

**ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
FALL 2018**

ALL IN CAMPUS PLAN TO INCREASE VOTER REGISTRATION

Submitted by The Democracy Commitment Committee

Overview:

At Allegany College of Maryland (ACM), the Democracy Commitment (TDC) committee, the Service Learning and Civic Engagement Center staff, and the Student Government Association, oversee voter registration plans and activities on campus.

This can include holding special events, voter registration drives, poll watching parties, in class curriculum and teaching, co-curricular events, and campus-community activities along with the support of targeted student clubs and partners who promote registration in the community.

This year we will be expanding our “voter engagement” efforts with the support of two grants - one an “Engage the Election” grant - and the other a “Civic Nation” grant. These two grants will allow us to host a deliberative dialogue - focused on “Healing the Heart of Democracy,” two voter registration parties, and a National Voter Registration Day Contest and Event.

History:

For the past five years, ACM has been working to boost student voter registration as part of our commitment to providing an education in democracy and civic engagement to every student on our campus. Our efforts began with cross-curricular activities and expanded to one time events and voter registration tables. As we have become more involved with the national Democracy Commitment initiative we have expanded our voter engagement goals to reach into every class, across the campus, and in partnership with the community. We have participated with the NSLVE report to provide data about student voting on campus. We also assess student involvement with the CSSE tool. This data helps to inform our efforts.

Planned Activities:

This year we have added in activities to better engage the ACM student population with voter registration, and we have specifically branched out to include an absentee ballot drive since a large portion of our student population live in different counties than the local county where our main campus is located.

Here is a list of activities:

- Friday, Sept. 21 - 2:30 to 4:00 pm - **Deliberative Dialogue** - “Healing the Heart of Democracy” with Allegany College of MD and Frostburg State University Students Leading the Discussion. Paired with Voter Registration Party
- Tuesday, Sept. 25 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - **National Voter Registration Day Event and Contest** Participation.
- Tuesday, Oct. 5 - 11:30 am to 2:00 pm - **Absentee Ballot Mail Box Party**
- Tuesday, Nov. 6 - **Election Day Party** at ACM
 - We have secured a donation for a party valued at \$1,000
- Participation in the Engage the Election Webinar Series
- Participation in planning meetings with leaders across the nation.

Voter Education:

Students will be invited to become trained voter registration facilitators and help register other students on campus. As part of the voter education process, we will also post banners, fliers, and hand outs across campus reminding students to vote and where the location of polling sites are locally. We will also put more emphasis on educating students that come from other counties, especially those who are living in the dorm, on how the absentee ballot works. In fact, we will host a voting engagement party at the mailbox.

We will also add links to the Service Learning and Civic Engagement Facebook page – to connect students to voter registration information this year.

We will also provide students with the opportunity to have “advocacy tables” in the college center, which will connect to how voting impacts the social topics that students are passionate about. A student intern has been assigned to talk with classes about this new project.

Anticipated Challenges:

Last year we considered using TurboVote. But due to the financial constraints that we face we were unable to implement it. Instead we will work with Vote.org and other social media apps that quickly connect students to the information that they need to know about voting and who to vote for.

We will continue to encourage students to use “Rock the Vote” as well.

Democracy Commitment Meetings:

At ACM a select group of faculty, students, SGA, club presidents and college administrators meet to discuss goals of promoting voter engagement on campus. Voter engagement is a top priority of the committee.

THE CHARGE OF OUR COMMITTEE:

Plan & execute voter registration & engage the election programming.

With this in mind the committee has secured two voter engagement grants this year to offset the costs of the activities listed above which further develop our work to date on voter engagement.

Timeline / Target:

Between August 20 and November 6, 2018, ACM TDC members would like to help register at least 100 students to vote this fall.

Evaluation of Goals:

- We will evaluate our progress by counting the number of students that complete voter registration cards and absentee ballots.
- We will also have feedback and information generated by our NSLVE report.
- We also complete the CSSE assessment on campus with a large percentage of the student population.