



All in Democracy Challenge: University of Houston-Downtown

Core Entities

University of Houston-Downtown's Student Government Association (SGA)

President, Mustapha Nyallay

External Affairs, John Locke

Center for Public Deliberation

Director, Dr. Windy Lawrence

Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning

Interim Director, Dr. Poonam Gulati Salhotra

Assistant Director, Krysti Turnquest

Student Services

Dean and Assistant VP for Student Success, Dr. Patrick Jefferson

Academic Affairs, Institutional Effectiveness

Associate VP, Dr. Faiza Khoja

Corporate & Foundation Relations, Advancement & University Relations

Associate Director, Julie Norton



The University of Houston-Downtown is committed to integrating democratic learning across curriculum, creating opportunities for students and community members to be civically engaged, and producing a participatory and knowledgeable citizenry. Through a number of student led events like Walk2Vote and faculty led initiatives like “Building Democratic Classrooms,” UHD works towards its goals of increasing civic participation on its campus throughout the year.

The Student Government Association (SGA) of the University of Houston-Downtown hosts an annual event, Walk 2 Vote, which is the culminating event for much of UHD’s civic engagement efforts. Since its founding in 2012, UHD’s Walk 2 Vote event has been responsible for over 6,000 new voter registrations and has had over 2,000 individuals march to the polls and participate in early voting. A wide range of celebrities and community leaders have participated in the Walk 2 Vote event including musicians, dancers, locally elected officials and players from Houston sports teams. This year over \$5,000 was raised and dedicated by SGA and the University of Houston-Downtown’s administration to the Walk 2 Vote event to ensure its success. With the help of local universities, community colleges and high schools, Walk 2 Vote Houston hopes to register 10,000 citizens to vote and have over 5,000 people march to the polls at this year’s event. To ensure maximum participation in the actual voting event at Walk 2 Vote, SGA hosts several smaller preparation events. These events include organizing a Voter Deputy Training in order to register their peers to vote and months-long voter registration and pledge-to-vote drives.

The Center for Public Deliberation (CPD) will be hosting an event in which approximately 100 UHD students, and dozens of diverse external Houston-based organizations and citizens will participate in a moderated deliberation on the topic of the public citizenry’s role in 21st century American politics. The purpose of this deliberation is to provide space where people can come together to work across their differences, think through tough choices and struggle with real trade-offs. The event also allows students and community members to focus their resources and time on growing understanding among people, finding areas of common ground and building public will.



This deliberation event, which is being held in conjunction with the Walk 2 Vote event, invites UHD students, high school students, business leaders, alumni, faculty and staff to participate in meaningful and intentional discussion. CPD has allocated \$3,000 for this initiative in order to provide breakfast and necessary materials for the event's success. The Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning has also dedicated \$2,000 to provide lunch for deliberation attendees.

Additionally, CPD is embarking on a five-year initiative to support faculty across the curriculum to be more intentional in the development of democratic learning experiences in their classrooms and facilitate high impact experiences for the students. Democratic learning encompasses all the 21st century skills, including problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and team work. The initiative will embark on a five-year commitment with plans to reach upwards of 750 students the first year and get commitments from 15 faculty representing a variety of disciplines. The work is initially being supported through a \$120,000 grant from the Kettering Foundation and a \$6,000 grant for faculty stipends during the 2016-2017 school year from the UHD Center for Teaching and Learning.

Action Plan

Event	Responsible Party	Date
<u>Deputize students to register voters</u>	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	August 18, 2016
<u>"Building Democratic Classrooms: Faculty Learning Community"</u> : A group of 15 interdisciplinary faculty will be working on a three-year commitment to create more deliberative opportunities in classrooms that move to democratic, public action. All 15 faculty will be planning democratic forums on issues pertinent to the content of their course.	Center for Public Deliberation	August 22, 2016-December 7, 2016
<u>Deliberation Planning Meetings:</u> SGA leaders meet with CPD student associates and faculty director to both frame the issue for morning deliberation before Walk2Vote and to help community organizing around the deliberation.	UHD Student Government Association (SGA) & Center for Public Deliberation (CPD) Student Associates	once per week
<u>Walk2Vote Planning Meetings:</u> Walk2Vote committee members consisting of SGA students, non-profit representatives, community leaders, UHD professors and administration meet to plan the Walk2Vote and the supporting activities.	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	twice per week
<u>Voter Registration Drives:</u> Drives will be hosted at area high schools including Northwest High School and Sam Houston High School as well as local community colleges including Houston Community College and LoneStar Community College. We will also register voters in our communities in partnership with Neighborhood Centers, Houston Public Library and the League of Women Voters. We will also pledge people to vote during all voter registration drives.	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	Fall 2016 Semester

<p><u>#IVoteBecause Campaign:</u> The “I vote because” hashtag campaign is a way to personalize voting for people as they share their stories about why voting is important to them. The #Ivotebecause also encourages people to self-reflect on our values as it relates to our democracy and the right to vote. This is a campaign that uses positive messaging to encourage people to let their voices be heard and get out to vote.</p>	<p>UHD Student Government Association (SGA)</p>	<p>September 19, 2016</p>
<p><u>Trae Day:</u> An annual event that brings community members together to enjoy a free concert, children activities, and guest speakers. This year Walk2Vote partnered with this event to speak about Walk2Vote and to register community members to vote and pledge them to vote.</p>	<p>UHD Student Government Association (SGA)</p>	<p>September 22, 2016</p>
<p><u>Voter Registration Day:</u> In partnership with National Voter Registration Day, students host a series of events including tabling on campus, registering students at high schools and the Houston public library in order to register voters.</p>	<p>UHD Student Government Association (SGA)</p>	<p>September 27, 2016</p>
<p><u>High School Voter Town Hall:</u> In an effort to institutionalize voter registration at high schools, Texas Organizing Project in partnership with Walk2Vote is hosting a Town Hall discussion with High School Students, teachers and community leaders to discuss best practices for high school voter registration and the importance of voting. This is part of a month’s long program which includes meetings with Texas Secretary of State, Voter registration drives, and planning for long-term solutions to the lack of implementation of high school student voter registration that supposed to be happening at all Texas high schools.</p>	<p>UHD Student Government Association (SGA)</p>	<p>September 29, 2016</p>

<p><u>Houston Afro Creole Festival:</u> Walk2Vote in partnership with the International Trade Center will be hosting a table at the event that celebrates Creole culture.</p>		October 1, 2016
<p><u>Eat 2 Pledge:</u> SGA will hand out free food and encourage students to pledge to vote this election cycle. Students will be able to register to vote.</p>	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	October 3-4, 2016
<p><u>Iron-Jawed Angels Movie Viewings:</u> In partnership with UH Law Center we will be participating in viewing of the movie Iron-Jawed Angels. We will have one viewing at UH and another at UHD. There will be a panel discussion on Women's History in Voting. We will also be registering people to vote at both events.</p>	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	<p>UH viewing October 5, 2016 UHD viewing October 10, 2016</p>
<p><u>Voter Registration/Job Fair in Alief:</u> In partnership with the International Trade Center we will be promoting Walk2Vote, registering and pledging voters. We will also be speaking as part of the program about Walk2Vote.</p>	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	October 11, 2016
<p><u>Presidential Debate View Party and Public Discussion:</u> Students, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to view the latest Presidential debate and begin a public discussion regarding what issues are most important within the UHD community.</p>	Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning	October 20, 2016
<p><u>Celebrating our Democracy:</u> Business owners will offer specials downtown in celebration of Walk2Vote and our democracy.</p>	UHD Student Government Association (SGA)	October 26, 2016

<p><u>"We the People: Our Role in 21st Century American Politics"</u>: A deliberative forum of 150 citizens, including high school students, UHD college students, UHD faculty and staff, and many, different community citizens from the external Houston community.</p>	<p>Center for Public Deliberation & Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning</p>	<p>October 26, 2016</p>
<p><u>Walk2Vote</u>: An event featuring snacks, music, dancers, art, and special guest speakers which concludes with participants walking to the nearest polling station to vote</p>	<p>UHD Student Government Association (SGA)</p>	<p>October 26, 2016</p>

Strategic Partnerships

- National Voter Registration Day
- Civic Nation
- Mi Familia Vota
- Texas Freedom Network
- Neighborhood Centers
- ABC
- Univision
- Texas Organizing Project
- Young Invincibles
- Voto Latino
- University of Houston
- University of Houston Victoria
- Texas Southern University
- Rice University
- Houston Community College
- City of Houston
- Northside High School
- Sam Houston High School
- NSLVE
- G & E Digital
- SLSV (Students Learn Students Vote)
- International Trade and Culture Center
- Downtown District
- National Issues Forums Institute
- Kettering Foundation
- Center for Teaching & Learning
- Colorado State University Center for Public Deliberation

Integrating Democratic Learning Across the Curriculum

The Center for Public Deliberation will embark on a five-year initiative to support faculty across the curriculum to be more intentional in the development of democratic learning experiences in their classrooms and facilitate high impact experiences for their students. The Democracy Imperative defines “democratic learning/education” to “describe experiences that teach the knowledge, principles, and practices valuable to a democracy as both a form of government and culture.” They differentiate “civic learning” from “democratic learning” noting that the former, “while extremely valuable, are often apolitical or separate from learning for and about democratic governance and culture (e.g. volunteerism, service learning).”

Democratic learning encompasses all of the 21st century skills, including problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration and team work. The initiative will embark on a five-year commitment with plans to reach upwards of 750 students the first year and initial commitments from 15 faculty representing the following disciplines:

- Arts management
- Chemistry
- Criminal Justice
- Fine Arts
- Health Communication
- History
- Management
- Mathematics
- Media Communication
- Organizational behavior
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Deliberation & Communication

CPD will work to integrate “democratic learning” with faculty along five streams, including:

- Stream of Engagement 1: Explore Fundamentals
- Stream of Engagement 2: Implement Faculty-led course-integrated objectives.
- Stream of Engagement 3: Implement Student-led course-integrated objectives.
- Stream of Engagement 4: Connect democratic learning with action and/or service learning.
- Stream of Engagement 5: Create new ways of working and integrating.

CPD will also work with faculty to make sure their work and their student’s work receives recognition on tenure and promotion considerations.

Promotional Signage

Walk2Vote Flyer 1

Walk2Vote Flyer 2

Voter Deputy Registrar Training Flyer

#IVoteBecause Campaign Signage

We The People: Our Role in American Politics Event Flyer



Join the Movement

#W2V Not October 26th

Dream Big

locke.john.713@gmail.com





Walk 2 Vote

OCTOBER 26, 2016
DALY STREET LOT
12PM



For more informaton contact: bosqueeze1@gator.uhd.edu

SGA AND THE HARRIS COUNTY TAX OFFICE



VOTER DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAINING

THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 2016

1:00 PM

UHD, ROOM A-425

*****The State requires that Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars attend the full training. Please arrive 15 minutes early to ensure you are on time.*****



GET INVOLVED - UNITED WE STAND

I VOTE BECAUSE...



#Walk2Vote

WE THE PEOPLE: OUR ROLE IN AMERICAN POLITICS

OCTOBER 26, 2016

9:30 - 11:45 AM

UHD WELCOME CENTER, MILAM TRAVIS ROOM



REGISTER: WWW.UHD.EDU/CPD

SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC DELIBERATION

- Free Breakfast. Lunch Provided by Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning
 - The Walk2Vote initiative will start right after our forum 12-2 p.m. (speakers, music and walking to vote)
 - Free Parking Provided Only for Participants who are not UHD Members.
- Please email lawrencew@uhd.edu to reserve your space.

PARTNERS:



CONTACT DR. W. LAWRENCE FOR MORE INFO, LAWRENCEW@UHD.EDU