

**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 the communities, both locally and globally. For several years, a cross-university team has worked together to “get out the vote” encouraging students to 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 Associate Director of Student and Community Engagement.

Our primary focus is intentional programming by way of identifying impactful programs and practices to encourage underrepresented groups to participate in each election season. This will be done by actively collaborating with our Office of Diversity and Inclusion, an office that gives additional support to our multicultural organizations. We will raise awareness about voter suppression tactics, teach the history of obtaining voting rights, and encouraging our students that their vote matters. 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 a 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 of 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 season.

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 Judaism. To be intentional and effectively include these communities, we first have to 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 [Action](#) 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 Wheelan Jackson-Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Dr. Andrea 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

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.

First, the University vision emphasizes a commitment to building community and inspiring civil discourse. "Capital University is a vibrant and innovative leader in higher education. Our inclusive community supports access and ensures success for all. Students engage in the relevant and collaborative experiences necessary to be knowledgeable, resilient, and ethical citizens. They leave Capital prepared to make meaningful contributions in their communities and advance the common good".

It is within our University values, that Capital University promotes student success, even on the social level, integrity, and diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure that students, faculty and staff feel encouraged to fulfill their civic duty no matter their identity, culture, or perspective.

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.

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 submit 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 **Action Community of Practice**. Originally this committee were the **Community Engagement Community of Practice and Social Justice**. The **Community Action 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. This **Community of Practice** also identifies impactful programs and practices in institutionalizing social justice and social action efforts.

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 **Board of Trustees**, Alumni **Advisory Board**, and other **campus entities** 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.

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 span the institution.

The image below shows the 2020 NSLVE REPORT. The increase in our campus community's civic engagement was significant. The percentage of students 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 image below is the 2021 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) comparative results. Results are not indicated by a series of questions but rather an engagement indicator from 2016-2021. The Engagement indicator shows the level of engagement in academics, while learning with peers, experiences with faculty, and engagement with the campus environment. According to the results shown in the image below, in 2018 and 2019, showed high levels of engagement, which supports that Capital University has been putting its vision and mission into practice to create good citizens. 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. In our mission to institutionalize civic and community engagement efforts, Capital University will focus on closing the perceptual gap between campus members of diverse background to create more of a sense of cultural competence on campus. Capital University will be incorporating civic engagement in the classroom in ways later described in Strategy. Our value for involvement in civic and community engagement will combine as we bring community partners such as the League of Women Voters and the work with other Universities to campus. To track levels of engagement, Capital University uses a platform called Engage to track the participation of students in all active student clubs and organizations. For all events for student clubs and organizations, as well as civic and community engagement programs facilitated by the SCE, attendance is taken. We encourage students to use the co-curricular transcript feature on Engage to make reflections for each co-curricular experience.

Engagement Themes and Engagement Indicators Chart of Statistically Significant Differences in Mean Scores																
Theme and Class Level	Engagement Indicator	2021			2019			2018			2017			2016		
		Comparison Groups			Comparison Groups			Comparison Groups			Comparison Groups			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															

Short-term Goals

Goal	2014	2018	2020	2022
Increase overall voting rate	19.4%	47.7%	63%	80%
Increase first year voting rate	8.3%	35.2%	50%	50%
Participation by each athletic team through that team's choice (ie: social media, game day announcement/event,	n/a	n/a	100%	70%
Robust programming calendar including Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, Debate watch parties, Election night gatherings, etc. (specific events TBD when Capital's 20FA	n/a	n/a	10 even ts mini mum	10 eve nts mini mu m

Long Term Goals

Capital University's long-term goals in regards 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 and additional events in 2023:

- Constitution Day: Voter Education Slam in collaboration with Capital University's Student Government. An Open MIC session about issues campus members can share their perspectives on various issues.
- National Voter Registration Day: Students from the SOC 360 (a community engaged course) registered/ updated the registration over 50 Capital University students
- National Voter Education Week (An event will be hosted every day of the week):
 - October 3: Mock Debate with Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity
 - October 4: History of Voting Rights Interactive Seminar with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
 - October 5: Voter Registration Drive with the Office of Student and Community Engagement
 - October 6: Political Jeopardy with our student volunteers and OAC Votes Intern
 - October 7: Why Do You Vote? Social Media Challenge
- Election Hero Day- Thank Your Election Heroes: Create thank you goody bags and write thank you cards to our local election heroes.

*As on November 8, 2022, all 2022 events were completed. For Election Hero Day, cards and goody bags were delivered to 60 election poll workers.

2023 Events:

- January: Voter Training Part 1: Attendees would learn about the qualifications to make one eligible to vote, a typical in person voting experience description, the ways in which citizens can vote, how to combat voter suppression tactics and how to advocate for the right to vote.
 - Partnership with the League of Women Voters
 - February: Tuesday Talk: A program established by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to create a safe place for conversation for those who have circulated through the criminal justice system. Faith in Politics.
 - February: Civic Engagement Vision Board Party: Not only will we be able to gauge interest in voting/political issues for future events, but to get attendees to think about what fulfilling their civic duty looks like to them.
 - March: Voting Training Part 2: Voter Simulation with the Franklin County Board of Elections.
1. The voter education Program Coordinator will continue to coordinate with professors to visit classes every month to hold discussions with college students to gain understanding on how we can increase the number of lifelong voters in our students. Our faculty and staff will be promoting all efforts encouraged by the Program Coordinator and the SCE in their classrooms, including participation in civic holiday events. Faculty, staff and students have all been challenged to take part in making a public commitment to participate in each election season.

All First-Year students engage in CAP101, 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 CAP101, 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.

A summary of Capital University's action plan will be shared with the campus community. The summary of our action plan will contain our primary and secondary focus, partnerships, calendar of events and resources. We will work with our Director of Institutional Research to see which reports indicating levels of student engagement can be shared with the campus population. All NSSE reports are automatically shared with our President, Associate Provost/ Dean of Engagement and Success. will have opportunities to participate throughout the academic year. The cross-university team will share updates our Ohio Athletic Conference colleagues, and other stakeholders as appropriate, certainly at the conclusion of each semester, but throughout the initiative as well. Our voting rates will be evaluated using the NSLVE report and we will categorize events for each year, 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.