engaged in politics. This event will take place on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

Local Candidate Panel Discussion: This program will be an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to hear from candidates running for state and local elected office. This event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 28, 2016.

Presidential Inauguration Study Away experience: Faculty member Megan Monahan will take a group of 10 students to Washington, D.C. for a week leading up to the Presidential Inauguration on Friday, January 20, 2017.

Presidential Politics: This fall 2016 semester, 3 credit course is being offered by the History Department and taught by Dr. Megan Monahan.

Voter Registration

To ensure that students, faculty and staff have all of the information they need to be able to vote in the November election and beyond, the following voter registration programs will take place:

Student Activities Fair: September 1, 2016 students from the History and Political Science Club will have voter registration forms available.

Constitution Day: Friday, September 16, 2016, voter registration forms will be available throughout the day.

First Year Friday: Friday, September 23, 2016, voter registration forms will be available at the beginning and end of the presentation/program for individuals to complete the forms and ask questions.

Presidential Debate Party: Monday, September 26, 2016, voter registration forms will be available throughout the night for individuals to complete the forms and ask questions.

National Voter Registration Drive: Tuesday, September 27, 2016, voter registration drive will take place with the local chapter of American Association of University Women (AAUW). Students, faculty and staff will provide additional staffing for the table which will include on-line and paper registration forms.

Ballot Access and Voter Mobilization

Absentee Ballot Information: Information on absentee ballots will be provided at all voter registration drives as well as through weekly email reminders out to the campus community through the last day to complete an absentee ballot.

Vans to the Polls: For students, faculty and staff that are registered to vote in the local district, vans will be provided to transport individuals to the polling location.

Election Day Reminders: Emails will be sent out to the campus community from the Lutz Center for Community Service, the History and Political Science Club and the President's Office.

Student Interns: Cedar Crest College students will serve as interns for the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and social concerned community groups such as Next Generation Climate Change.

Resources Available

1. Voter Registration Material in hard copy and through on-line links connected to the History and Political Science club/organization Facebook Page.
2. Campus departments and student clubs/organizations are providing funding for various events/programs.
3. Staff from local chapter of AAUW for voter registration
4. Staff from Eastern PA Girl Scout Council to run the “Real Girls Run for Office” volunteer event
5. Staff from Next Generation Climate Change for voter registration and information on volunteer opportunities.

Implementation Challenges

The largest implementation challenge that is expected is ensuring that all sides of the political parties are represented through the programs/events that take place on campus. This initiative was brought to the campus community through the Vice President for Student Affairs and Traditional Enrollment, which allows for support from the cabinet level of the institution.

Timeline

Coalition Meeting Schedule: The conversations for “All In” will take place once a month in July and August, by weekly conversations during the month of September and weekly conversations during October and until Election Day. After Election Day, conversations will reduce to once a month through May 2017.

Program Schedule:

1. July 2016 – Democratic National Convention
2. Fall 2016 – Presidential Politics course
3. Thursday, September 1, 2016 – Voter Registration at Student Activities Fair
4. Friday, September 16, 2016 – Constitution Day and Voter Registration
5. Tuesday, September 13, 2016 and Friday, September 23, 2016 – Elections and Social Media
6. Friday, September 23, 2016 - Elections & Civil Engagement with first year students and voter registration
7. Monday, September 26, 2016, - First Presidential Debate Party and voter registration
8. Tuesday, September 27, 2016 – National Voter Registration Day with AAUW
9. Tuesday, October 4, 2016 – Vice Presidential Debate Party
10. Sunday, October 9, 2016 – Second Presidential Debate Party
11. Friday, October 14, 2016. - Political Polls Brown Bag Lunch
12. Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – Third Presidential Debate Party
13. Sunday, October 23, 2016 – Real Girls Run for Office
14. Friday, October 28, 2016 – Local Candidate Panel Discussion
15. Tuesday, November 8, 2016 – Vans to the polls

16. Monday, January 16, 2017 through Friday, January 20, 2017 - Presidential Inauguration Study Away experience
17. February 2017 – student panel on Presidential Inauguration experience
18. February/March 2017 – voter registration drive for spring primaries

Evaluation Process

1. When the NSLVE data is released the committee will assess the baseline for the number of individuals that voted.
2. After each event the committee will review the programs based on number of participants, questions asked, comments made on social media and the Cedar Crest College app, and potential volunteers.
3. The committee will have student interns complete a survey regarding their political internship experience.