

CU Engaged

Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Action Plan for Voter Registration, Education, and Engagement 2019/2020

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. This is our second year participating in the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, the committee is continuing to focus on finding intentional and meaningful ways to increase our student voter engagement on campus for the 2019-2020 school year. 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 throughout the year.

The Civic Engagement Committee currently includes the following members:

- Sarah Zerfoss, Assistant Director of Student Conduct & Community Development: 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
- Herbert Luthin, Professor – English, Advisor YDSA
- Corey Negley, Area Coordinator for Residence Life, Advisor Allies
- Kaylar Moser, Student; President of Clarion Young Democrats
- Maggie Brown, Student; President of Clarion Young Republicans
- Carl Shepard, Student; President of Clarion University YDSA
- Taylor Boyle, Student; Clarion University Student Senate Community Relations
- Tree Zuzzio, Student; Student Trustee

Campus & Community Partners:

- Allies
- Clarion University Student Senate
- Clarion University College Democrats
- Clarion University College Republicans
- Advisory Board for Leadership & Engagement
- League of Women Voters
- Local Election Office
- Clarion County Democratic Party
- Clarion County Republican Party
- Clarion University Young Democratic Socialists of America

Commitment:

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:

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). This year's data has shown us that we have received a Silver Seal showing that we have 30-39% of our student body that engaged in the 2018 midterm election. We look forward to receiving future data to help us prepare for the 2020 elections.

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 50% of our overall student population registered to vote in 2020.
2. Have at least a 50% voter turn-out amongst registered student voters for the 2020 primary election.
3. Celebrate National Voter Registration Day, with the goal of registering at least 60 students.
4. Register at least 100 students during the spring 2020 semester before the March 29th, 2020 registration deadline.
5. Organize Civic Engagement Night with tabling on upcoming elections, presenters on importance of civic engagement, and opportunity for voter registration for 2020 primary and general election.

Events & Initiatives (Fall 2019):

The following list is an initial plan for events that we plan to hold leading up to the 2019 mid-term elections and 2020 primary elections.

August 28, 2019 – Voter registration and education tabling at the activities day outside the Student Center by the League of Women’s Voters

September 11, 2019 – Committee Meeting with sign-ups for registration tabling, discussion on Civic Engagement Plan

September 23, 2019 – Committee Meeting to review National Voter Registration Day materials being given to students

September 24, 2019 – National Voter Registration Day, education tabling with the opportunity for students to register right at the table. Collaborating with Student Senate, Clarion Young Republicans, Clarion Young Democrats, YDSA, and the League of Women’s Voters

Events & Initiatives (Spring 2020):

January 22, 2020 – Committee Meeting to discuss semester plan for upcoming events

February 5, 2020 – Education Tabling Series for promotion of primary elections with partners

February 11, 2020

February 19, 2020

March 25, 2020 – Last minute registration before Primary elections

April 21, 2020– Civic Engagement Night – Speakers TBD, table set up for registration, Q&A for students on Civic responsibilities, refreshments provided by student organizations, etc.