



Centralia College 2024 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Shelley Bannish, Joshua Pickett and Rayleen Roberts

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Centralia College in Washington for the 2024 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2024 election. The goals for Centralia College for the 2024 election are:

Create an awareness to students about mailing in their ballots by the deadline
Promotion of the deadlines to register to vote.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Shelley Bannish – Director of Student Life & Involvement

Dr. Robert Mohrbacher - College President

Dr. Jody Peterson – Faculty, Political Science

Joshua Pickett – ASCC President

Rayleen Roberts – ASCC Coordinator of Civic Engagement

Commitment:

The vision statement of Centralia College is:

Centralia College strives to be a responsive educational leader for our community.

Being part of the All in Campus Democracy Challenge helps to fulfill this vision. By being a leader in voter education and voter registration we can help be responsive to the needs to the community and our students. By making our students more aware of the importance of why voting matters they will become better citizens.

Centralia College has been a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation since 2022.

Landscape:

Centralia College is a public community college and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2021.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Centralia College has:

Headcount (all sources): 4,843

FTES (all sources): 2,022

Headcount (state funded): 2,934

FTES (state-funded): 1,317

Full-time: 44%

Part-time: 56%

Students with Dependents: 35%

Students receiving need-based financial aid: 49%

Female: 52%

Male: 48%

Median Age: 23

White: 77%

Hispanic/Latino: 22%

Black/African: 7%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 6%

Asian: 4%

Pacific Islander: 2%

In-State: 98%

Out of State: 2%

Centralia College has authorized NSLVE.

Our institution had a 2020 campus voting rate of 57.2%.

Our institution had a 2020 voter registration rate of 71.6%.

Our institution had a 2020 voting rate of registered students of 79.9%

Our institution had a 2022 voter turnout rate of 32.4%.

Our institution had a 2022 voter registration rate of 67.6%.

Our institution had a 2022 voting rate of registered students of 48.0%%

Our institution has been recognized by ALL IN with the following seals: 2020 Bronze

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Short Term Goals:

Increase 16- and 17-year-old pre-voter registration rate to 10% of the 455 running start students in 2022 and 20% in 2024. (100 out of 502). We will do this by presenting at Running Start orientations and having Running Start advisors provide information to students.

Increase student voter turnout rate from 32.4% in 2022 and 45% in 2024.

Work with a small group of faculty on including civic learning into their current curriculum.

Attend athletic orientation in August 2024 and present about voter registration.

Work with Lewis County Auditor's office to get more voters pamphlets on campus in English and Spanish. Pamphlets would be handed out to students during classroom presentations.

Present in each of the College 101 classes during the first four weeks of fall quarter.

Long Term Goals:

Develop a Civic 101, 1 credit class either in person or via Canvas.

This class would provide a pre and post quiz to show knowledge improvement.

Get at least two instructors to commit to incorporating civics into their curriculum.

Send faculty to the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting.

Strategy:

Centralia College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- Participate in Constitution Day*
- Participate in National Voter Registration Day*
- Students will be out by the ballot box on campus, thanking people for voting.
- Participate in State-Wide student group on legislative issues and bring those issues forward to the student body
- Work with our Running Start population to get them all registered early
- Create an awareness of the right to vote for people of color
- Hold voter registration drives every quarter
- Host state legislators on campus
- Increase social media notifications
- Secretary of State has been invited to come to campus and will be here October 23, 2024. He will present in two classes.
- Displays in the Kirk Library.
- Mobile displays about voting rights.

*Fall quarter does not start until Sept. 23, 2024, so Constitution Day and National Voter Registration events will be taking place that day.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

We will track our progression from the 2022 NSLV voting data and also from the specific voter registration link we have been provided by the State of Washington. The link tracks the number of students that register to vote.

We will track attendance at events and create evaluation forms for students to fill out to get input.

Reporting:

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

Our campus action plan will be shared campus wide via the website and email. A report will be given at a Board of Trustees meeting, Executive Management meeting and Student Government.

The information will be posted on the Student Governing Board website
<https://www.centralia.edu/resources/student-life/student-leadership.aspx>

We will continue adding to this plan through the year. We will also continue to recruit others to be on the Leadership Team.