



# Cedar Crest College

## Democratic Engagement Action Plan

### Election Season 2018

#### Point of Contact for Designation Process

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#### Overview:

Cedar Crest College is a liberal arts college for women with a focus of preparing students for a life in a global community. The college just complete a year of celebration for our 150 years of educating women in 2017. Cedar Crest College has a strong ethic of service with civic engagement, social responsibility and service listed as one of four areas of program development for the last two campus strategic plans. While engagement in the community has been a strong component of a Cedar Crest College education, becoming a voter friendly campus during the 2016 election cycle was a newer initiative for the campus community. With a focus on re-engaging the Political Science major, opportunities to engage students in voter education and opportunities has continued to grow. As an institution dedicated to educating women, it is imperative that education on the importance of participating in the democratic process be part of the civic engagement initiatives for the campus community.

#### Goals:

- 1) Provide at least 10 events/dates during 2018 where students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to register to vote.
- 2) Provide educational programming on current issues important to the members of the college community with an increase of 50% (9 offered in 2016-2017)

**Coalition:**

Members of the team that are involved in the All In Democracy Challenge:

*Campus Planning Committee Members*

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Junior  
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*Community Partners*

1. League of Women Voters
2. Local chapter of the America Association of Women (AAUW)
3. Running Start

## **Voter Education**

**Constitution Day:** Have students participate in constitution day programming including a scavenger hunt and quiz on Monday, September 17, 2018.

**Elections and Social Media:** Students will have the opportunity to learn about various non-partisan and party specific social media apps and platforms (including icitizen, Hear My Voice, and Polinav) related to the 2018 political races.

**Senate Debate Party and Discussion:** The College will host a debate watch party with group discussion taking place after the debate.

**Political Polls Brown Bag Lunch:** A faculty member will host an information session and brown bag lunch on political polls and what they mean to campaigns.

**Candidate Panel Discussion:** This program will be an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to hear from candidates running for state elected office.

**Talking Circles on Current Issues:** Monthly talking circles will take place in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion that will focus on issues impacting the political races for Pennsylvania and the Nation.

**Guest Speakers:** Local and national speakers that will present to the campus community on issues of race, identity and journalism.

**#Persist Meetings:** During the academic semesters, students, faculty and staff will come together to talk about issues of concern at the local and national level.

## **Voter Registration**

To ensure that students, faculty and staff have all of the information they need to be able to vote in the May Primary and November election and beyond, the following voter registration programs will take place:

**Spring Voter Registration Drive:** During the college's Human Rights Week activities/events – April 3, 2018 to April 13, 2018 - forms will be available for individuals to register to vote. Both on-line and paper registration forms will be available.

**Student Activities Fair:** Fall 2018 students from the History and Political Science Club will have voter registration forms available.

**Constitution Day:** Monday, September 17, 2018, voter registration forms will be available throughout the day.

**National Voter Registration Drive:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018, voter registration drive will take place with the local chapter of American Association of University Women (AAUW). Students, faculty and staff will provide additional staffing for the table which will include on-line and paper registration forms.

### **Ballot Access and Voter Mobilization**

**Absentee Ballot Information:** Information on absentee ballots will be provided at all voter registration drives as well as through weekly email reminders out to the campus community through the last day to complete an absentee ballot.

**Vans to the Polls:** For students, faculty and staff that are registered to vote in the local district, vans will be provided to transport individuals to the polling location during both spring primaries and fall elections

**Election Day Reminders:** Emails will be sent out to the campus community from the Lutz Center for Community Service, the History and Political Science Club and the President's Office.

### **Resources Available**

1. Voter Registration Material in hard copy and through on-line links connected to the History and Political Science club/organization Facebook Page.
2. Campus departments and student clubs/organizations are providing funding for various events/programs.
3. Staff from local chapter of AAUW for voter registration
4. Staff from Running Start to run the Elect Her training and workshops
5. Staff and Diversity Trainers from the Center for Diversity and Inclusion

### **Implementation Challenges**

The largest implementation challenge that is expected is ensuring that all sides of the political parties are represented through the programs/events that take place on campus. This initiative was brought to the campus community through the Vice President for Student Affairs and Traditional Enrollment, which allows for support from the cabinet level of the institution.

## **Timeline**

**Coalition Meeting Schedule:** The conversations for “All In” will take place weekly during the academic semesters. During the summer email conversations will take place once a month.

### **Program Schedule:**

1. Freedom of Speech Talking Circle – January 16, 2018
2. MLK Service Week – January 16, 2018 to January 26, 2018
3. Muslim in America Talking Circle – February 20, 2018
4. What Lies Within: Dancing with Race and Identity – February 28, 2018
5. William D. Reimert Lecture Series – Lisa Ling – March 22, 2018
6. Elect Her Training and Workshops – March 24, 2018
7. Gun Control Talking Circle – March 27, 2018
8. Human Rights Week Voter Registration Drive – April 3, 2018 to April 13, 2018
9. Voter Registration at Student Activities Fair – September 2018
10. Constitution Day and Voter Registration - Monday, September 17, 2018
11. National Voter Registration Day with AAUW - Tuesday, September 25, 2018
12. Political Polls Brown Bag Lunch – Fall 2018
13. Vans to the polls - Tuesday, November 6, 2018

## **Evaluation Process**

1. After each event the committee will review the programs based on number of participants, questions asked, comments made on social media and the Cedar Crest College app, and potential volunteers.
2. The committee will have student interns complete a survey regarding political engagement for the students on campus.