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#VOTETOGETHER

ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

FALL 2020

ALL IN ONE CAMPUS PLAN

TO INCREASE STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION & ENGAGEMENT

AT ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

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and the

The Democracy Commitment Committee

Overview:

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

Engagement strategies this year includes sending out a special mailing to all ACM credit students, holding special events, voter registration drives, presidential debate watching parties, in class voter engagement curriculum and teaching, co-curricular and cross-curricular events, and campus-community engagement along with the support of targeted student clubs and partners who promote voter registration in the community.

This year we will be expanding our “voter engagement” strategy with the support of one grant - “Ask Every Student” grant - of \$5,000. This grant will support some of our planned activities, which are listed below.

History:

For the past seven years, ACM has been working to strengthen 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 student, across the campus, in partnership with the community. We have participated with the NSLVE report to provide data about student voting on campus. Last year we earned a “Silver” engagement award from NSLVE for increasing student participation by $\frac{1}{3}$ on campus.

This past year, we were able to establish a voting polling place on campus by working with the local Allegany County Election Board.

ACM is a certified [2020 Carnegie Classification Community Engagement Campus](#), a member of [Campus Compact - Community College for Democracy](#), a participating member of [NSLVE - Institute for Democracy](#), active with the [ALL-IN-CAMPUS-DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE](#), and a recent new member of the national [ASK EVERY STUDENT COALITION](#).

Planned Activities:

This year we have added in online activities to better engage the ACM student population during this time of COVID. We have specifically worked to increase education around the mail in/absentee ballot drive since a large portion of our student population live in different counties and states (we are at the intersection of four states within a 50 mile radius). We have a resident apartment complex that houses up to 300 students - but there will be notably less students this year due to COVID>

Here is a list of activities that have occurred in the past:

- **Deliberative Dialogue** - Ex. “A House Divided” Kettering Foundation
- **National Voter Registration Day Event and Contest** Participation.
- **Absentee Ballot Mail Box Parties**
- **Election Day Parties** at ACM

Here is a list of what we are planning for Fall 2020:

- **A targeted mailing to all credit students,**
- **Hosting a “Healing the Heart of Democracy” zoom deliberative dialogue,**
- **Online presidential debate watching events,**
- **Celebration of National Voter Registration Day on campus,**
- **Displaying voting banners and flyers on campus,**
- **Conducting a student texting voter reminder campaign.**
- **We are also working on adding a pop-up link on our advising navigation software platform, which will ask if students are registered voters - so that we can target students who are not registered voters in our e-texting campaign. This may take some time to install depending on costs.**

Student Voter Education and Engagement:

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 / mail-in ballots works.

We will also add links to the College to Community Partnership Center Facebook page:
– to connect students to voter registration information this year.

We will also provide students with the opportunity to post “Save the World” projects, which will focus on how voting impacts the social topics that students are passionate about. A student intern has been assigned to support some of the projects listed above.

Anticipated Challenges:

This year we are changing all modalities of engagement to protect our students, faculty, staff and community partners from the inherent dangers of COVID. That is why most of our initiatives are based online. To stay up to date on the changing voting environment, we will promote <https://alerts.howto.vote> so students can find out what their state is doing to safeguard the upcoming elections. Other social media apps that quickly connect students to the information that they need to know about voting will be promoted.

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

The Democracy Commitment Meetings:

At ACM a select group of community leaders, faculty, staff, students, SGA, club participants and college administrators meet to discuss goals of promoting voter engagement on campus. Voter engagement is a top priority of the committee. They oversee the managerial component of this initiative and endorse grant initiatives.

THE CHARGE OF OUR DEMOCRACY COMMITMENT COMMITTEE:

A primary goal of the committee is to - Plan & execute voter registration & engage the election programming.

With this in mind, the TDC committee has helped secure over four voter engagement grants over the past three years to offset the costs of the activities listed above, which further develop our work to date on voter engagement.

The work of the TDC committee does not receive an annual budget, but $\frac{1}{3}$ of a faculty member’s time is allocated and student workers are assigned when funding is available.

Timeline / Target:

Between August 17 and November 6, 2020, we hope to encourage voter registration so that all of our students will vote. Because our events are all virtual this year, there is no way that we can count the number of students that will vote. Our NSLVE report - which will be released next year should provide more information.

Evaluation of Goals:

- We will evaluate our progress by reviewing the results of our [NSLVE](#) report.
- We will also have feedback from the [NASCE](#) assessment that we complete on campus. The last time the NASCE was conducted was in the spring of this past year. The next assessment will not occur until Spring 2022.
- We will also complete the [CCSSE](#) assessment on campus with a large percentage of the student population.