City Colleges of Chicago 2022 Action Plan

Executive Summary:

The City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) is a system of seven public community colleges and five satellite sites that provide learning opportunities for residents of the Chicagoland area. Programs offered include two-year associate degrees, occupational certificates, high school equivalency courses, and English as a second language. The CCC system serves nearly 70,000 students annually and provides financial and student services support to all students across the seven colleges: Richard J. Daley College, Harold Washington College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Truman College, and Wilbur Wright College.

The Office of Legislative and Community Affairs (LCA) strives to maintain positive relations between government offices, campus departments, and neighbors and works collaboratively with community groups to improve the educational experience of CCC students. LCA also cultivates community partnerships that are designed to give students opportunities to explore pathways to community involvement, leadership development, and civic engagement. This action plan seeks to uphold the values and objectives of the department alongside leadership across all 7 City Colleges through intentionally programs that aim to inform, prepare, and support all members of the community to participate in the democratic process.

City Colleges intends to promote civic engagement through institutional platforms year-round and is devoted to preparing students to engage in local, state, and national civic discourse. The action plan will serve as a guide to improve voter registration, educational programming, values of equity and social justice, and overall personal empowerment.

Leads at each campus will seek to provide information about candidates at all levels and share perspectives from all sides of the conversation. City Colleges, although 7 unique Colleges, will collectively promote the importance of democracy starting with a Pledge to Vote campaign in April 2022 for the Chicago primary election and conclude on November 8, 2022.

The goals of the campaign and complementary programming will foster civic education, voter literacy awareness, and facilitate increased student voter turnout in each election.

Leadership:

The Office of Legislative and Community Affairs (LCA) will support programming at each of the 7 City Colleges. Implementation will be overseen by Elvis Guzman, District Director of Civic Engagement with the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs and supported by dedicated civic engagement leads at each campus. The Director will maintain and continue to manage local and national partnerships and will work collaboratively with Community Strategist to foster relationships across Chicago to increase democratic engagement on campus.
Through active participation across all 7 colleges, all campuses will provide students with a safe forum to explore relevant election topics and discuss candidate platforms. Through programming, students will be better prepared to vote for candidates that will have an impact on their communities and the future of Illinois.

Campus Leads:

Aja Humphreys, Director of Student Activities, Harold Washington College
Jacquelyn Werner, Dean of Student Services, Harold Washington College
Jerica Turek-Johnson, Director of Student Activities, Harry S. Truman College
Julie Dockery, Associate Professor, English, Harry S. Truman College
Kendra Torres, Director of Special Events, Kennedy King College
Michael Johns, Director of Student Activities, Kennedy King College
Chrishawn Young, Director of Student Activities, Malcolm X College
Michelle Adams, Dean of Student Services, Olive-Harvey College
Monice Purnell, Director of Student Activities, Olive-Harvey College
Beverly Hicks, Director of Student Activities, Richard J. Daley College
Douglas Geiger, Dean of Student Services, Richard J. Daley, College
Gabe Estill, Dean of Instruction, Wilbur Wright College
Katie Ordinario, Director of Student Activities, Wilbur Wright College
Merry Mayer, Assistant Professor, Social and Psych Science, Wilbur Wright College
Jen Mason, Vice Chancellor of Legislative and Community Affairs
Elvis Guzman, District Director of Civic Engagement, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs
Maggie West, Community Strategist, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs
Nathanial Ward, Community Strategist, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs
Sandra Payan, Community Strategist, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs
Steven Gomez, Community Strategist, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs
John Lohier, Student Intern, Office of Legislative and Community Affairs
Vania Doss, District Director of Student Activities, Academic and Student Affairs

Commitment:

City Colleges of Chicago is determined to improve civic learning and democratic engagement in communities across the city through meaningful programming on campus. Presidents at each college are dedicated to improving voter outcomes and are committed to supporting students, staff, and faculty participate in local and national democratic processes.

Earlier this year, Harold Washington College and The Citizens Campaign announced the launch of a Citizen Leadership Center designed to train students and members of the community in no-blame, pragmatic problem-solving skills and provide opportunities for them to put their training to use as “citizen leaders” working to better Chicago and our country. Harold Washington College is one of 11 community colleges around the nation where model Citizen Leadership Centers are first being developed in partnership with The Citizens Campaign.

The Harold Washington College Citizen Leadership Center will have three core components: (1) offering training in leadership and no-blame problem solving in one or more undergraduate courses; (2) offering citizen leadership training to the broader community via the college’s Center of Excellence; and (3) hosting a Civic Trust, where those who have completed the citizen leadership training work together in No-Blame Problem Solving sessions to better Chicago by searching for and advancing cost-effective, evidence based solutions. Student at any of the 7 Colleges can take the leadership course for free and community members are invited to visit the
Center of Excellence website to enroll in the self-guided free training.

Additionally, Wilbur Wright College is a member of Campus Compact, a national organization that enable campuses to develop student’s citizenship skills and forge community partnerships. As the only national higher education association, Campus Compact supports administrators, faculty, staff, and students as they pursue community-based teaching, scholarship, and action in the service of public good.

Student Government (SG) also plays a major role in engaging students in voter registration, voter readiness, and electoral education. SG promotes democratic engagement year-round through programming and partnerships that help inform the student body of candidates and election processes. SG will continue to provide opportunities and serve as the conduit between students and administrators.

**Landscape:**

City Colleges of Chicago campus demographic and voting data:

City Colleges of Chicago is one of the nation's largest community college districts and the largest in Illinois. About 5,000 thousand faculty and staff help prepare 70,000 students each year to enter the workforce, pursue higher education and advance their careers.
Enrollment, by Ethnicity

Latino: 41.1%
Black: 22.2%
Not Specified: 18.1%
Multi-Racial Non-Latino: 1.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific: 0.1%
Asian: 0.1%
American Indian: 0.1%
White: 11.6%

Home College Enrolled

Fiscal Year

All

2021

Instructional Area | Asian | Black | Latino | Multi-Racial Non-Latino | White
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Adult Education | 820 | 2602 | 8604 | 143 | 1363
Continuing Education | 188 | 1517 | 1411 | 89 | 543
Semester Credit | 2577 | 11505 | 18996 | 1085 | 6248
Total | 3493 | 15274 | 28274 | 1284 | 7966

2021 Enrollment: American Indian - Credit: 44 Adult: 0 Continuing Ed: 0 Total: 54
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - Credit: 42 Adult: 0 Continuing Ed: 3 Total: 51
2021 Degrees and Certificates: American Indian - AQ1: 1 AQ2: 1 BC: 0, GEOC: 1
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - AQ1: 1 AQ2: 2 AQ3: 1
Degrees and Certificates, by Ethnicity

Home College Awarded  Awarded Degree  Fiscal Year
All ▼  All ▼  ▼  2021

Degree Name  Asian  Black  Latinx  Multi-Racial Non-Latinx  White
AA - Associate of Arts  102  423  1036  48  254
AAS - Associate of Applied Science  32  182  296  13  108
AC - Advanced Certificate  18  187  267  13  88
AES - Associate of Engineering Science  6  1  19  1  10
AFA - Associate of Fine Arts  2  4  13  1  5
AGS - Associate of General Studies  67  182  324  18  108
AS - Associate of Science  79  186  345  18  119
BC - Basic Certificate  67  537  649  40  239
GECC - Gen Ed Credential  89  406  980  38  235
Total  388  1732  3143  155  970

Voting Rates by College - 2018

Voting Rate  Registration Rate  Yield

Harbor  Kennedy-King  Olive-Harvey  Tillman  Watts-Wright  Cook County
Goals:

Democratic engagement goals:

City Colleges hopes to attain several different goals for the 2022 general election. Through a concerted effort amongst City Colleges and a strong campaign centered around the “Pledge to Vote”, CC aims to achieve 10,000 pledges by November 8, 2022.

Through intentional partnership and programming, City Colleges strives to increase the voting rate at each college by 2% from the 2020 election. Data captured in the campus report provided by the National Student of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) conducted by Tufts University will be used as CCC point of reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Voting Rate</th>
<th>2022 Goal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold Washington College</td>
<td>55% of eligible students</td>
<td>57% of eligible students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry S Truman</td>
<td>48% of eligible students</td>
<td>50% of eligible students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy King College</td>
<td>54% of eligible students</td>
<td>56% of eligible students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm X College</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-Harvey College</td>
<td>50% of eligible students</td>
<td>50.2 of eligible students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard J Daley College</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilbur Wright College</td>
<td>52% of eligible students</td>
<td>54% of eligible students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>72% of eligible residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>73% of eligible residents</td>
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</tbody>
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Generally, City Colleges will strive to keep voter registration within 5% of 2020 levels in NSLVE report, make at least one contact with students throughout the academic year, and maintain constant outreach with occasional voters.

Strategy:

City Colleges will coordinate events online and in-person. This hybrid approach will allow students to engage in programming whether they are enrolled in online courses or in-person. Virtual voter education events will include streaming debates, lectures, and social media engagement.
This year, City Colleges will focus on educational programming, voter registration, and the pledge to vote campaign. Voter registration will be led by three organizations:

- Chicago Votes
- The League of Women Voters
- The Rainbow Push Coalition

These organizations will visit college campuses throughout the year and encourage students, staff, and faculty to register to vote, check registration status, and update contact information that align with Illinois voter policies. These organizations will be supported by the Office of Legislative and Community Affairs, Student Activities, Campus Leads, and Student Government at each campus, respectively.

The “Take the Pledge” campaign will be in partnership with the All In Democracy Challenge organization. City Colleges will share updates through weekly reports provided by All In that will be shared with faculty, staff, and students through bulletins and internal campus newsletters. Collectively, City Colleges will project to have 10,000 pledges by fall 2022 general election. Marketing will create messaging to project across campus tv screens, newsletters, Brightspace (student classroom portal), and correspondences to students enrolled at the college. Reminders and goal progress will be made in weekly “411” communications across the district.

Additionally, LCA will work with faculty to include messaging in course syllabi, in-class programming (i.e. guest lectures). Leads will assist LCA through promotional social media posts, and student outreach, which include engaging Student Government and student clubs on campus.

Programming Outline:

- Monthly on-campus Voter Registration tables
- Guest Lecturers, educational topics relevant to democratic engagement
- Gradfest week programming – Pledge to Vote, graduating seniors
- Student Government led programming at each campus
- Second wave of pledge campaign during summer session – Starting June 8th
- Hold program on June 28th – Primary Election Day
- New student messaging throughout August- Pledge to Vote
- Third wave of campaign, last week of August (first week of classes)
- Hold program during National Voter Registration Day, September 20th
- Hold programming during National Voter Education Week, October 3rd – October 7th
- General Election Registration Deadline, registration tabling, October 23rd
- Parade to the polls, November 8th, SGA & Chicago Votes

**NSLVE:**

City Colleges of Chicago aims to have all 7 City Colleges participate in receiving a campus report. According to the 2020 report, 5 of the 7 colleges participating in the study, all of which demonstrated lower voter rates than peer institutions, as shown below. City Colleges aims to address the gaps in voting rates to match the average voting rate across peer institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Voting Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer Institutions</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry S Truman</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<td>Harold Washington College</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennedy King</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-Harvey</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright College</td>
<td>52%</td>
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**Evaluation:**

Each civic engagement lead at each Colleges will evaluate student engagement through attendance during on campus events and social media posts engagement.

City Colleges will monitor the All In Take the Pledge Campaign through weekly reports provided by the All In Democracy Campus Democracy Challenge.

**Reporting:**

The Office of Legislative and Community Affairs website is undergoing development. The website will be used to promote civic engagement and allow staff to centralize educational efforts surrounding local and national elections.

In the meantime, the All In Dashboard will be included in weekly newsletters at each college and social media posts will assist in the efforts to reach 10,000 pledges by the fall general election.

Additionally, each Lead at each campus will be responsible for monitoring attendance at events and will use data retrieved from the dashboard to influence further programming on campus.

Finally, we will rely on the NSLVE report to assess voter rates and to evaluate goal attainment.