Campus Vote Plan
Mount St. Joseph University

✓ *Lead: Keith Lanser, Coordinator for Service Learning, 513-244-4634, keith.lanser@msj.edu*

✓ *Assess: Voting rates according to National Study of learning, Voting, and Engagement*
   a. *2012 Voting Rate: 62% (12.4% higher than peer institutions, 79.5% registration rate, 78% rate of registered students who voted)*
   b. *2014 Voting Rate: 26% (5.1% higher than peer institutions, 74.5% registration rate, 34.4% rate of registered students who voted)*

✓ *Engage: Meeting convened during week of 05/02/2016*
   a. *Invited faculty: Kate Lassiter, Bev Massey, Judy Singleton, Linda Jackson, Jennifer Morris*
   b. *Invited staff/ administrators: Keith Lanser, Terri Hurdle, Diana Davis, Joel Thierstein, Sister Nancy Bramlage, Tim Bryant, Mike Sontag*
   c. *Invited community partners: Greg DeLong, Delhi Township*
   d. *Invited Students: Garrett Bascom, Monica Brucher, Molly Brauch, Emily Hertel, Mary Bowman, Greg Brugger, Aquashia Peterson, Maria Waters, Errol Carr*

Point of Contact for Designation Process:
1. Name: Keith Lanser
2. Institution: Mount St. Joseph University
3. City/State: Cincinnati, OH
4. Title: Coordinator for Service Learning
5. Email: keith.lanser@msj.edu
6. Phone: 513-244-4634

Overview:
Mount St. Joseph University (the Mount) is interested in the Voter Friendly Campus Designation because it will strengthen our mission of "educating students through interdisciplinary liberal arts and professional curricular emphasizing values, integrity and social responsibility." At the Mount, we have strong community service, service learning, and service internship programs; this is reflected in our inclusion in the President's Community Service Honor Roll in 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013. While service to others is one of our core values, and while service is an important component of what it means to

be a responsible citizen, participation in the democratic process is also a cornerstone of what it means to be a responsible citizen. By strengthening our election engagement programming, students will be more likely to develop across the engaged citizenship continuum, moving from personally responsible citizenship to participatory citizenship and then to transformative citizenship.

Our top three goals for the fall semester are:
1. Increase our general election voting rate from 62% in 2012 to 65% (an increase of 3%)
2. Increase our voter registration numbers from 108 in the fall of 2015 to 115 (an increase of 2.8%)
3. Increase our absentee ballot request numbers from 3 in the fall of 2015 to 15 (an increase of 500%)

Coalition:
1. Who are the other team members who will be involved in the project/ Example members include student leaders, deans, staffers and faculty. If not yet known, what are the academic institution's offices that will be involved?
    a. Faculty: Kate Lassiter, Judy Singleton, Linda Jackson, Jennifer Morris
    b. Staff: Terri Hurdle, Diana Davis, Stephen Craig, Warren Grove, Nancy Bramlage, Tim Bryant, Mike Sontag, Service learning co-op
    c. Students: Garrett Bascom, Monica Brucher, Emily Hertel, Aquashia Peterson
2. Who else in your coalition will carry leadership responsibilities in implementing the plan?
    a. Faculty who incorporate election engagement in courses/ students involved in courses
    b. Service learning co-op
    c. Leaders in student clubs
3. Who are your community partners?
    a. Greg DeLong, Community Development Director, Delhi Township
    b. Cheryl Sieve, President of Delhi Trustees, Delhi Township
    c. Will Oswall, Vice President of Delhi Trustees, Delhi Township
    d. Hamilton County Board of Elections
    e. League of Women Voters

Checklist:
1. Voter Registration:
    a. Keith Lanser: Sending out a campus wide e-mails including voter registration information and the necessary forms or online voter registration where available.
    b. Keith Lanser, Service Learning Co-op, Stephen Craig, Warren Grove: Providing staffers/ volunteers to distribute and collect voter registration forms during orientation, welcome week, move-in and similar programs.
    c. Keith Lanser, Warren Grove: Work with student affairs and/or the residential life office to distribute and collect voter registration forms in student housing.
    d. Keith Lanser, Tara Bird: Embedding voter registration information in the school's homepage, course management systems, or other heavily trafficked online portals/ sites operated by the school.
    e. Keith Lanser, Service Learning Co-op, SGA, Social Justice Club, Social Work students, Justice and Common Good students: Host a campus-wide event around programs such as National Voter Registration Day or Constitution Day.
    f. Student Groups: Register students to vote in COM 100 courses, CORE 115 Courses, and CORE Capstones.

2. Voter Education:
    a. SGA: Host a debate watch party (presidential, senate candidates).
    b. BSU, Impact Cincinnati, SGA: Host a candidate or issue forum.
        i. Potential topics: gun control, immigration, incarceration, local issue (park levy)
    c. BSU, Impact Cincinnati, SGA: Table around campus to educate students on issues and candidates.
    d. Keith Lanser: Distribute nonpartisan ballot guides or sample ballots.
    e. Service Learning Co-op: Hang up posters, flyers, or other media to inform students what candidates and issues are on the ballot in upcoming elections.
    f. Instructors: Incorporate election engagement into courses, including: COM rhetoric class, social work classes, JCG courses, Christian Social Justice courses, history courses, and modify service learning citizenship module.
    g. Keith Lanser/ students: Call the Hamilton County BOE to see if our students could work the polls at the Motherhouse.
3. Ballot Access:
    a. Keith Lanser: Assist students in completing absentee voting forms.
    b. Keith Lanser: Assist students in declaring Ohio residency for the purposes of voting.
    c. BSU, Impact Cincinnati, SGA, Social Work, In-Class Students: Provide rides or organize walks to early voting or to the polls.
    d. Delhi Township and Hamilton County BOE: Work with election officials to address issues of student registration and ballot access, including having local election officials participate in student registration and voting outreach efforts on campus.
4. Get Out the Vote:
    a. Keith Lanser: Send out campus-wide emails with information about vote by mail and early voting.
    b. Service Learning Co-op: Hang posters/ flyers and utilize campus media to publicize upcoming elections and how to cast a ballot.
    c. Sisters of Charity: Run a campus poll worker program at the Motherhouse?
    d. BSU, Impact Cincinnati, SGA: Transport students to their poll sites.
    e. BSU, Impact Cincinnati, SGA: Have a social media campaign of some kind, like: #MSJVOTES.
5. What resources do you have available to you? Please include all community partner resources as well.
    a. We already have envelopes and stamps.
    b. We already include voter information on our SL webpage.
    c. The Hamilton County Board of Elections has provided us applications for poll workers and poll observers.
6. What additional resources would be helpful to you as you begin implementing your field plan?
    a. Campus compact will likely provide $500 mini-grant for supplies.
    b. Student clubs can make special requests for events occurring in October.
7. If you anticipate any significant implementation challenges, how will you navigate them?
    a. Issue seminars and debates could be controversial. We will navigate this by communicating the opportunities in transparent ways.
    b. Funding could be an issue. We hope to secure a mini grant from the Ohio Campus Compact.

Timeline:
1. How often will your coalition meet?
    a. We will meet in late August/ early September, and then again in December.

2. With the goal of having your additional voter engagement tools in place by next November election, what are you going to have completed halfway through and at the end of each semester between now and November?
    a. Halfway through the summer semester:
        i. Prepare campus wide e-mails to be sent in fall semester.
        ii. Prepare flyers and hang up flyers re: election engagement.
        iii. Modify the service learning citizenship module.
        iv. Call Hamilton County BOE to see if our students could staff polling place at Motherhouse/ if they could collaborate with us in any other way.
    b. At the end of the summer semester:
        i. Print ballots, get stamps, and misc. forms.
        ii. Register students to vote during orientation, welcome week, move-in, etc.
    c. Halfway through the fall semester:
        i. Secure additional funding through Ohio Campus Compact and student club requests.
        ii. Develop and implement social media campaign.
        iii. Send campus-wide e-mail reminders.
        iv. Register students to vote in residence halls.
        v. Host voter registration day.
        vi. Register students in COM 100, CORE 115, and CORE capstones.
        vii. Host a debate watch party.
        viii. Host some kind of issue forum or debate.
        ix. Complete issue and candidate tabling/ distribute ballot guides.
        x. Incorporate some kind of election engagement in SWK class and other classes.
        xi. Provide rides to polls on Election Day.
    d. At the end of the fall semester:
        i. Host wrap-up meeting, complete SWOT analysis, and turn in final report.
3. At what point next year will you evaluate successes and challenges of your current plan once it is completed?
    a. We will count voter registration numbers/ absentee ballot requests and complete a SWOT analysis in December following the general election.
    b. NSLVE will send us our voter rate in 2017.