



Action Plan

Engagement Overview

In 2012 Governors State University (GSU) was a partner in the launch of **CLDE Collaborative Action Workshop**. **The Governors State team consisted of** Elaine Maimon, Terry Allison, Deborah Bordelon, Lorri Glass, Larry Levinson, Sheree Sanderson, Aurelio Valente, and Phyllis West, were part of the collaborative sponsored by the AAC&U and the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Action Collaborative (CLDE) held at Loyola University. Governors State participated in and led a series of different roundtables that dealt with: (1) *What Promotes Civic Ethos across Domains*, (2) *Fostering civic Literacy and Civic Inquiry*, and (3) *Designing Opportunities for Practicing the Dimensions of Civic Action*. The **Higher Education Civic Engagement Collaborative (HECEC)**, a coalition of Chicago-area universities committed to working together to more effectively engage the community was developed out of the CLDE Collaborative and Governors State has been an active partner since its inception.

Since 2012 Governors State has taken an active role in political engagement of its students to become active citizens, which is demonstrated through the political engagement of GSU's student governance to become deputy registrars to implement voter registration drives. This initiative has been the signature program for student governance over the past four years.

We are grounded in the belief of creating pathways to ensure that students at Governors State University are informed and actively engaged citizens, which is incorporated into the fiber of their academic learning. As represented in our mission statement *GSU will create an intellectually stimulating public square, serve as an economic catalyst for the region, and lead as a model of academic excellence, innovation, diversity and responsible citizenship*. Freshmen are accepted through the innovative program of cohorts: Civic Engagement, Global Citizenship and Sustainability, which infuses community service engagement within the curriculum.

GSU has continued this work over the years through engagement and collaboration of community partners:

AAC&U

Higher Education Civic Engagement Collaborative, (HECEC)

Campus Election Engagement Project, (CEEP)

TurboVote

Democracy Project

NASPA

Illinois Campus Compact

Clerk of Cook County

League of Women Voters

Will County Clerk's Office

Mayors Consortium



Southland Chamber of Commerce
League of Women Voters

Voter Registration

GSU's Student Governance lead by Justin P. Smith, President, has trained with the County Clerk's office to become deputy registrars to register voters. These students are able to register any voters in the State of Illinois.

GSU Rock the Vote Campaign is presented throughout the year to provide access to registering to vote as many people as possible and is also open to community members in the region.

Incoming freshmen, transfer and returning students are provided an opportunity to register to vote during Smart Start and Welcome Week.

Voter Education

Students are oriented to voting and becoming engaged citizens during the orientation process.

Debate Watch Parties to engage and educate students on the candidates and issues. The watch party discussion is interactive and led by faculty members. There are also student governance members in attendance to register students to vote.

Faculty members are engaged within the process of educating students on utilizing critical thinking skills, analyzing information and conducting thorough research to ascertain information.

Student led panel presentation at the HECEC Political Engagement Conference.

The Masters in Public Administration Club has been active consistently throughout the year conducting round tables and forums on local, regional and national legislators throughout the year. (Mayor's Roundtable, State Representatives, Illinois Senators, US Representatives)

Students who prefer not to register on-site at GSU are able to register online through the Jaguar Connection resource tool. The County Clerk's Office online voters' registration site link has been connected to the student's portal to allow students to register at any time.

#Save Our Education

Student senate collaborated with Illinois public universities student governance, to assist in creating solutions and ensuring that the Illinois government officials understand the concerns of the students. Students demonstrate their political engagement and voting ability during this year long process. Students were apprised of a firsthand understanding of the political process.



Students were sent eBlast on a monthly basis to apprise of political engagement activities and voter registration opportunities. In addition to consistent social media announcements, posters, marquee postings and in-house monitor postings.

Ballot Access

Early voting will be conducted at Governors State University October 31- November, 2016 for all Will County residents.

Students are further engaged in this process through election judge opportunities through the Will County Clerk's Office.

Governors State University will open the polls on Election Day, November 8, at 6:00 am. GSU is a polling place.

Get out the Vote

The student governance at GSU takes an active role in political engagement in advocacy with Illinois legislation.

GSU has collaborated with the Mayor of University Park to create a city-wide awareness campaign on the importance of the voting. The Hip-Hop Get Out the Vote Initiative.



Calendar of Events

Thursday, Jan. 14, Freshman, Transfer and Graduate Orientation Voter Engagement
Friday, February 19, Illinois State Representative, Pi Alpha Alpha Round Table Discussion
Monday, March 7, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place
Tuesday, March 8, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place
Wednesday, March 9, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place



Thursday, March 10, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place
Friday, March 11, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place
Wednesday, March 23, Illinois Senators, Pi Alpha Alpha Round Table Discussion
Thursday, April 21, Student Led Panel Discussion-Political Engagement, HECEC Conference
Friday, April 29, Student Governance trained to become deputy registrars
Friday, May 3, Transfer and Graduate Orientation for Voter Engagement
Wednesday, April 6, Mayor, University Park addresses GSU students on political engagement
Monday, April 11, Illinois Senators Round Table Discussion
Wednesday, June 22, Session I for First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement
Wednesday, June 22, Illinois State Representatives, Pi Alpha Alpha Round Table Discussion
Thursday, July 7, Transfer and Graduate Orientation Voter Engagement
Thursday, July 14, Session II for First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement
Tuesday, July 26, Session III for First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement
Wednesday, Aug 3, Session IV for First Year Students and Guests Voter Engagement
Friday, Aug. 12, Fast Track Orientation Voter Engagement
Monday, August 15, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign
Thursday, Aug. 18, Transfer and Graduate Orientation Voter Engagement
Friday, Aug. 26, Final Fast Track Orientation Voter Engagement
Thursday, September 1, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign
Monday, September 19, Constitution Day
Thursday, September 22, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign
Monday, September 26, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign
Thursday, October 6, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign
Wednesday, October 8, GSU Rocks the Vote Campaign
Saturday, October 29, Hip-Hop Get Out the Vote Initiative, GSU & University Park Community
Monday, October 31, Early Voting – GSU Polling Place
Tuesday, November 1, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place
Wednesday, November 2, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place
Thursday, November 3, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place
Friday, November 4, Early Voting -- GSU Polling Place
Tuesday, November 8, Prairie Place Presidential Watch the Results Party

Sheree Y. Sanderson,
Assistant Dean of Students
Director, Civic Engagement & Community Service Center
Governors State University
University Park, IL. 60484
www.govst.edu
ssanderson@govst.edu
708-534-4552 V : 708-534-8955 F