

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

20

22

**ALL-IN
CHALLENGE
ACTION PLAN**

Executive Summary

Capital University has a rich history of civic and community engagement. Capital students, faculty, and staff are dedicated community members who care about their communities, both locally and globally. For several years, a cross-university team has worked together to “get out the vote” encouraging students to both register and vote, either by absentee ballot or by changing their voting location to Capital University. Capital’s ALL IN Action Plan was written, and the cross-university team is led by the Dean of Engagement and Success and Associate Director of Student and Community Engagement.

Capital University will continue to further engage student-athletes to help spread awareness. A second focus will be on programming, provided by campus entities and student organizations to promote voting awareness, voter education, and election celebrations. Such programs will specialize in voter registration, engagement with the campaigns of local politicians while maintaining and nonpartisan status and spreading awareness on the evolution of human rights concerning voting. The goal Capital University hopes to achieve is to efficiently include various campus departments to reach a more diverse set of community members in their promotion of the topics listed as the second focus. It is a priority to ensure a voice is given to underrepresented communities by giving them the resources and knowledge they need to be included in discussions on political and social matters.

The intended duration of Capital’s plan to increase and maintain civic engagement is the entirety of the school year. The summer months are dedicated planning all fall and spring events for national and state level holidays, and planning campaigns or activities to engage athletics and our academic programs. The plan can only be implemented with the help off the cross-university team. It takes everyone’s commitment to promote and attend university events surrounding voter education, voter registration and other civic engagement initiatives.

Leadership

The Office of Student and Community Engagement (SCE) has taken on the primary leadership position of a campus- wide team dedicated to advancing civic engagement of Capital University students. The campus-wide team coordinates participation in programs through regular meetings and email communication. The group also works directly with civic-minded student organizations to promote and support programming focused on civic engagement, and specifically, on participation in the election process as a voter. The campus wide team is also collaborating with local chapters of organizations/agencies who have the mission to promote voter education and participation in the election.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Capital University has established new partnerships in efforts to increase our involvement in civic engagement. One of these partnerships is with the League of Women Voters (LWV) Ohio. A connection with the Executive Director of the State of Ohio, Jen Miller, helped us make clear our long-term goal of wanting our community members to turn into lifelong voters. Jen Miller introduced our team to Elizabeth Grieser, the Operations Manager for the League of women Voters in Central Ohio. Capital University and LWV collaborated on events for National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Get Out the Vote.

Our partnership with Columbus State Community College is not one that was newly established, but one in which we found a way to strengthen. Our OAC Votes Coordinator met with Columbus State’s Coordinator of Voter Information and Special Projects. Planning between the two institutions consisted of planning a series of voter education/voter events that would take place at different campuses around Central Ohio in rotation. The goal is to include Capital University, Columbus State Community College, Ohio Dominican University, Otterbein University, and Franklin

University.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Capital University explored our increase in community/civic engagement by means of being involved in reentry efforts. In 2022-2023, we will be exploring spreading information regarding voter education amongst those who have been recently released from correctional facilities in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Most collaboration will take place during specific times of the year in which state agencies engage in national reentry efforts, such as National Reentry Week and Second Chance Month,

There are multiple campus entities at Capital University who prioritize inclusivity in the realm of making a change, and one way is through voting and voter education. In our Columbus and Bexley communities, our underrepresented groups are community members of color and those who practice religions aside from Christianity. To be intentional and effectively include these communities, we first must analyze why the voter turnout of minority groups is lower in comparison to others. Another way is to make sure we take the initiative to provide translated, and circumstantial (voting with a felony, voting with a disability) voting materials. As a campus that is committed to increasing our involvement in civic and community engagement, diversity, equity, and inclusion, we must be intentional about our efforts.

SCE Leadership Team

Tristen L. Davis

Program Coordinator and Associate Director of Student and Community Engagement

Deanna N. Wagner

Associate Provost, Dean of Engagement and Success and Title IX Coordinator

Campus-Wide Team

OAC Votes Intern-*The OAC Votes Intern is a student of 3rd year status in the Bonner Leader Program and applies to be an intern. A new student is selected every school year.*

Terry Lahm-Associate Provost of Operations and Institutional Effectiveness (Academic Affairs)

Capital University's Community Engagement Community of Practice

- Dr. Sherry Mong- Associate Professor in Sociology and Criminology
- Dr. Stephanie Gray-Wilson-Professor of Psychology and Director of Honors and Undergrad Scholarship Psychology
- Dr. Nate Whelan- Jackson-Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- Dr. Andrea M. Karkowski-Professor of Psychology and Assistant Provost
- Reverend Dikiea Elery- Assistant Director of Religious and Spiritual Life
- Ralph Cochran-Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Linda Wolf-Director of Assessment and Student Success Analyst

Student Organizations

- Bonner Leader Program-*A new cohort of Bonner Leaders is selected each summer. Bonner Leaders remain in the program until they graduate.*
- Student Government-*Students involved in Student Government are elected by the Capital University student body. Elections occur as their regulations require.*

- BridgeUSA at Capital University
- Black Student Union
- For other student clubs/organizations, new leadership is selected according to the Student Organization Handbook, written by the Office of Student and Community Engagement.

Community Partners

League of Women Voters: Metro Columbus Chapter- Elizabeth Grieser-Operations Manager

League of Women Voters: State of Ohio- Jen Miller-Executive Director

Columbus State Community College-Voter Education/Civic and Community Engagement

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections: Ronette Burkes-Trowsdell-Deputy Director of the Department of Reentry

Commitment

Capital University's commitment to promoting civic engagement is evident in various levels of the institution. First, the University displays a commitment to offering our students and interdisciplinary approach to critically analyze social justice issues and offer solutions.

The mission of Capital University's Social Justice Minor is to offer an interdisciplinary approach to students that empowers them to critically analyze social justice issues. The program values community engagement, civic action, appreciation for individual and group differences, transdisciplinary knowledge, and place-based learning.

First, the University values emphasize a commitment to building community and inspiring civil discourse. See Figure 1.

Figure 1. Capital University Value Values

Free Inquiry

Cultivating open dialogue and critical exploration.

Ethical Stewardship

Acting in pursuit of human dignity and social justice.

Challenging Boundaries

Using multiple perspectives to create new knowledge and solutions.

Authentic Contributions

Developing and applying the innate gifts of each person for the good of society.

Open Community

Celebrating an empowering, faith-friendly environment of inclusion and respect.

Embracing Hope

Cultivating joy in our daily experience and optimism for a better future.

Further, Capital University's general education program, Signature Learning, is a four-year comprehensive program encompassing both curricular and co-curricular experiences that serves as the foundation of every student's education. Capital University is committed to the liberal education that readies the student for every arena of life. Liberal education develops intellectual skills, expands the breadth of learning through exploration of several modes of inquiry, and challenges students to examine foundational ethical and cultural assumptions. It enables students to think critically and reflectively on vocation, citizenship, service, and religious and ethical commitments.

Three student learning outcomes from the Signature Learning program commitment to information literacy and truth-seeking:

SLO 2: Students articulate and apply the skills of a liberal education.

SLO 3: Students apply strategies to critically evaluate, process, and synthesize information.

SLO 11: Students identify and demonstrate the ethical and legal implications of communicating information content.

The lead submission unit for the All In Challenge, the Office of Student and Community Engagement (SCE), was formed in 2011 to bridge the co-curricular experiences of students both on and off campus. The SCE serves as a hub for community engagement and leads and assists with both curricular and co-curricular community and civic engagement. The SCE is led by four learning outcomes:

Students interpret personal interests, values, and identities.

Students build an inclusive community which respects the human dignity of others.

Students articulate the value of their Capital experience.

Students utilize their leadership skills to affect positive change in their personal and professional pursuits.

Members of the SCE, along with faculty and staff from across campus, serve together as a Community Engagement (CE) Community of Practice under the umbrella of Signature Learning. The (CE) Community of Practice identifies and shares best practices for curricular and co-curricular community engaged learning activities and serves as a resource for university and community members interested in developing partnerships.

The University President and Provost are also committed to the work implemented by our campus-wide team in efforts to promote voter education and increase voter registration rates on campus. They are present at voter education events and share reports of our efforts to the Alumni Association and other boards to increase levels of support.

In 2018, Capital launched the Bonner Leader Program, which works to intentionally connect students to the communities surrounding campus to make a sustainable impact with our neighbors. This program is designed to provide students with “access to education and an opportunity to serve.” The hallmarks of the program include:

- Attracting and providing a purpose-driven college education for students who have demonstrated interest in community engagement and social justice.
- Engaging student talents and leadership in brightening lives and strengthening communities.
- Building the skills and commitment to continue to be lifelong agents of community development.
- Developing life and professional skills that are broadly transferable in living, working, and leading.
- Becoming part of a diverse national network of individuals and organizations through which students will learn and grow
- Energizing a culture of community engagement, inspiring and engaging many in making significant contributions in the local community.

The Bonner Leader Program was designed to transform students and their campuses. Through their service-based program, they hope to afford students the opportunity to enhance and use their abilities, talents, and leadership to serve others while in college and create a supportive community of students on campus whose common focus on community service and social justice gives them a sense of purpose. Those selected to be members of the Bonner Leader Program are tasked with challenging and supporting their campus to create a culture of service and advocacy for social justice in a way that all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to serve.

Landscape

Capital University’s commitment to positive civic engagement is evident from the University mission statement down through the programs that directly support this work. While departmental learning outcomes across campus have not been analyzed, a cross-university team, from many departments, disciplines, and student groups, shows the commitment spans the institution.

The image below shows the 2020 NSLVE REPORT. The increase in our campus community’s civic engagement was great. The percentage of students who were voting eligible and registered to vote, increased by 5%. The percentage of registered students who voted on Election Day increased by 29.4%. The increase of students who voted on Election Day (a different group than the yield rate as mentioned previously) increased by 29%. As an

institution, our voting rate increased by 8.6%, putting us at a 75.5% voting rate, in comparison to all institutions within our athletic conference which has a 66% voting rate.

CAMPUS REPORT: Capital University

Looking Closer

By Age Group

Here, we provide the numbers of students in each age category and the voting rates for each group. These are based on the student's age on the day of the election, as calculated by the National Student Clearinghouse using data from student enrollment records.

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	1,975	1,237	63	1,866	727	39	1,809	1,341	74	↑ 11
22-24	440	294	67	479	231	48	451	336	75	↑ 8
25-29	304	228	75	312	178	57	305	239	78	↑ 3
30-39	231	184	80	198	150	76	191	155	81	↑ 1
40-49	104	91	88	112	75	67	89	69	78	↓ -10
50+	63	52	83	54	43	80	44	41	93	↑ 11

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Figure 2

NSLVE Voting Data for Capital University

The 2021 NSSE Comparative data reports show indicators of engagement on various levels, including in the academic community, with their peers, experiences with Faculty, and in the campus environment. Students' levels of engagement were measured in their first and last years of their undergraduate experience. Due to COVID, the amount of engagement in all areas decreased tremendously. As the number of positive COVID cases decreases and restrictions are being rescinded, engagement has begun to increase. Capital University could add additional programming and support around some aspects of Civic Engagement and Campus engagement in order to bring levels of engagement back to where they were prior to the pandemic. Table 1 (below) shows that the most engagement in 2021 came from First Year students in higher learning and reflective and integrative learning and had increased since 2019. The most engagement also came from First Year students in supportive environment. This is an indicator that the campus has done its job in serving as a platform for academic, social, and emotional learning. As more students come back to campus, we hope to see growth in the engagement between students and their peers.

Engagement Themes and Engagement Indicators																
Chart of Statistically Significant Differences in Mean Scores																
Theme and Class Level	Engagement Indicator	2021 Comparison Groups			2019 Comparison Groups			2018 Comparison Groups			2017 Comparison Groups			2016 Comparison Groups		
		Oper.	Carnegie	NSSE	Oper.	Carnegie	NSSE	Oper.	Carnegie	NSSE	Oper.	Carnegie	NSSE	The 318	Carnegie	NSSE
		Peers	Peers	2020-21	Peers	Peers	2018-19	Peers	Peers	2017-18	Peers	Peers	2016-17	Schools	Peers	2015-16
Academic Challenge																
First-Year	Higher-Order Learning															
	Reflective and Integrative Learning															
	Learning Strategies															
	Quantitative Reasoning															
Seniors	Higher-Order Learning															
	Reflective and Integrative Learning															
	Learning Strategies															
	Quantitative Reasoning															
Learning with Peers																
First-Year	Collaborative Learning															
	Discussion with Diverse Others															
Seniors	Collaborative Learning															
	Discussion with Diverse Others															
Experiences with Faculty																
First-Year	Student-Faculty Interaction															
	Effective Teaching Practices															
Seniors	Student-Faculty Interaction															
	Effective Teaching Practices															
Campus Environment																
First-Year	Quality of Interactions															
	Supportive Environment															
Seniors	Quality of Interactions															
	Supportive Environment															

Table 1

<u>Goal</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Increase overall voting rate</u>	<u>19.4%</u>	<u>47.7%</u>	<u>63%</u>	<u>80%</u>
<u>Increase first year voting rate</u>	<u>8.3%</u>	<u>35.2%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>n/a</u>
<u>Participation by each athletic team through that team's choice (i.e.: social media, game day announcement/event, etc.)</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>70%</u>
<u>Robust programming calendar including Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, Debate watch parties, Election night gatherings, etc. (specific events TBD when Capital's 20FA plans are in place)</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>10 events minimum</u>	<u>10 events minimum</u>

Long Term Goals

Capital University's long-term goals to increase the level of engagement and strengthen the commitment the Capital University community has to being involved in civic engagement. Another long-term goal is to have as many campus departments involved in voter education efforts as possible. Lastly, our goal is to turn students into lifelong voters and encourage them to advocate for others to vote and for systems to allow for others to vote.

Strategy, Reporting, Evaluation

It is our intention for Capital University to host events for the following holidays in 2022:

- Constitution Day
- National Voter Registration Day
- National Voter Education Week (An event will be hosted every day of the week)
- Election Hero Day

All incoming First Year and Transfer students engage in CAP 101, an interactive learning tool that students use to learn about the tools they need to succeed in college and learn about other University resources. Within CAP 101, students can register to vote and learn about Capital University's civic engagement efforts regarding voting.

We will rely on our cross-university team to achieve the outlined goals. While leadership in the ALL IN Challenge will be centralized in the committee, all members of the campus community

will have opportunities to participate throughout the academic year. The cross-university team will share updates with the Capital University community, our Ohio Athletic Conference colleagues, and other stakeholders as appropriate, certainly at the beginning of the fall 2022 semester, but throughout the initiative as well. Our voting rates will be evaluated using the NSLVE report and we will categorize events for Fall 2022, specifically around civic engagement within the classroom, in the community, with peers, etc.

Closing

Capital University is excited to build on its rich history of voter engagement through the 2022 All In Challenge. At a time when engagement among college-age voters was low, we are dedicated to increasing engagement, and we are encouraged that our students' registration and voting percentages are above average, however, we are dedicated to promoting voter engagement in our campus community to allow our students to become active, engaged citizens throughout their lives.