



COCHISE COLLEGE



2023 - 2024

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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Executive Summary



Cochise College provides accessible and inclusive educational opportunities that support social responsibility, community engagement, meaningful careers, and lifelong learning.

This action plan has been developed by the Cochise College Civic Engagement Committee, formed by employees and students to support the mission of the college stated above in our communities across Cochise County. The plan aims to increase non-partisan voter education and promote engagement through political and non-political processes. Committee members coordinate all aspects of the college's civic engagement efforts. Including but not limited to developing a yearly (August-May) engagement calendar based on the academic calendar to offer activities, workshops, tabling, and events related to civic engagement. All efforts must remain non-partisan and accessible to the entire college community and should be related to voter education, volunteerism, and constructive citizenship. For the plan to be successful, this committee has formed internal partnerships with various departments at the college, such as Marketing & Communications, Student Services, Faculty Development Center, Student Government, and Student Organizations & Clubs and external relationships with local government agencies and non-partisan organizations. In addition, the committee completes pre and post-event assessments that will contribute to data collection, federal compliance, and reporting.

The Executive Dean of Community Engagement and the Director of Student Leadership and Activities serve as co-chairs of the Civic Engagement Committee. They work closely with the committee to review the proposed action plan, partnerships, approve the budget and expenses, and provide the necessary funding to support civic engagement.

This plan is implemented on Cochise College Campuses (Sierra Vista, Douglas, Virtual/Online) and Centers (Fort Huachuca, Wilcox, and Benson) across Cochise County in Arizona. All campuses (including virtual/online) and centers follow the same civic engagement programming guidelines and offer voter education resources and tools.

The goals of the civic engagement action plan are to:

- Promote the importance of democracy
- Provide voter education and resources
- Develop a healthy, non-partisan democratic culture
- Increase the student voter registration rate

- Increase the student voting rate
- Report student voting information to NSLVE

Goals will be assessed regularly by the Civic Engagement Committee to determine the effectiveness of the non-partisan strategies implemented to promote and support local, state, and federal elections. This plan will be considered a living document as necessary changes will be made throughout the academic year but updated at least once a year in the fall.

Leadership

Cochise College acknowledges the significance of promoting civic engagement throughout the district. As a result, the Director of Student Leadership and Activities role, included in the job description, has been revised to guarantee that an administrative staff person takes the lead in civic engagement endeavors. This position spearheads student civic engagement initiatives district-wide and fosters partnerships with non-partisan and non-profit organizations to link students with leadership and service prospects. Additionally, the director will collaborate on formulating outreach strategies for community involvement to enrich the college experience and will also serve as the co-chair of the Cochise College Civic Engagement Committee.

The committee is responsible for identifying, recruiting, communicating, and partnering with the college and community stakeholders, which include but are not limited to the President's Office, Student Government Association (SGA) Offices, Student Organizations (All Clubs), Student Services Offices, TRiO Support Services, Marketing, Institutional Effectiveness, Technology Services, and Faculty. External partners may come in as additional support to help implement this action plan, but Cochise College will not rely on them to execute it—external *partners: All-In Campus Democracy Challenge, Campus Vote Project, local universities, the Cochise County Recorder's Office, Cochise County Elections, and local non-partisan/non-profit organizations*. The committee works with the local election offices and the County Administrator to provide accurate information about the election process to our students and employees. We have a very good relationship with the election office even though there are some challenges in our community with misinformation around elections, ballots, and polling locations.

Active Committee Membership: Committee members, chairs, and officers are held accountable and must attend the regular committee meetings and participate and engage in committee-related activities to maintain an active membership. **Committee Chairs and Officers** are responsible for evaluating committee members' performance related to active committee membership, assessing the need for adding/removing members, and strategically replacing any leaders who may leave their positions.

Cochise College Civic Engagement Committee Members

Committee Chairs & Point of Contact:

Community Engagement:

- **Andy Espinoza**, Director of Student Leadership & Activities, District-Wide
espinozaj@cochise.edu

Office of the President:

- **Jennifer Wantz**, Executive Dean of Community Engagement, District-Wide
wantzj@cochise.edu

Committee Officer: Secretary & Web Administrator:

Enrollment Management & Marketing Department:

- **Sharrina Cook-General**, Media Communications Coordinator, District-Wide

Committee Members:

- **Manda Burkhart**, Director of Housing, Douglas Campus
- **Karly Scarbrough**, Director of Library Services, District-Wide
- **Jodi Brock-Olivares**, Willcox Center Coordinator

District-Wide Faculty Representatives:

- **Kristin Juarez**, Social and Behavioral Sciences Instructor & Department Chair
- **Mary King Power**, English Instructor
- **Nickie Dannels**, Medical Assistant Instructor & Program Coordinator
- **Jeremy Wagner**, Administration of Justice Instructor

Student Representatives:

- **Cesar Zazueta**, Democracy Fellows, District-Wide
- **Daniela Guzman**, Democracy Fellows, District-Wide
- **Aidyn Durazo**, Democracy Fellow, District-Wide
- **Leonardo Romero**, Democracy Fellow, District-Wide
- **Valeria Garcia**, Civic Influencer, District-Wide

**Committee members subject to change*

The Executive Dean of Community Engagement sits on the Administrative Cabinet (AdCab), which meets weekly and communicates the work of the committee and advocates for events and funding to this governing body at the college. AdCab includes the President, Executive Vice-President of Academics, Vice-President of Administration, Vice-President of Student Services, Executive Director of Human Resources, Chief Technology Officer and the Executive Administrative Assistant for the President and Governing board. The meeting discusses everything that is happening at the college and makes decisions that support the mission of the college and what is best for our students.

Both of the chairs have this work listed within their job descriptions, so they are compensated in their regular salary. Faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in at least one committee on campus, with faculty having this requirement in their job descriptions. Student participation on the committee does have a small stipend that is supported by Campus Vote Project and Civic Influencers (non-partisan/non-profit organizations). Committee members are tasked with attending meetings and completing small tasks throughout the year. Membership is reviewed at the end of each academic year to ensure we have active participants that are inclusive and diverse. Work happens throughout the entire academic year, so there is always something for members to do.

This past year the committee membership was reviewed to determine political affiliations in order to ensure that we were representative of different voting types in our community. We purposefully recruited members to the committee that represented the areas that we were missing or had a lower representation. We will continue to monitor the membership of the committee so that we can represent our community as close as we can. Our student representation is difficult to gather from all locations. We need to work on a plan to encourage students from all campuses and centers to have representation on the committee. This year our students are all physically located on one campus and they travel in order to reach all students. We will be working to figure out how to best recruit students from all areas of the county over the next year.

Commitment

Cochise College is committed to promoting and engaging the entire college community in a healthy democratic process through political and non-political processes, following the recommendations of the Civic Engagement Committee, which operates at a district-wide level on creating a non-partisan civic engagement action plan that models **Cochise College's Guiding Statements** as follow:

Why (Why we do what we do, the reason for our existence): To inspire passion and purpose through the education of individuals so that we enhance our community.

Vision (Our focus is on our stakeholders' futures and aspirations): Cochise College is a leading and responsive college which transforms and empowers our community by fostering collaborative relationships and providing innovative educational pathways.

Mission (What we do to accomplish the vision): Cochise College provides inclusive and accessible educational opportunities that support social responsibility, community engagement, meaningful careers, and lifelong learning.

How (Our beliefs, convictions, behaviors, and actions): In all we do, we exhibit collaboration, encouragement, respect, innovation, and service.

Collaboration: We actively connect with our students and community by providing accessible learning opportunities and resources to overcome barriers, build relationships, and cultivate economic, social, and cultural growth.

Encouragement: We provide personal support to students and staff, faculty, and community members through active engagement and compassion.

Respect: We are a community of acceptance which engages our diverse population (diversity), provides resources appropriate to the needs of individuals (equity) and extends opportunity to all (inclusion).

Innovation: We create new learning experiences to respond and adapt to the needs of our community.

Service: We engage our community through service-learning projects, volunteerism, and civic participation.

The Civic Engagement Committee supports these guiding statements through their work. We believe these statements support voter engagement in our democracy. These statements were just refreshed in 2020 and 2021 with acceptance from our Governing Board in August of 2021.



In the Spring of 2020, the Cochise College Provost (now titled the Executive Vice-President of Academics) signed the Higher Education President’s Commitment to encourage full student voter participation in the general election. In the Spring of 2022, the Cochise College President signed the Higher Education President’s Commitment to encourage full student voter participation in the midterm elections.

The presidential commitment ribbon is displayed on campus at the Student Activities Office and on the Cochise College Voter Education page at <https://www.cochise.edu/voter-education/>. The website also provides information on partnerships, essential voter education tools, and resources.

In addition, Cochise College promotes Voter Education and voter Registration resources yearly through an Annual Notice of Voter Information communication that goes out via email to the entire college community. The Vice President of Student Services issues this notice.

Students may access voter education and resources through the New Student Orientation and Moodle, the Learning Management System (LMS).

This is the second action plan that Cochise College has submitted and we continue to discuss this work. The college has bi-weekly general sessions via zoom that provide updates from all areas across the district. Events and activities that the committee supports are shared to all participants at this time with multiple options for questions like chat, email, and during the discussion. Our website lists events and opportunities for civic engagement.

Educating for civic learning and democratic engagement is not explicitly listed in our general education curriculum but the values and core outcomes support both of these education outcomes. Our general education learning outcomes are available for review at: <https://cochise.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2022-2023/2022-2023-catalog/degrees-and-programs/cochise-college-general-education/>. The values for our general education are *“to instill into the learning process a sense of interconnectedness and wholeness. We value learning as an ongoing process. We value effective communication; aesthetic investigation, innovative solutions, and creative self-expression; critical thinking in problem solving; awareness of and respect for diversity; appropriate evaluation and application of information; and technological skills in information management and presentation. We believe these values lead to ethical, responsible social behavior. Our values are reflected in our general education outcomes.”* - Cochise College.

Communication, creativity, critical thinking, diverse and global perspectives, information literacy, and technology literacy are the expected outcomes of general education at Cochise College. The work of the committee supports these outcomes.

Outcomes are measured through the work the academic deans do annually through program reviews. Civic engagement is currently not measured in through this process but is measured and assessed as mentioned in the reporting and evaluation sections of this plan.

Recognition & Achievement



In 2022, Cochise College received the ALL IN's Highly Established Action Plan Seal for the 2022 election for developing a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan that received at least 31.5 of 36 possible points based on the Strengthening American Democracy Action Planning Guide (SADG) Rubric. Your institution is one of 121 campuses that earned this inaugural recognition for the 2022 election cycle. Only three higher education institutions in the State of Arizona, Cochise College being one, received this recognition.



In 2022, Cochise College received ALL IN’s Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting, recognizing colleges and universities making intentional efforts to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and college student voting.



In 2023, Cochise College earned the Voter Friendly Campus designation led by national nonpartisan organizations, Campus Vote Project and NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.



In 2018, Cochise College received the ALL IN’s Bronze Campus seal for midterm elections voting rates.



In 2023, the Mellon Foundation published “A Nonpartisan Initiative Empowers College Students to Go ALL IN as Voters and Engaged Citizens.” highlighting the civic engagement efforts at Cochise College and the partnership with All IN. Click [here](#) to access the article.

Landscape

Overview:

The Cochise County Community College District NSLVE report for presidential elections shows that in 2020, Cochise College's voting rate was 41.8%; this rate increased by 6.1% compared to 2016, which was 35.7%. Cochise College has not received the 2022 NSLVE data. Once the data is received, we plan to update our campus voting data on this report.

Increasing the voting rate is directly linked to all the efforts and initiatives in place to promote voter education, registration, and getting-out-the-vote campaigns. In addition, the resources provided by the partners listed below made a difference.

- All In Campus Democracy Challenge (All-In Challenge)
- Campus Vote Project (CVP)
- Civic Influencers
- Cochise County Recorder's office

All In Challenge provided direction in developing a strategic action plan. **CVP** provided two democracy fellows to help with our democratic engagement efforts. **Civic Influencers** provided one civic influencer per campus. **Cochise County Recorder's office** provided voter guides and relevant information about our county, the election process, and polling locations.

Assessment Data:

The Civic Engagement Committee plans to increase voter registration, the voting rate of registered students, and the overall voting rate by considering all the sections included in the NSLVE report.

The gaps reported by NSLVE have been assessed and considered for offering an inclusive & equitable democratic engagement plan at Cochise College. Some of the reported areas may vary based on enrollment demographics.

Cochise College has participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement prior to COVID but does not have current information from this study that estimates how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college. We are hoping to bring this survey back in the future.

Cochise College was recently selected to participate in the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study. We are unsure of the questions that are asked in this survey but there may be demographic information that would be helpful for our work.

Demographic Makeup:

The Fall 2022 student enrollment demographics are the following:

Total Enrollment: 3,797

by gender

Men: 44%

Women: 55%

by race/ethnicity

American Indian or Alaskan Native: 0.8%

Asian: 1.6%

Black or African American: 4.8%

Hispanic/Latino:	47.4%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander:	0.3%
White:	38.2%
Two or more races:	4.2%
Race/ethnicity unknown:	1.1%
Non-resident alien:	2%

(Source: IPEDS College Data 2021-2022)

Cochise College is committed to providing accessible, inclusive, and equitable voter education resources to all enrolled students. This includes identifying any obstacles that may prevent or restrict the implementation of the action plan while also understanding and following all local, state, and federal laws.

After reviewing the 2020 NSLVE Report, we determined that our female students are voting more than our male students, who have lower engagement rates, but we have more female students than male students. Asian students have the lowest participation rate of our students, but we have less than 2% of Asian students. Once the 2022 NSLVE report is released, we will have a more accurate picture of our students, but it looks to be comparable with our student population.

Curriculum:

Academic concentrations that have civic learning and democratic engagement present in the curriculum and the learning outcome of each are listed below.

Political Science Concentration

- Critically analyze political events, persons, processes and principles, institutions, forces, theories, and practices.
- Analyze and assess the ideas, motives, and strategies that give reasons for, and form the basis of, both the United States and Arizona Constitutions.
- Evaluate power and politics both critically and historically, craft and defend evidence-based arguments and communicate effectively with attention to and appreciation of diverse cultural contexts.

Courses in this concentration: POS 240 Comparative Politics, POS 221 Arizona Constitution, POS 110 American National Government, POS 220 Federal and Arizona Constitutions, and POS 230 World Politics

Philosophy Concentration

- Identify, analyze, and articulate the history, key figures, and major branches of philosophy.
- Conduct critical reading of selected classical and contemporary texts and analyze their connections to the individual, to society, and to other bodies of knowledge.
- Engage in oral argumentation and write critical or analytical essays.

- Identify, analyze, and articulate the elements of formal logic, symbolic logic, logical fallacies, induction, argument, and language.
- Identify, analyze, and articulate the elements of moral philosophy with emphasis on the philosophical analysis of contemporary issues.

Courses in this concentration: PHI 201: Introduction to Eastern Philosophy, PHI 202: Philosophy of Religion, PHI 111: Introduction to Western Philosophy, PHI 113: Introduction to Logic, and PHI 130: Introduction to Ethics

General Education Courses:

CPD 150: Connections for Success

This course is an introduction to higher education, with an emphasis on CONNECTING wellness and a growth mindset to academic success, PLANNING for a meaningful career, and DEVELOPING relevant learning strategies, all within the context of ENGAGING classroom, campus, and community opportunities. It covers campus resources, communication skills, time management, and many other useful topics that ensure student success.

Co-Curriculum:

Departments and committees that provide civic learning and democratic education in the activities and events are:

- Student Leadership and Activities
- Liberal Arts Cultural Committee
- Senate student participation
- Community Engagement Division
- Libraries
- Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Committee
- President's Office

Programs that support civic engagement include:

- **Cochise Cares:** Community isn't just a part of our identity; it's our passion to support. At Cochise College, our staff, faculty, students, alumni, and friends possess immense generosity and a dedication to giving back to our community. Cochise Cares emerged as a platform to unite entities and groups needing volunteers with our college, facilitating the promotion of events and enabling our college community to make a positive impact.
- **Service Learning:** This program is dedicated to fostering a connection between Cochise College and the communities it serves, with the overarching aim of educating students through academic service-learning and student-led service within local areas. This hands-on experience empowers students to cultivate leadership skills, a civic-minded perspective, and a sense of social responsibility, attributes that will stay with them as they navigate through life.

Internal Barriers:

At Cochise College, there are several internal barriers preventing the success of civic and democratic education.

- Limited funding sources for co-curricular activities
- No center for civic engagement or specific office focusing on only this work
- COVID has dramatically changed student engagement on campus. There are less students and staff involved in clubs and activities
- Knowledge gap and passion for civic engagement and democratic processes
- Language barriers of international students

External Barriers:

Cochise County stretches along the Mexican border in Southeast Arizona, featuring diverse communities with diverse political leanings. The region faces a spectrum of challenges associated with its unique border location.

- Misinformation about the election process in Cochise County
- Lack of participation in community civic engagement opportunities
- Perceived political divides

Additional Resources Needed:

Capacity to build programming and educational opportunities for our students and the surrounding community. Capacity can help build consensus, solve conflict resolution, shape relationships, and social processes. This work is never finished and we need capacity to keep moving forward.

Goals

Long term vision for civic engagement at Cochise College

1. Community Partnerships:
 - a. Foster and strengthen partnerships with local community organizations, businesses, and government agencies to enhance civic engagement opportunities for students.
2. Service-Learning Programs:
 - a. Integrate service-learning into the curriculum to provide students with hands-on experiences that address community needs while enhancing their academic learning.
3. Civic Education and Awareness:
 - a. Develop programs and initiatives that promote civic education, awareness, and informed citizenship.
4. Student Leadership Development:

- a. Create avenues for students to develop leadership skills through civic engagement. This might involve supporting student-led initiatives, clubs, and projects focused on community service and advocacy.
5. Voter Registration and Participation:
 - a. Actively encourage and support voter registration efforts on campus. Promote civic responsibility by providing information on local, state, and national elections, as well as opportunities for students to participate.
6. Public Forums and Discussions:
 - a. Organize public forums, debates, and discussions on important social and political issues. Create a culture of open dialogue and critical thinking, encouraging students to engage in respectful conversations about diverse perspectives.
7. Encourage student activism initiatives:
 - a. Students will be supported in their initiatives that address social justice issues, promoting inclusivity and equality.
8. Technology and Civic Engagement:
 - a. Leverage technology to enhance civic engagement efforts. This could involve using online platforms for community outreach, virtual events, and social media campaigns to amplify the college's civic initiatives.
9. Research and Applied Projects:
 - a. Encourage research projects and applied learning experiences that directly contribute to addressing community challenges. This aligns academic pursuits with real-world problem-solving.
10. Sustainability Initiatives:
 - a. Incorporate sustainability and environmental responsibility into civic engagement efforts. This could involve community clean-up events, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with environmental organizations.
11. Continuous Assessment and Improvement:
 - a. Establish a system for ongoing assessment and evaluation of civic engagement programs. Use feedback from students, faculty, and community partners to refine and improve initiatives over time.
12. Civic Awards and Recognition:
 - a. Establish recognition programs that celebrate individuals and groups within the college community who demonstrate outstanding civic engagement.
 - b. Highlight and share success stories to inspire others to get involved.

Long-term goals:

- By 2028, embed civic engagement & voter education verbiage in every syllabus.
- By 2028, the student voter registration rate will increase by 20 percentage points to 81.5% compared to the 2020 NSLVE data.
- By 2028, the student voter rate will increase by 10 percentage points to 51.8% compared to the 2020 NSLVE data.

- Continue reporting student voting information to NSLVE.
- Expand partnerships by 2028 in support of the long-term vision.

Short-term goals:

- By 2024, the student voter registration rate will increase by 10 percentage points to 71.5% compared to the 2020 NSLVE data.
- By 2024, the student voter rate will increase by 5 percentage points to 46.8% compared to the 2020 NSLVE data.
- Report student voting information to NSLVE in 2024.
- Create a video to promote voting awareness, including non-partisan testimonials from students, faculty, and staff by April 2024 to use for the 2024 Presidential election cycle.
- Continue to engage with TRiO Student Support Services by the 2024 academic year.
 - “TRiO” refers to a series of programs funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, created to assist disadvantaged Americans in overcoming class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education. TRiO was coined to represent the initial three programs: Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and Student Support Services. Student Support Services Program was created to...
 - Improve the graduation and retention rates of the first generation (neither parent/ guardian has a bachelor’s degree), low-income, and/or disabled college students;
 - Assist students in achieving academic success;
 - Facilitate their entrance into undergraduate and professional school programs.
 - Foster an institutional climate supportive of the academic, cultural, and personal success of the participants.

Strategy

Spring 2023

Every spring semester, we focus on implementing the Conversations in Civility initiative on campus, which aims to foster civil discourse across the college community. We have formed a Book Club under this initiative to promote and engage participants in the practice of civil discourse. The book discussions The Civic Engagement Committee, led by Dr. Jennifer Wantz, Executive Dean of Community Engagement, and Andy Espinoza, Director of Student Leadership and Activities, orchestrated these virtual events using Zoom. For the Spring 2023 book club, we selected "You're More Powerful than You Think" by Eric Liu. Registration was open to all participants between December 2022 and January 2023, and each of the 42 registrants received a complimentary copy of the chosen book. We aim to help participants

understand the author's meaning by making this book a "Citizen's Guide to Make Change Happen." We believe that not voting is voting and that everyone should exercise their power and right to vote and to become civically engaged.

Feb. 2023

The initial book club meeting took place on Thursday, February 9th, from 12 to 1 pm via Zoom. The primary topic of discussion was "Change the Game." Throughout this session, participants delved into strategies to become impactful agents of change within their communities. The analysis included a closer look at the Coalition of Immokalee Farm Workers and the Fair Food Program. The session highlighted three key strategies outlined in the book:

1. Adjust the arena
2. Re-rig the rules
3. Attack your opponent's plan

Mar. 2023

The second book club gathering was conducted via Zoom on Thursday, March 9th, from 12 to 1 pm. The central theme of our discussion was "Change the Story." Throughout this session, participants continued exploring strategies to become effective agents of change within their communities. We employed a SWOT analysis, delved into strategies 4 to 6 as outlined in the book, shared practical applications of these strategies, and engaged in discourse about the special election for the Jail District in Cochise County.

The strategies covered were:

4. Strategy 4: Describe the Alternative
5. Strategy 5: Organize in Narratives
6. Strategy 6: Make Your Fight a Fable

Apr. 2023

The third and final book club discussion was conducted via Zoom on Thursday, April 6th, from 12 to 1 pm. We delved into the topic of "Change in the Equation," focusing on strategies for fostering effective change within communities. Strategies 7-9 from the book were explored, emphasizing power as an open-source concept. Additionally, we referenced the President's Student Leadership Academy at Cochise College, a program designed to cultivate the next generation of student leaders.

7. Strategy 7: Act Exponentially
8. Strategy 8: Act Reciprocally
9. Strategy 9: Perform Power

Additionally, our county conducted a special election in 2023 for the Jail District. The Civic Engagement Committee was pivotal in disseminating information and motivating students to engage in the public hearings. One of the hearings occurred at Cochise College's Sierra Vista Campus on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6 pm. The special election occurred on May 16, 2023. The Civic Engagement Committee promoted the special election and resources to get

registered to vote and important dates such as deadlines. Democracy Fellows helped with tabling events to spread awareness amongst the college community.

In addition to the book discussion and special election during the Spring 2023. Cochise College supported two initiatives to expose our students to the legislative process.

1. State Capitol Trip (January)
2. Washington, D.C. Trip for HACU conference (April)

Summer 2023 (May - July)

Dr. Jenn Wantz was invited to attend the Discourse Across Differences at Community Colleges symposium at Austin Community College (ACC) in Texas. As a result of the successful “Conversations in Civility” initiative developed and implemented at Cochise College. This symposium was led by Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill, director of the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC’s) Campus Free Expression Project, and Grant Potts, interim dean of the Division of Language Arts, Humanities, and Communications at ACC. The event included sharing instructional and co-curricular bi-partisan strategies and initiatives.

Dr. Jenn Wantz and Andy Espinoza, the Chairs of the Civic Engagement Committee, journeyed to Boston, Massachusetts, to partake in the 2023 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting. This event seeks to foster knowledge exchange and cultivate a sense of community centered around our collective efforts in civic learning and democratic engagement. As a community, we have embraced the CLDE Theory of Change and are committed to devising effective strategies and models that enhance civic learning and democratic engagement. The insights gained from this professional development opportunity have infused Cochise College with fresh ideas and initiatives. Furthermore, Andy Espinoza established a connection with ALL IN, participating in a testimonial video to spotlight the advantages of affiliating with the ALL IN initiative. Furthermore, the summer was utilized to strengthen current connections and forge new partnerships within and outside the organization.

Fall 2023

Aug. 2023

- The online module for new student orientation, known as Cochise 101, included a link to the Cochise College Civic Engagement & Voter Education website to create awareness amongst new students and promote that we are a voter-friendly campus.
- Developed a calendar for a Civic Engagement Month
- Developed a Civic Engagement Scorecard housed under Cochise Cares (Givepulse)
- Promoted the Civic Engagement month on the Can Chat publication by Student Government which gets posted on all of the restroom stalls around campus.
- 8/30: Annual Notice Voter Information email went out to the entire college community

Sept. 2023

- Welcome the new Civic Influencers and Democracy Fellows (student leaders)
- Launched the Civic Engagement Action Scorecard. This initiative aims to support the student's growth as civic learners through a digital Civic Action Scorecard that will help them demonstrate their learning by creating a portfolio and allow them to earn the Civic Action Award for their efforts. The digital Civic Action Scorecard presents a wide range of opportunities for becoming civically engaged while taking action and earning points. (We adopted this initiative from Miami Dade College)
- Civic Engagement Month Events (All events promoted how to become civically engaged)
 - **9/7-8:** DIY Tote Bags with inspirational quotes to promote civic engagement
 - **9/13-14:** Constitution Day
 - **9/21:** Founder's Day (Cochise College 59th anniversary)
 - **9/29-10/05:** Unify Challenge College Bowl (promoted civil discourse)

Oct. 2023

- **10/26:** Vote Early Day Awareness Day! *Democracy Fellows & Civic Influencers:* Cesar Zazueta, Aydin Durazo, Valeria Garcia, Daniela Guzman, and Leonardo Romero had a table display at the student union to promote Early Vote Day and promoted this event through the Student Government social media.

Nov. 2023

- **11/3:** The Civic Engagement Committee brainstormed on Spring 2024 events and selected the book for the conversations in a civility book club ("What the Fact?" by Seema Yasmin) and discussed the ALL IN action plan.
- **11/15:** Pizza Party! The *Democracy Fellows & Civic Influencers:* Cesar Zazueta, Aydin Durazo, Valeria Garcia, Daniela Guzman, and Leonardo Romero had a Voter Education session with a Kahoot Game and Free Pizza. The information provided included the definition of Civic Engagement, ways to engage civically, voter registration resources, and important deadlines. It also created awareness of the upcoming 2024 presidential election.
- **11/30:** A non-partisan voter registration drive occurred at Cochise College Douglas Campus. Community volunteers led this drive.

Dec. 2023

- **12/8:** Email out information about the conversations in a civility book club
- **12/11:** Started to distribute books for the book club discussions
- **12/14:** The Civic Engagement Committee submitted the 2023-2024 Action Plan to All IN.

Spring 2024

Each spring semester, we dedicate our efforts to implementing the Conversations in Civility initiative on campus, with the overarching goal of nurturing civil discourse throughout the college community. As part of this initiative, we have established a Book Club to actively promote and involve participants in the practice of civil discourse. The book discussions are scheduled to take place from February through April. Coordinated by the Civic Engagement Committee, these virtual events on Zoom are under the capable leadership of Dr. Jennifer Wantz, Executive Dean for Community Engagement, and Andy Espinoza, Director of Student Leadership and Activities. For the Spring 2024 book club, we have chosen "What the Fact?" by Seema Yasmin. Participants who registered between December 2023 and January 2024 will each receive a copy of the book. Our aim with this selection is to guide participants in understanding the author's perspective on "Finding the Truth in All the Noise." We firmly believe that voters should have access to trustworthy information regarding candidates and the voter registration and voting process.

Jan. 2024

- **1/8:** Continue to distribute books for the book club discussions
- **1/22:** Email information about the first book club discussion
- **1/17:** Voting Equipment Demo and Presentation at Cochise College Sierra Vista Campus
 - In response to the ongoing misinformation regarding elections. In partnership with Cochise County Elections & County Administrator, the Cochise College Civic Engagement Committee is inviting the public to a Voting Equipment Demo and Presentation from ES&S (Election Systems & Software). There will be two Sessions: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include:
 - Welcome by Richard Karwaczka, Cochise County Administrator
 - Voting Equipment Demonstration by ES&S
 - Security Presentation ES&S VP
 - Questions & Answers from the public

This event is free to attend and open to the public. Members of the public will be allowed to ask one question, due to time, follow-up questions will not be allowed. Cochise County staff will facilitate the Q&A session with ES&S officials. Q&A cards will be available for the public as they enter the room.

In addition to the book discussion and special election during the Spring 2024. Cochise College supported two initiatives to expose our students to the legislative process.

- State Capitol Trip (January)
- Washington, D.C. Trip for HACU conference (April)

Feb. 2024

The initial book club session will occur on Thursday, February 22nd, from 4 to 5 pm via Zoom. This session will focus on Chapter 1: "Contagious Information".

Mar. 2024

The second book club session will occur on Thursday, March 21st, from 4 to 5 pm via Zoom. This session will focus on Chapter 2: “Bias, Beliefs, and Why We Fall for BS?” and Chapter 3: “News, noise and nonsense.”

Apr. 2024

The third and last book club session will occur on Thursday, April 18th, from 4 to 5 pm via Zoom. This session will focus on Chapter 4: “Social Media,” and Chapter 3: “News, Noise and Nonsense”.

Summer 2024 (May - July)

Continue to work on bringing new initiatives on campus and prepare for presidential elections.

Fall 2024

Aug. 2024

- Publish voter guide and voter education resources
- **8/2:** Reminded everyone about Primary Election Day through social media posts and flyers around campus
- **8/20:** Provided link to Cochise College Voter Education website through Virtual New Student Orientation
- **8/26:** Promoted the importance of voter registration, voting, and related events at All club meetings
- **All month:** The SGA Can Chat publications included Voter registration education resources and **Get Out the Vote!** (printed publications posted on all of the restroom stalls around campus)

Sept. 2024

- **9/7:** Promoted the importance of voter registration and voting at Douglas Campus Student Club Fair
- **9/8:** Promoted the importance of voter registration and voting at Sierra Vista Campus Student Club Fair
- **9/12,14,15 & 17:** Constitution Day - Social Media/Campus Awareness/Event
- **9/17:** National Voter Registration Day
- **9/20:** Social Media/Campus Awareness: National Voter Registration Day recognition
- **All month:** The SGA Can Chat publications included Voter registration education resources and **Get Out the Vote!** (printed publications posted on all of the restroom stalls around campus)
- **9/30 – 10/4:** National Voter Education Week

Oct. 2024

- **9/30 – 10/4:** National Voter Education Week
- **10/3:** Annual Notice Voter Information email will go out to the entire college community
- **10/5:** Voter registration drives
- **10/24:** Vote Early Day
- **All month:** The SGA Can Chat publications included Voter registration education resources and **Get Out the Vote!** (printed publications posted on all of the restroom stalls around campus)

Nov. 2024

- **11/4:** Election Hero Day
- **11/1-5:** Get out the Vote Campaign
- **11/5:** Get out the Vote event - Election Day

Dec. 2024

- The Cochise College Civic Engagement Committee will revise the collected data to assess the effectiveness of the implemented action plan.
- The committee will meet to brainstorm on Spring 2025 events to continue to grow civic engagement and the importance of voter registration and awareness.

Spring 2025

We look forward to continuing the Conversations in Civility Book Club with a new book that will relate to civic engagement and help us foster a healthy democratic environment at Cochise College.

On-going Efforts

Marketing

- Campus-wide email
- Update/Maintain Voter education page on the college website
- Social media campaigns on SGA platforms: Facebook and Instagram
- Campus marquee
- Digital signage on campus
- Branded Cochise and Voting campaign

Additional

- Four district-wide Democracy Fellows
- Two district-wide Civic Influencers
- Partner with non-partisan/non-profit organizations to maximize the use of voting tools
- Link within Moodle to promote voter education page (online classes)

National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

The Civic Engagement Committee has considered all the sections included in the NSLVE report study for implementing a civic engagement action plan at Cochise College. The goal is to strategically increase registered students' voter registration and voting rates and the overall voting rate for both midterm and presidential elections. Based on the 2016, 2018, and 2020 NSLVE reports, the Civic Engagement Committee does have a strategic vision for the type of programming that should be implemented to increase voter registration and voting rates. Cochise College has not received the 2022 NSLVE data. Once the data is received, we plan to reassess our strategic vision.

Reporting

The NSLVE reports & Civic Engagement Action Plan will be available to the general public under the Cochise College civic engagement and voter education website, managed by the Civic Engagement Committee. Reporting will also be shared along with publishing rights with our national All In Challenge partners and non-partisan and non-profit organizations.

Evaluation

The Civic Engagement Committee at Cochise College will conduct pre and post-assessments of events and activities to ensure that the strategies being implemented get assessed and improved and gauge the effectiveness and efficiency of the civic engagement plan. The evaluation will occur before, during, and after implementing the action plan, considering all of the elements included in the NSLVE report.

Efficiency & Quality: Surveys/Feedback forms will be sent to event organizers, volunteers, and participants to explore the efficiency and equality of the events.

Effectiveness and Quality: A final survey will be sent to the entire college community at the end of the election cycle. The goal is to explore the impact of the action plan on creating a healthy democratic culture at Cochise College.

The evaluation results will be reported to senior administration by the Civic Engagement Committee to seek guidance and support in improving/adjusting democratic engagement efforts.

Since the 2022 action plan, the Civic Engagement Committee has become more aware of the importance of event assessment voter registration drives and looks forward to developing assessment tools. We are waiting for the NSVLE 2022 data to help us further evaluate.