

## CU Engaged

### ***Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Action Plan for Voter Registration, Education and Engagement 2018/2019***

#### **Executive Summary:**

Clarion University is committed to the holistic education of our students. This includes providing an immersive experience in the classroom, as well as a broad range of extracurricular involvement that students can take advantage of to complement their academic work.

As a University we are consistently working to fulfill our mission to provide transformative, lifelong learning opportunities through innovative, nationally recognized programs delivered in inclusive, student-centered environments. Becoming a participant in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge is a means for the University to expand our learning opportunities for students with a focus on civic engagement.

As a collaborative effort between academic affairs, student affairs and local agencies the University seeks to create a campus culture that is engaged with our nation's democratic processes.

#### **Civic Engagement Committee:**

The Civic Engagement Committee is comprised of members from academic affairs and student affairs. As this is our first year participating in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, the committee is focused on finding intentional and meaningful ways that we can start increasing our student voter engagement on campus for the 2018 mid-term elections since voting rates are usually lower in these elections than in presidential elections. The work done by the committee this year will help pave the way to increase our efforts leading up to the 2020 presidential election. The committee will meet on a monthly basis to throughout our first year.

#### **The Civic Engagement Committee currently includes the following members:**

- Tyler Kitzmiller, Assistant Director of Judicial Affairs: Chairperson of Committee
- Dr. Kevan Yenerall, Professor – Political Science; Advisor of Clarion Young Democrats
- Anita Lahr, Department of Biology & Geosciences Secretary; Advisor of Clarion College Republicans

**Committee Members (cont.):**

- Barry Sweet, Professor – Political Science
- Dani Emings, Student Success Coach
- Corey Negley, Area Coordinator for Residence Life
- Caleb Gilliland, Student; President of Clarion Young Democrats

**Campus & Community Partners:**

- Clarion University Student Senate
- Clarion Young Democrats
- Clarion College Republicans
- Greek Life
- Advisory Board for Leadership & Engagement
- University Activities Board
- Black Student Union
- Allies
- League of Women Voters
- Local Election Office

**Commitment:**

The Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is a strong advocate for Pennsylvania state schools to participate in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge. This support transcends through the leadership structure at Clarion University with administrators, staff and faculty on-board with the enhanced focus on student civic engagement.

**Current Civic Engagement:**

Clarion University does not currently have any information or data to review that is reflective of our student engagement in the voting process. As a new participant in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, we are also becoming a participant in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE). Without prior year's data of our campus' engagement in elections, it is difficult for us to currently gauge the level of engagement that our students have in the voting process. We look forward to receiving our first NSLVE voting report in 2019 to review our student voter participation in the 2018 mid-term election.

### Goals:

The goals for Clarion University are based on our review of national data from NSLVE that takes into account the following demographics that were extrapolated in the national data: gender, age, undergraduate/graduate status, and region of the U.S.

1. Have at least 35% of our overall student population registered to vote in 2018.
2. Have at least a 50% voter turn-out amongst registered student voters for the 2018 mid-term election.
3. Celebrate National Voter Registration Day, with the goal of registering at least 50 students.
4. Register at least 100 students during the fall 2018 semester before the October 9, 2018 registration deadline.

### Events & Initiatives:

The following list is an initial plan for events that we plan to hold leading up to the 2018 mid-term elections.

August 26, 2018 – Voter registration and education tabling at the activities day that concludes the freshman Week of Welcome before classes start on August 27, 2018.

September 7, 2018 – Voter registration and education tabling with the Center for First Year Experience during their *First Year Friday* event that they host each Friday during the fall semester for freshman students.

September 10, 2018 – There will be a bulletin board created in the student center on campus that will provide educational materials to students about voter registration and information about the 2018 midterm elections.

September 17, 2018 – Attend a Student Senate meeting to talk with the senators about registering to vote and participating in elections.

September, 2018 – Attend meetings throughout the month for other student organizations, including Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement, Black Student Union, Allies, University Activities Board, Greek Life and others to educate them on registering to vote and the upcoming mid-term elections.

September 25, 2018 – National Voter Registration Day campaign to register and educate students. This will be held in collaboration with Student Senate and other student organizations.

**Events & Initiatives (cont.):**

October 8, 2018 – Last minute voter registration tabling before the October 9<sup>th</sup> registration deadline.

October 10<sup>th</sup> – October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – We will be holding several tabling events to educate students on finding polling locations in Clarion, as well as how to apply for absentee ballots if they will not be able to vote in the district they're registered in.

November 6, 2018 – Get out and vote election celebration.