



## **Bridgewater State University 2024 Civic Action Plan**

**Developed by: Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice**

### **I. Executive Summary**

BSU's Civic Action Plan focuses on ways to engage and educate students and the community on the importance of civic participation, civic action, and social responsibility at the local, state, and national levels of democracy. It prioritizes education, awareness, and action regarding the issues of systemic racism and bias that impact civic and democratic pathways and opportunities. This is an ongoing priority that is embedded throughout our institution's nested strategic plans (University, divisional, and departmental).

This Civic Action Plan for Bridgewater State University has been developed by staff of the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice and has been informed by multiple groups and individuals described within the plan. For many years, BSU has been operating in interdisciplinary and interdivisional ways to offer events and opportunities that educate, inform, engage, and empower our students and broader community about civic and democratic engagement.

The purpose of the plan is to provide a guide to reach BSU's goals for civic engagement in the next two election cycles, with a particular focus on promoting voter engagement, including registration, education, and turnout. The duration of this Civic Action Plan is intended to be the next two election cycles, but we will update it regularly with new data as we are informed and specific activities as they are developed.

By the 2024 election, BSU's short-term goals are to:

1. Increase voter registration and voter turnout rates among BSU students.
2. Establish the baseline for the number of academic departments with civic engagement in their program goals and/or student learning objectives.
3. Activate and include the Academic Affairs, Student Life, Outreach & Engagement divisions in voter registration and turnout activities.
4. Develop a strong working relationship with at least one Town Election official to inform and improve our efforts.

Within the next two election cycles, BSU's goals are to:

1. Identify and implement multiple ways across every student's enrollment, orientation, classroom experiences, and experiences beyond the classroom to Ask Every Student to become an active and informed voter.
2. Increase the number of academic departments with civic engagement in their program goals and/or student learning objectives.
3. Increase the number of non-academic departments with civic engagement in their programs and/or activities.
4. Maintain ongoing group(s) focused on civic participation at BSU.

Many resources are available for civic engagement activities at BSU. Many of these activities are included in existing budgets for the President's Office, Academic Affairs Division, the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice, the Democratic Governance and Leadership Program, the two endowed Bartlett Faculty Fellowships, student organization budgets (including Student Government Association and several civic-oriented student groups that are currently active), and other entities.

## **II. Leadership**

BSU has a Civic Participation Steering Committee that is serving as the coordinating hub for overall election-focused activities and communications during 2024. The membership of that Steering Committee includes:

- Diane Bell, Vice President, Division of Outreach & Engagement
- Jill Beckwith, Executive Director, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
- Lucy Croft, Interim Vice President, Division of Student Life
- Dr. Nicole Glen, Assistant Provost, Academic Affairs
- Dr. Karim Ismaili, Executive Vice President and Provost
- Paul Jean, Vice President, Division of Enrollment, Marketing & Communications
- Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, Vice President for Strategy and Planning, Chief of Staff
- Dr. Cindy Kane, Assistant Provost, Division of Academic Affairs

This team, under the leadership of Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, has been meeting approximately monthly in 2024, with multiple related concurrent subgroup meetings, among and between Leadership Team members and other campus leaders. Civic engagement is a key priority for President Fred Clark and Provost Karim Ismaili, which is reflected by the Steering Committee membership.

Additionally, Dr. Jakari Griffith, Associate Professor and Chair of the Management and Marketing Department, Ricciardi College of Business, will be leading and convening a group of BSU faculty members during summer 2024 that will identify strategies and resources for faculty to highlight and facilitate election-related activities in their classrooms during the Fall 2024 semester.

The Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice is playing a key role in convening, organizing, and promoting voting-specific education and registration on campus. There are three MRISJ staff members (Jill Beckwith, Laura Mulvey, and Jennifer Thibodeau) playing active leadership roles.

The succession plan for the Steering Committee should Dr. Leuenberger step away from this role would be for one of the remaining Vice Presidents to continue with leading these efforts and for the voting-specific activities, one of the MRISJ staff members will be available to continue with these efforts should one of the team members no longer be available.

Civic engagement is a key priority for BSU and the following people are actively involved in civic engagement at BSU, including:

### **President's Office**

- Fred W. Clark, Jr., President
- **Dr. Deniz Leuenberger, Vice President for Strategy and Planning, Chief of Staff (Steering Committee members are bolded)**
- Vinny DeMacedo, Special Advisor to the President, President's Office

### **Division of Outreach and Engagement / MRISJ**

- **Diane Bell, Vice President, Outreach & Engagement**
- **Jill Beckwith, Executive Director, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice**
- Dr. Jose Lara, Associate Professor, Global Languages and Literatures, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Social Justice Studies Minor Coordinator, Academic Director, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
- Dr. Seth Meyer, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Faculty Associate, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
- Laura Mulvey, Community Programs Manager, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
- Dr. Sheena Rancher, Assistant Professor, Special Education, College of Education and Health Sciences and Faculty Associate, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
- Summa Slater, BSU's 24-25 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow
- Jennifer Thibodeau, Director of Programs, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
- Justice Fellows and Ambassadors, Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice (6-12 undergraduate student employees)

### **Division of Student Life / Center for Student Engagement / Residence Life and Housing**

- **Dr. Lucy Croft, Interim Vice President, Division of Student Life**
- Christina McCauley, Executive Director, Center for Student Engagement
- Meri Michaelson, Assistant Director, Outreach and Pathways, Center for Student Engagement
- Matt Miller, Director, Center for Student Engagement
- Shaneé LeBaron, Assistant Director, Office of Community Standards
- Erica Callahan, Area Coordinator, Residence Life and Housing
- Danielle Stinchcomb, Residence Director, Weygand Hall, Residence Life and Housing

### **Division of Enrollment, Marketing and Communications**

- **Paul Jean, Vice President**
- Kristen Romanelli, Web Content Manager

### **Division of Academic Affairs**

- Dr. Karim Ismaili, Executive Vice President and Provost, Academic Affairs
- **Dr. Niki Glen, Assistant Provost, Academic Affairs**
- Dr. Jo Hoffman, Associate Professor in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, College of Education and Health Sciences and Bartlett Endowed Professor of Civic Education and Engagement
- **Dr. Cindy Kane, Assistant Provost, Academic Affairs**
- Dr. Aeon Skoble, Professor, Philosophy, Bartlett Chair in Free Speech and Expression, and Co-coordinator, Interdisciplinary Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- Dr. Francisco Alatorre, Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice, and incoming Coordinator of Community Engaged Teaching and Scholarship (CETS)

### **College of Humanities and Social Sciences**

- Dean Arnaa Alcon
- Dr. Jordon Barkalow, Associate Professor and Chairperson of Political Science and Co-Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics,
- Dr. Kevin Donnelly, Professor, Graduate Chairperson
- Dr. Brian Frederick, Professor, Political Science
- Dr. Mark Kemper, Professor, Political Science
- Dr. Sidita Kushi, Assistant Professor, Political Science, College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Co-Coordinator of Democratic Governance and Leadership Program Democratic Governance and Leadership Program (DGLP)
- Dr. Rachel Navarre, Associate Professor, Political Science and Co-Coordinator of Democratic Governance and Leadership Program (DGLP)

### **Student Government Association**

- Emily Rose, 23-24 AY SGA President, contributed to planning meetings during her tenure, she has shared that with new incoming SGA President, who will be invited.

### **Community Partners**

- Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights, community partner organization
- Brockton Interfaith Community (Brockton)
- Coalition for Social Justice (Attleboro, Brockton, Fall River, New Bedford)
- Dr. Michael Kryzaneck, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, author of Simply Civics blog on BSU Civic Engagement webpage
- Town of Bridgewater

### **III. Commitment**

Bridgewater State University has been a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2020.

BSU also has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals: 2016 Silver, 2018 Gold, 2020 Silver, and the inaugural 2022 Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting.

BSU's names fostering global citizenship as a key aspect of our institutional mission –

[Bridgewater State University is an inclusive community dedicated to the lifelong success of all students, focused on the continuous improvement of its people, and responsible for leading innovation that benefits Southeastern Massachusetts, the Commonwealth, and the world. Bridgewater's accessible environment of teaching and learning stimulates critical thinking, demands the rigorous pursuit of new knowledge and deeper understanding, cultivates meaningful and diverse interpersonal relationships, fosters global citizenship, and strives to transform lives and improve the human condition.](#)

#### *Bridgewater State University Strategic Plan*

The institutional commitment to civic education, learning, and engagement at BSU is stated clearly in BSU's Strategic Plan. BSU has just embarked upon a new Strategic Plan in 2024.

Civic education and voter education and registration are specifically noted as commitments under **Goal 5**, which is to **Lead and catalyze equity and social justice within Bridgewater State University, our region, state, and nation.**

Under Goal 5, Objective 5E specifically identifies civic engagement: **Commit to social justice education, social change action, and civic engagement.**

The Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice will be the lead on ensuring that two commitments related to this objective are fulfilled:

BSU Commitment 5E1: *Support projects and initiatives to advance social justice education, social change action, and civic education through university partnerships.*

BSU Commitment 5E4: **Promote civic engagement to the larger BSU community through the Civic Speaker Series, voter education and registration events, service opportunities, and community engaged learning opportunities with local partner organizations.**

Connected to this new Strategic Plan, Executive Vice President & Provost Ismaili has identified civic engagement as a key priority for the Academic Affairs division, particularly for the fall 2024 semester, and has called upon academic departments and programs to plan activities related to these themes.

Other evidence of institutional commitment include:

#### *Senior Leadership Focus*

An entire Leadership Council Meeting in April 2024 was dedicated to sharing plans and suggestions for civic participation related actions. The Leadership Council is comprised of all Academic Department chairs, all program Directors within Academic Affairs, and all Director-level or higher staff members of all other University Divisions. It is the main inter-divisional and leadership avenue for sharing and garnering support for Presidential and Provost priorities.

The key themes identified by the Leadership Council were then shared with the Executive Committee, which is a Cabinet-level entity, for discussion and additional brainstorming. Final plans are being coordinated by the Civic Participation Steering Committee.

#### *BSU Conference on Civics Education*

At President Clark's direction, Bridgewater State University hosted a "Civics Education: A Call to Action" conference on our main campus on May 9, 2024 for K-12 and higher education civics educators. President Fred Clark, College of Education Dean Dr. Marci Swede, and Bartlett Endowed Professor for Civic Education and Engagement Dr. Jo Hoffman gave remarks and provided leadership to the planning and follow-up to the conference.

#### *BSU Team presenting at Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Conference*

Bridgewater State University is sending a team of four (Dr. Jo Hoffman, Laura Mulvey, Dr. David O'Malley, and Dr. Maurice Williams) to the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Conference in Detroit, MI in June 2024. This team will be presenting on work done at BSU to (1) gain Provost support and broaden faculty support to align program civic learning outcomes with university and academic affairs strategic plans and (2) highlighting how BSU has used civic

learning and democratic engagement to address environmental justice and sustainability in its teaching, scholarly and service activities of students, staff, faculty and community partnerships.

#### *Two Endowed Professorships Relating to Civic Engagement*

In December 2021, BSU announced a new Bartlett Endowed Professorship for Civic Education and Engagement. Dr. Jo Hoffman, Associate Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education has served in this role since then and in it, she helps to develop enhanced civics education tools in the region with PreK-12 partners, BSU students, and community stakeholders. Dr. Hoffman has collaborated with education partners, statewide civic-focused organizations, and other programs working toward developing civic learning goals. Dr. Hoffman has held this role through Academic Year 23-24, and a new Bartlett Professor is expected to be named for the 24-25 Academic Year.

Philosophy Professor Dr. Aeon Skoble was named in March 2022 as the inaugural Bartlett Chair in Free Speech and Expression at BSU. Dr. Skoble has developed and participated in an annual forum about the role of freedom of expression in a liberal education; created a free speech and expression speaker series; and identified co-sponsorship opportunities with other BSU organizations to foster cross-campus collaboration on the intersection of free speech with other important values and priorities. This is a permanent appointment; Dr. Skoble will continue with it during the 24-25 Academic Year.

#### **IV. Landscape**

Bridgewater State University (BSU) is a public 4-year regional comprehensive University located in Bridgewater, MA. BSU has one main campus in Bridgewater and a small satellite campus in Attleboro (at which classes are held but no students reside)

##### *BSU Student Demographic Data (\*Fall 2022):*

- Undergraduate students: 8,166
- Graduate students: 1,488
- Total Enrollment: 9,654

As of Fall 2022, 58% of the 8,116 enrolled undergraduate students were female, and 29% were students of color. Specifically, 69.5% of undergraduate students were White, 9.5% were Black, 9.4% were Hispanic, 6.1% were of two or more races, 2.3% were Asian, <1% were international students, <1% were Native American, <1% were Native Hawaiian, and <1% were of unknown race. In Fall 2022, 30.4% of undergraduates were considered low-income and 48.5% were first-generation students. Regarding age, approximately 87% of undergraduate students were between 17-24 years old, and 13% were older than twenty-five.

Among the 1,488 graduate students enrolled in Fall of 2022, 75.5% were female, and 18.8% were students of color. More specifically, 78% of graduate students were White, 6.2% were Black, 5.8% were Hispanic, 1.5% were international students, 3.8% were of two or more races, 1.3% were Asian, <1% were Native American, <1% were Middle Eastern/North African, and 1.3% were of unknown race. In Fall 2022, 21% of graduate students were considered low-income and 45% were first-generation students. As for age ranges, 24% of graduate students were between 17-24 years old, and 76% were over the age of twenty-five.

In terms of where our students reside, 92% of undergraduates are from Massachusetts and 68% of all undergraduate students are commuters.

Due to our large number of commuter students, we will seek commuter student input and feedback on how to best share information with this student population and continue to partner closely with our Office of Off Campus and Commuter Students.

We continue to use our NSLVE data to acknowledge any participation gaps by race or area of study and use this information to inform our goals and strategies to close those gaps.

Massachusetts has not passed any new local or state voter laws or regulations that would hinder voter access since the last election, while we still do not have some options that would improve voter access, such as same-day voter registration.

## **V. Goals**

### **Short Term Goals:**

By the 2024 election, BSU's short-term goals are to:

1. Increase voter registration and voter turnout rates among BSU students.
  - a) Increase student voter turnout rate to 80% in 2024.
  - b) Increase student voter registration rate to 92% in 2024.
2. Establish the baseline for the number of academic departments with civic engagement in their program goals and/or student learning objectives.
3. Activate and include the Academic Affairs, Student Life, Outreach & Engagement Divisions in multiple and diverse voter registration and turnout activities.
4. Building on the President's Office relationship with Town of Bridgewater officials, the MRISJ will develop a strong working relationship with at least one Town Election official to inform and improve our efforts.

### **Long Term Goals:**

Within the next two election cycles, BSU's goals are to:

1. Identify and implement multiple ways across every student's enrollment, orientation, classroom experiences, and experiences beyond the classroom to *Ask Every Student* to become an active and informed voter.
2. Increase the number of academic departments with civic engagement in their program goals and/or student learning objectives.
3. Increase the number of non-academic departments with civic engagement in their programs and/or activities.
4. Maintain ongoing group(s) focused on civic participation at BSU.

## VI. NSLVE

Bridgewater State University has reauthorized NSLVE through 2033.

According to the most recent BSU NSLVE data:

BSU improved over its 2018 voter registration rate of 76.5% to have a 2020 voter registration rate of 86.3%.

BSU improved its voter registration rate of 40.6% in 2018 to have a 2020 campus voting rate of 69.3%.

BSU showed improvements in estimated voting rates among in all racial groups between 2018 and 2020, exceeding national benchmarks for all racial groups. In fact, estimated voting rates for BSU students nearly doubled for Asian students (54% voting rate in 2020, up from 22% in 2018), Black students (53%, up from 26%), Hispanic students (59%, compared with 32%), and students identifying as Two or More Races (65%, up from 33%). Estimated voting rates among White student also increased, from 44% in 2018 to 73% in 2020.

BSU also showed improved estimated voting rates among all majors/fields between 2016 and 2020, except for Philosophy and Religious Studies. We will continue to promote a general message supporting registration and informed voting, and will ask the departments and programs in those related departments to help bolster this message among their students.

## VII. Strategy

In addition to the ongoing work done by the Civic Participation Steering Committee noted above, the MRISJ facilitated four brainstorming sessions for campus partners interested in contributing to the Civic Action Plan for the year ahead (two were held in November 2023 and two were held in February 2024).

Twenty people representing 10-12 different programs attended at least one of the sessions, and we had individual conversations with several faculty members and campus partners who indicated they were interested, but not able to attend the group sessions. The Divisions of (1) Academic Affairs, (2) Student Life, (3) Marketing, Communication & Enrollment, (4) the President's Division, (5) Student Success, Equity & Diversity, and (6) Outreach & Engagement were represented. We created a shared living document of brainstormed ideas, which has already resulted in some collaborative outreach among partners.

### **Strategy 1: Build and maintain momentum on promoting civic participation among various campus entities and individuals working on these issues**

Tactic 1A. Regularly convene the entities, programs, student groups, and individuals working on voter education and voter registration to share information, coordinate activities, and create opportunities for collaboration.

Tactic 1B. Maintain regular communication between the groups to maintain transparency, increase efficiency, and better serve our students.



Tactic 1C. Update campus partners on 2022 BSU's NSLVE data when it is released, including trends and disaggregated data to inform strategies.

Tactic 1D. BSU's *Civic Engagement at BSU* webpage (<https://www.bridgew.edu/civic-engagement>) was created as a collaborative effort across divisions and departments in 2022. The website provides a place to share our priorities for civic engagement, provide connections to various types of engagement opportunities, and a shared space to highlight the opportunities offered at BSU with a broad audience. This webpage will be used as a home base for a shared calendar of civic engagement events on campus starting in Fall 2024 and into the future.

Tactic 1E. BSU's Marketing, Communications and Enrollment Division will develop and widely share media content to encourage a culture of civic engagement and increase voter turnout. They have also collaborated with campus partners to increase visibility of civic engagement content on internal and external facing websites. They are actively involved in the various entities and will be a key partner in all communications strategies.

Tactic 1F. the MRISJ will reach out and invite non-academic departments to join the civic planning efforts and identify civic engagement as a priority in their programs and/or activities.

## **Strategy 2: Provide multiple voter education and voter registration opportunities for students.**

Tactic 2A. Voter registration and education activities

- Voter registration and education activities information will be provided by the MRISJ at every "Checkpoint" session in June 2024, at which accepted students get oriented to their BSU experience.
- Voter registration tables and education will be available in centrally located areas weekly during the semester and on National Voter Registration Day (this year, on September 17), every day during National Voter Registration Week (this year, from October 7-11), Vote Early Day (this year, October 29), and Election Hero Day (this year, November 4). Several campus departments, student groups, and programs are interested in participating, so we anticipate reaching a diverse range of students this way.
- BSU will hold an in-person "Get Out the Vote Fair" with multiple collaborating departments during National Voter Education Week (October 7-11, 2024).
- The MRISJ started tabling in residence hall lobbies in November 2023, and plan to staff tables with students in each residence hall at least once during Fall 2024, and will continue to do so in 2025 and beyond.
- The MRISJ will have voter registration and education at BSU Homecoming for students, alumni, and family members on Saturday, October 5, 2024, and in future years.
- We are actively considering establishing a BSU-specific voter registration portal as offered by ALL IN. MRISJ staff will attend June information sessions and plan to pose the opportunity to university leadership. If we establish it, we will report on it in the October Action plan and use it to track voter registration.

Tactic 2B. Voter Information

During spring 2024, the MRISJ (led by students, with staff input) created two BSU-specific brochures related to student voting.

- **Get Out the Vote!** This brochure highlights NSLVE data for BSU, directs students to the BSU Votes page (<https://www.bridgew.edu/bsuvotes>), and provides positive voting messaging. It was developed by students who work with the MRISJ.
- **Voting After Graduation** This brochure is specifically tailored for graduating BSU seniors, reminding them to check their registration information so that they are properly registered for the fall election. This information was shared via a specialized email from the Center for Student Engagement to all graduating seniors, and hard copies were available at Bristaco's Grad Party, a special event for seniors. This information specifically for graduating seniors also is available on the BSU Votes website.

These brochures have been made available to the campus community, and we had an immediate response when they were offered to campus partners (faculty and staff), with requests for 700+ to be incorporated into courses, events, and displayed at offices during the spring 2024 semester. These educational tools will continue to be a part of all voter education and registration activities at BSU in the coming years.

The MRISJ will also create written information tailored for incoming students about being first-time voters, and highlight the content that is already featured on the BSU Votes website.

Tactic 2C. BSU's Division of Student Life has engaged the Student Government Association in publicizing information about voting and ballot questions in previous elections and plans to do this again. Voter registration tables and materials will continue to be incorporated into Student Government elections in the spring semester.

Tactic 2D. Offer a wide variety of educational events relating to civic engagement, hosted by varying offices and featuring faculty members, student leaders, and guest speakers, including the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice, BSU's Political Science department, Political Science's [Democratic Governance and Leadership Program](#), Center for Student Engagement, and others.

The DGLP is an active collaborator in campus planning efforts and will continue to offer a full slate of civic education and outreach opportunities. (More specific details will be provided in the October submission.)

Tactic 2E. MRISJ staff will develop a strong working relationship with at least one Town Election official in Bridgewater, and invite them to contribute to planning efforts and events.

### **Strategy 3: Promote Civic Engagement, particularly Voting**

Tactic 3A. Promote the **BSU Votes webpage** ([www.bridgew.edu/bsuvotes](http://www.bridgew.edu/bsuvotes)), which provides accurate, up-to-date, and easily accessible information about the voting process and voting deadlines. We will continue to utilize MRISJ social media channels and the University Mobile App to widely share important voting information and link students with BSU Votes.

BSU Votes will be linked through a prominent button on the home page of Engage BSU, which is the primary platform for student groups, as well as on the BSU Mobile App, which is used by students.

Tactic 3B. **University Communications** - BSU has used the following communication methods to communicate with students in the past and will use them again to communicate about the upcoming election, voting timelines, and voting process: email; Student and Faculty

announcements, institutional and program-specific social media channels, flyers, BSU Mobile App, Engage BSU, BSU Votes webpage, and on campus electronic bulletin boards.

Tactic 3C. President Fred Clark has also committed to emphasizing the importance of voter registration, voter education, and voter participation in all in-person welcoming remarks to incoming students, as well as the campuswide Welcome Back email to the entire campus during the Fall 2024 semester. President Clark will also send a campuswide message encouraging voting to the entire campus community in Fall 2024 as he did in 2022, which will also highlight the BSU Votes website and its resources.

Tactic 3D. MRISJ employs undergraduate students to serve as Justice Fellows and works with BSU's Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow to engage students in peer-to-peer education on voting, and other important community issues. They will support the activities described in this plan.

Tactic 3E. During the early voting period (late October), the MRISJ will co-host a community standout with a local community organization (Bridgewater Citizens for Civil Rights) to encourage community members to vote and to highlight the need for advance planning for students to vote if they are registered in their hometowns.

**Strategy 4: Increase civic engagement within the classroom, by supporting BSU faculty members to incorporate civic engagement in their teaching, research, and/or service.**

Tactic 4A. MRISJ staff will work with the Office of Assessment to identify and establish the baseline for the number of academic departments with civic engagement in their program goals and/or student learning objectives using existing program reviews.

Tactic 4B. *Faculty Institute on Civic Engagement* - On June 10 and 11, 2024, the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice will host 35 full-time and part-time faculty and staff for our online Summer 2024 MRISJ Faculty Institute, "*Democracy in Action: Civic Engagement in Teaching, Scholarship, and Service*." Dr. Nicholas Longo, professor of Global Studies at Providence College, will lead Day One. Dr. Longo co-directs the Dialogue, Inclusion, and Democracy (DID) Lab which focuses on using deliberative, community-based pedagogies to promote equity and democracy, a faculty fellow for engaged scholarship with the Center for Teaching Excellence and the 2022 recipient of the Innovation in Teaching Excellence Award. He is the author of the 2023 AAC&U and Campus Compact publication "*Practicing Democracy: A Toolkit for Educating Civic Professionals*," which is required reading for all participants. Dr. Longo will give an overview of the current state of the field of civic engagement, share his experience and expertise in civic engagement in a higher education setting as a faculty member, and offer workshop activities for participants. Day Two will include breakout sessions in which faculty can talk with one another about their Day One learnings, highlight BSU and national resources, as well as allow participants to identify next steps for the 24-25 Academic Year and beyond.

Tactic 4C. *Election Toolkit* - The MRISJ created an Election Toolkit for BSU faculty to use during the 2020 election cycle. MRISJ staff will work with our three faculty associates, other faculty partners in Academic Affairs, and the Office of Teaching and Learning to update this faculty toolkit. It will include PowerPoint slides and sample language for faculty to share on their online teaching sites, in classrooms, and through direct communication with students, and will be shared with faculty at the start of the Fall 2024 semester. We are exploring ways to evaluate the use and impact of these materials with faculty (and, staff).

Tactic 4D. *Faculty Planning Group* - A group of faculty members will be convened during Summer 2024 under the leadership of Dr. Jakari Griffith. This group will identify strategies and resources for faculty to highlight and facilitate election-related activities in their classrooms during the Fall 2024 semester.

### **VIII. Reporting**

BSU will widely share our Civic Action Plan and NSLVE reports with the active groups focused on these issues, as well as the entire campus community through internal communication mechanisms described above.

We will share it via Community Announcements, Student Announcements, and the BSU App as well as targeted communications with our BSU faculty email listserve.

The Center for Student Engagement also communicates regularly with all students and their families through a variety of websites and newsletters (some are tailored for first year students, some for seniors, and some for families). They will share the results of the NSLVE survey.

We will also ask the BSU Alumni Association to share the Civic Action plan and NSLVE results via their typical communications mechanisms as well.

BSU has given ALL IN permission to publish BSU's NSLVE reports. Previous reports are available on posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website and on the Democratic Engagement section of BSU's new civic engagement website (<https://www.bridgew.edu/civic-engagement/democratic-engagement>), and they will be regularly updated with future plans and data reports.

### **IX. Evaluation**

BSU will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

As we have all along, we will track participation levels at civic events and programs through attendance lists which we will use to gather student demographic and curricular information.

We will continue to monitor our outreach and communications measures by tracking communications with the university community. Our communication efforts will include direct emails, campus announcements, newsletters, and social media engagement.

We will work with the Office of Assessment to assist with tracking the number of academic departments that include civic engagement in their program goals and/or student learning outcomes.

The MRISJ will track the number of non-academic departments/programs participating in civic engagement activities.

We will use NSLVE data to examine our voting participation in the upcoming election and use those disaggregated results to inform our programming.

Additionally, we are actively considering establishing a BSU-specific voter registration portal as offered by ALL IN. MRISJ staff will attend June information sessions and plan to pose the opportunity to university leadership. If we establish it, we will report on it in the October Action plan and use it to track voter registration.

BSU started using the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) in 2020. BCSSE asks several questions on topics relating to civic engagement, including:

- How involved were you in student government
- How involved where you in community service or volunteer work
- How the campus encourages interactions among folks from different backgrounds
- Concern about topics including racial equity, LGBTQ+ equity, gender equity, gun-related crime, political turmoil, free speech rights, religious freedom, and immigration reform
- If they plan on engaging in events related to one or more of those topics.

BSU will also be instituting a new Campus Climate Survey (Insight Viewfinder) in Spring 2026, which include questions about:

- How students characterize their political views
- If they feel they belong, feel welcome, and respected with their political views
- How the campus encourages interactions among folks from different backgrounds
- And there is an opportunity to add questions.

BSU will continue to incorporate civic engagement focused questions on campus wide assessments to measure our progress on goals identified in our strategic plan and civic action plan. We will work collaboratively with the Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support, the Office of Assessment, and other campus and community partners to identify these opportunities and review data that can be used to inform our future civic engagement efforts.