

## **Final Report**

**Institution:** Washtenaw Community College

**Coalition Members:**

- Sabrina Lanker - WCC Student
- Alysha Rosetto - WCC Student
- Bryce Robertson - WCC Student
- Peter Leshkevich - WCC Staff
- Kim Jones - WCC Faculty

### **Overview**

The Fall 2019 Semester Campus Vote Project coalition set out to increase both Voter Registration and Voter Education. At the beginning of the semester, we played TurboVote's Votes & Ballots game to determine our action plan. The overarching goal was to focus on 5 activities (3 Registration, 1 Education, 1 Engagement.) Our total voter registration goal was to register 275 students. Between the activities listed below and the TurboVote registrations acquired through collaboration with new student orientation, the total number of students registered in Fall 2019 at Washtenaw Community College was 248. (108 Paper Registrations, 140 TurboVote Registrations.)

### **Coalition**

The coalition started off strong and ended up adding some members as the semester went along. The semester started with Kimberly Jones, English Professional Faculty, Peter Leshkevich, Director of Student Development and Activities, Roddy Wares, Coordinator of League of Women Voters, Alysha Rosseto, Student Democracy Fellow, and Sabrina Lanker, Student Democracy Fellow. As the semester went on we Bryce Robertson, Student Democracy Fellow and Kimberly Kozel, Representative for Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force. Everyone stepped into their roles and helped in the success of this semester's initiatives.

Kim J., Pete, and Roddy provided support and guidance towards completing our goals. Roddy was vital when it came to helping in our tabling efforts by coordinating volunteers with the League of Women Voters to get more students registered or up to date on new laws regarding voter registration and participation. Kim J. and Pete helped in reaching out to the right departments and supporting our efforts throughout the semester. Kimberly K., was very resourceful when it came to reaching out to others in the community to help us achieve certain tasks we had set forth in helping us achieve the Fall 2019 semester goals. Through her, we were able to set up a video that we will utilize in our current and future voter education efforts.

All the student democracy fellows were involved in designing, coordinating and implementing every task we set forth to achieve. We hope that our current coalition can continue to work together in order to achieve future initiatives, as well as, help us foster more organizational support in the future. With an upcoming Presidential Primary and Election, our efforts will be on a grander scale and therefore need more support as we continue to make Washtenaw Community College a leader as a voter-friendly campus.

### Action Plan Analysis

When we started this semester we set out to achieve five major goals. We held various activities and utilized numerous campus resources in efforts to achieve these goals. The following chart illustrates our goals and outcomes as identified by TurboVote's Votes & Ballots game:

Item	Resources	Category	Goal	Outcome
Host a table for Voter Registration Day	People: Money: Time:	Registration	1 Table 100 Registrations	INCOMPLETE - 1 Table 75 Registrations
Recruit League of Women Voters to host a registration table on campus.	People: 2 Money: 1 Time: 1	Registration	100 Registrations	COMPLETE - 108 Registrations
Coordinate 3 classroom visits for voter registration.	People: 4 Money: 1 Time: 4	Registration	3 Visits 75 Registrations	INCOMPLETE - 1 Visit 20 Registrations
Work with the student newspaper to create an article on voter registration efforts.	People: 4 Money: 0 Time: 3	Education	1 Published Article	COMPLETE - 1 Published Article
Add election dates to the campus calendar.	People: 1 Money: 0 Time: 1	Engagement	2019-2020 Election Dates on Calendar	COMPLETE- 2019-2020 Election Dates on Calendar

#### Voter Registration

This semester was slow compared to more recent elections. With that in mind, we set our registration goals accordingly. Utilizing various tabling efforts, from members of this coalition, we were able to assist 108 new students with paper registration and

add a total of 140 new TurboVote users. This number does fall short of our target of 275 students, however, we stuck to our plan and were still able to assist several students along the way. The League of Women Voters were very helpful in helping us try to obtain our goal. They were able to assist 108 total in registration and informed them of new laws that could help increase voter turnout. When it came to National Registration Day, Alysha and Sabrina coordinated another tabling effort to assist students in registration or help with any questions they might have. They recorded 75 students registering.

### Voter Education

\_\_\_\_\_ This semester we emphasized voter education especially when it came to the importance of local elections. We set out to speak to 3 classes and were only able to get in front of 1. After all was said and done with that visit we were able to register another 20 students through that event. Alysha spearheaded the class visits and even though she only spoke to one class she was able to at least showcase the benefits that TurboVote has to offer. This will be helpful come next semester as we gear up for the Presidential Primaries.

### **Successes**

This coalition has put forward some quality efforts in trying to achieve our goals. Even though we came up a bit short on our goals for this semester we still were able to assist those who wanted it and put together some great resources that could be used in the future in hopes to reach more successful outcomes.

This team and its relationship with the League of Women Voters is probably our biggest success. Without that relationship, we would not have been able to get near the numbers we were able to. Those who volunteered helped out in times when other members of this coalition might have had other tasks they were trying to achieve. Even though they have been an asset to our efforts in the past, this year they really stepped up. With new laws in the state of Michigan regarding registration and absentee voting, they took that information and helped to ensure that those they came in contact with were aware of how this could help them when it comes to not only this election but future ones as well.

Another major success was thanks to some previous coalitions efforts. On November 12, 2019, NSLV and All-in Democracy awarded us a Bronze Seal and Gold Seal from our successes from 2016 and 2018 respectively. Even though these awards do not pertain to our initiatives they set a blueprint for success. Having their work as a resource to go off of we are confident that this semester's outreach will lead to similar

accolades in the upcoming Presidential Election and years to come. After getting a chance to assess the outcomes we hope to learn from what has worked and look forward to new challenges. We are still optimistic that this coalition will achieve great things, especially in the coming months leading up to the Presidential Primaries in March 2020.

### **Barriers**

When we set our goals for the Fall Semester of 2019 we knew there were some things that might hinder us from reaching them. However, no matter how hard we tried, we still were not able to overcome them all.

With no major elections happening this year, it was difficult to create any buzz in regards to elections on campus. There was not much urgency to get registered in time for elections since we only had local elections that took place in November. We tried to focus more on getting new voter information out to those who were interested but the turnout was not near what would have liked and ultimately kept us from reaching our goals.

Another major barrier was we had set out to achieve too many small tasks. This created busywork that we were not always to stay on top of and we ended up getting behind and not achieving everything we had set out to do. We had to end up scrapping some ideas in order to try and complete the tasks we felt were the most important.

Some of these things were not unique to our coalition's efforts but those that were we plan to address in our future planning meeting in order to ensure that it is not a barrier come the Winter of 2020.

### **What's Next**

Our next semester is Winter 2020 which encompasses a Presidential Primary election and leads up to the 2020 Presidential Election which will take place in November. We plan to carry all of our momentum from this semester into the next. With it being such a pivotal election year in our nation we plan to set out on larger initiative plans.

We will continue to utilize TurboVote to assist in the registration efforts seeing as it offers more to its users beyond registration. This tool will be helpful as we plan to assist the College in its 2020 by 2020 - Classroom Registration Contest. The League of Women Voters has already scheduled 8 visit days to continue tabling to assist in all our initiatives to ensure that WCC is a voter-friendly campus. Our other initiatives we will set in an upcoming meeting. The goals will be to continue to educate and potentially increase voter turnout in both primary and presidential elections. Some other things we have planned are the launch of our Polling Station Walkthrough Video, increase TurboVote marketing all over campus, host a registration contest at New Student Orientation, and attend GVSU Statewide Voting Summit. Most of these things are in

continuation of what we have done in the past to increase awareness along with continuing to grow our knowledge so that we can properly inform those we reach out to.

When it does come to the November Presidential Election, most of the results from that will be from next coalitions efforts. Our goals this coming winter semester are to set a strong foundation for them to build upon so that WCC can continue to be a trendsetter in the efforts of a voter-friendly campus.