



Adler University 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan
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Executive Summary:

The civic engagement work on our campus is continuing to evolve. Formerly, (pre-pandemic) we had on-campus programming that consisted of voter registration drives, a civics table (depository for local elections and civic process information), as well as events that focused on hosting information sessions about demystifying politics and civic processes. Now we are in the process of adapting these activities since the entire university is remote. We hosted an online program to explore and share resources to help students, staff, and faculty plan "how to vote" based upon where they live and ballot plan for the election. In the same session, we had a guest speaker share ideas about how to be civically engaged during this election season. As of now, we are sending out information to students electronically that allow them to continue planning how they will vote. Specifically, we are sharing national voter education information for the week of October 5th-10th. We are also planning a follow-up dialogue session after the election to learn how students utilized the tools we shared and their experiences of civic engagement and dialogues.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Camille Williamson, Director of the Center for Civic Learning and Community Action
Mike Joyce, Associate Director of the Center for Civic Learning and Community Action

Commitment:

Our campus has not yet signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Our past voting rates have been good. Currently we have 400+ students on our Chicago Campus. The demographic information we have is extensive, so I would like to share that separately where appropriate

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Our short-term goals are to ensure that students are aware of all their voting options per their state. Our long-term goals are to: 1) educate students on the city, state, and federal civic engagement strategies inclusive of informed voting, 2) participating in civic dialogues within their social and professional networks, and 3) increasing participation in civic processes such as poll watching, leading townhalls, and engaging elected/appointed officials in dialogues about social issues.

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.)

This year we have already hosted a civic program to share resources for voting options and ways to help students plan how they will vote. We are also sharing resources each day of national voter education week (October 5th-10th). We are also engaging in civic dialogues through-out the year to share knowledge and skills about how to engage elected/appointed officials about social justice issues.

NSLVE:

Adler University has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

We will send out surveys to learn if students have: 1) utilized the resources we have shared, 2) engaged in civic dialogues with their social and professional dialogues, 3) gained additional knowledge and skills to participate in the civic process.

Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

Our action plan will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community with approval from the administration.

Our campus NSLVE reports will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community with approval from the administration.