

**JANUARY 2024**



# **ENGAGE THE VOTE**

**A Campus Voting Action Plan and Report, 2023-2024**

**SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA**

*Good citizens do things: they speak out, they vote, they volunteer, they organize. But to do those things well, citizens need to know things. Civic action requires civic knowledge.*

Russell Muirhead  
*Resuscitating Civic Education (2012)*  
Hoover Institute, Stanford University

## **Executive Summary**

College of the Canyons (COC) *Engage the Vote: A Campus Voting Action Plan and Report, 2023-2024*, provides the campus with a strategic plan to help increase voter registration, voter education, and voter participation, not only among students but also among faculty, staff, administration, and community partners. Dr. Patty Robinson, Faculty Director, Civic and Community Engagement and Faculty Lead, Engage the Vote Student Action Team (ETV) is submitting the plan. Although the faculty director wrote the narrative of the plan, she has worked closely with Engage the Vote Student Action Teams over the past three academic years, including members from Associated Student Government (ASG). This has included working directly with Jesse McClure, COC Student Trustee, 2022-2023, and Center for Civic and Community Engagement Short-Term Hourly, 2023-2024. The group continues to held conversations with Joey Forsythe, Founder, A Band of Voters, and the sponsor of California Assembly Bill 963, *Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act*. Working and collaborating in different ways, the COC vote plan reflects the stakeholders' proposed ideas, suggestions, and outcomes for the 2023-2024 academic year and beyond.

The COC vote plan summarizes the work of civic learning and democratic engagement (CLDE) at COC and it highlights the Center of Civic Engagement's mission and vision, specifically through its campuswide civic engagement initiative. More importantly, the plan is a living document (e.g., revised annually) that provides examples of campus and community voter engagement that includes voter education, registration, and participation efforts. While not meant to be proscriptive, this document includes examples—past and present—of activities that inspire action team members throughout the year, not only during election cycles. The COC vote plan is intended to help the action team, ASG, and other campus departments to consider ways to facilitate Engage the Vote activities. Implementing the plan will rest specifically with the faculty director and the Center for Civic Engagement, as she also serves as the civic engagement liaison who ensures that COC will comply with the legal mandates of AB 963.

Increasing voter registration, expanding voter education, and fostering voter participation are the primary goals of the plan. By including an introduction to the work of civic engagement at COC, new and returning participants can frame and name the objectives of this work. It is the director's hope that all campus stakeholders, no matter their discipline, department, or office, will recognize their role in advancing participatory democracy as part of COC's civic mission. This is essential if the college is to carry out its obligation to educate for democracy as suggested in *A Crucible Moment: College Learning & Democracy's Future (2012)* and to engage students in Democracy's College, as stated in *Higher Education for American Democracy: A Report of the President's Commission on Higher Education (1947/2015)*, especially as we work with our nation's youth:

*The first and most essential charge upon higher education is that at all levels and in all fields of specialization, it shall be the carrier of democratic values, ideals, and processes to a large swath of the American population. (Zook, 1947/2015: 102),*

Although this plan reflects the 2023-2024 academic year, it will undergo updates and revisions annually, allowing for new ideas, activities, and initiatives. Building on past goals will allow for the vote plan to address new goals; or, in most cases, providing a platform to scaffold to the next level, year after year. Given that social, cultural, and political climates change between election cycles, it is important to evaluate changes annually and adjust goals accordingly. Lastly, by implementing the COC vote plan will occur in various ways, including recognizing the ongoing work of the Engage the Vote Student Action Team, which meets throughout the year.

## **Leadership**

College of the Canyons' Engage the Vote Action Plan is guided by the leadership of Dr. Patty Robinson, Faculty Director, Civic and Community Engagement, as well as members of COC's ETV Action Team from academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, including:

- Abigail Royster (ASG President, 2021-2022)
- Sona Tigranyan (ASG Officer, 2021-2022)
- Christina Stavropoulos (ETV Member, 2021-2022)
- Isabella Solario (ETV Member, 2021-2022)
- Collin Shneour (ASG President, 2022-2023)
- Jesse McClure (ASG Student Trustee, 2022-2023)
- Nick Nyein (ASG Officer, 2022-2023)
- Jeremy Gonzalez (ETV Member, 2022-2023)
- Marth Carr (ETV Member, 2022-2023)
- Wynton Glapa-Grossklag (ETV Member, 2023-2024)
- Virginia Giritlian (ETV Member, 2023-2024)

In addition, team members have collaborated with Joey Forsyte, Founder, A Band of Voters, who has provided fellowships for Isabella Solario, Sona Tigranyan, and Collin Shneour. Additional fellowships from LEAD California for Collin Shneour, Nick Nyein, Martha Carr, Wynton Glapa-Grossklag, and Virginia Giritlian have been awarded through its Youth Voice Youth Vote Fellowship program. Ms. Forsyte has also worked with COC's animation instructor Jeff Baker and his students to create three animated videos on Get Out the Vote that were specifically produced for A Band of Voters. Additional community partnerships have included COC's ongoing partnership with Los Angeles County's Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) which provides an early vote Mobile Vote Center on campus, since early voting in California begins 11 days before Election Day. Lastly, embedding issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) throughout our work is essential, as activities welcome all students, especially as COC is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution. Additional work is underway to address the needs of our traditionally underserved students and includes a future partnership with COC's new Intercultural Center and the Santa Clarita Valley chapter of the NAACP.

## **Commitment**

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, Chancellor, Santa Clarita Community College District, supports the ALL

IN Democracy Campus Challenge and is a signatory of the organization's president's commitment. Her signature emphasizes the need to create social change, especially as increasing rates of civic illiteracy and disinterest in civic engagement plague our nation's colleges. Dr. Van Hook's signature supports research that shows that the earlier individuals embrace civic knowledge, as well as experience community service firsthand, the more likely they will become civically aware and engaged in voting and volunteerism throughout their lifetimes (Hollander and Burack, 2008). *Engage the Vote: A Campus Voting Action Plan, Fall 2018-Fall 2019* provided a first-time effort of College of the Canyons to create a long-term, sustainable campus wide plan to increase voter engagement (See All IN Challenge, 2019). The 2023-2024 vote plan represents COC's most recent vote report and plan. The aim of the vote plan is to engage the entire campus community in greater civic awareness, especially regarding voter education, registration, and participation. By emphasizing the term of civic engagement, the campus intentionally advancing a concept which describes those philosophies and activities which bridge thought with action and provide meaningful service to communities. As Thomas Ehrlich (2000), former Carnegie Foundation Senior Scholar suggests, civic engagement means:

*...working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes” (Ehrlich, 2000:vi).*

The documented decline in voter engagement is real as evidenced by plummeting rates of civic proficiency and increasing lack of participation in voluntary associations, electoral politics, religious congregations, and community-based organizations (Carnegie and CIRCLE, 2003 and National Taskforce on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, 2012:6). The civic health of America has reached “anemic” levels; and, when controlling for issues of race, ethnicity, and class, these rates are significantly worse than the rest of the population (Campus Compact, 2010).

### ***America's Call to Action***

In response to this escalating problem of “civic unawareness,” the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), published *A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy's Future (2012)*. This work reflects a response, in part, to the increasing disengagement of our nation's citizenry from American Democracy. *A Crucible Moment (2012)* reflects its title, as it encourages transformative change within postsecondary education by emphasizing the need for civic learning and engagement. It has become the manifesto of a movement dedicated to increasing civic knowledge and community participation among our nation's college students. To make democracy and civic responsibility “central, not peripheral” within our colleges and universities is the desired outcome proposed by those scholars and organizations working in the field (Scobey, 2012). It is no longer the sole responsibility of disciplines like political science and history to serve as the primary conduits of civic knowledge and civic engagement. It is now the responsibility of *all* disciplines to transmit civic and political awareness (Smith, et al., 2010).

A “civic engagement movement” designed to redefine, revise, and recapture the interest of America's citizenry, especially among its young, is gaining momentum throughout the country

(Saltmarsh and Hartley, 2011). This is especially true of the nation's community colleges, including College of the Canyons. Following the lead of The National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (2012:15), by emphasizing the concepts of civic ethos, civic literacy, civic inquiry, and civic action, COC is working to excel as a "civic-minded" campus. It is time for our nation's young people to understand their place in the "collective whole," as well as to "serve a larger purpose" (Boyer, 1996:22).

*A Crucible Moment (2012)*, considered a seminal work in civic learning and democratic engagement, examines the need for America to "reclaim" its civic mission and to make civic learning at the postsecondary level expected, not voluntary. Its authors argue for infusing this leaning across the curriculum, as well as incorporated across the campus environment. By creating a campus "culture" of civic engagement, which supports the proliferation of civic literacy, inquiry, action, and a civic ethos, it will transcend institutional boundaries to include all venues of college life. This work has guided the vision of College of the Canyons' Civic and Community Engagement Initiative. At no other time in American history has it been as crucial for students—no matter their academic goals—to secure civic knowledge and skills needed to protect American Democracy. *Engage the Vote: A Campus Voting Action Plan and Report, 2023-2024*, recognizes the continuing role COC plays in shaping an engaged civic mindset of a new generation.

### ***COC's Civic and Community Engagement Initiative***

Applying the concept of civic engagement defined by Ehrlich (2000), especially regarding community engagement, the need to increase electoral knowledge and participation among the campus community reinforces the goals of COC's Center for Civic Engagement's Civic and its Civic and Community Engagement Initiative (see Robinson, 2015), which was influenced by *A Crucible Moment (2012)*. COC's initiative originated from a 2013-2014 AAC&U *Bringing Theory to Practice Grant* and resulted in a day-long workshop conducted to examine the concept of civic engagement at the College, as well as to discuss how to create a civic engagement action plan. Activities included conducting a campus Civic Engagement Gap Analysis, as well as a Civic Engagement S.W.O.T. Analysis. Participants included students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The overall results rendered valuable information, which was shared with Dr. Van Hook. As a result, she determined it was important for the College to pursue the idea of establishing a Center for Civic Engagement. A campus team visited De Anza College in Northern California during spring 2015 to review its work, since the institution has an accomplished history of addressing civic and community engagement. The position of COC's Faculty Director, Civic and Community Engagement Initiatives quickly followed, as well as space secured for a Center for Civic Engagement (CCE). The faculty director then developed a strategic plan, entitled, *A Call to Action: An Initiative for Civic Engagement, Self, and Society* (Robinson, 2015), and a Civic Engagement Steering Committee formed. (COVID resulted in many changes, one of which was reconfiguring the committee to the COC Integrative Learning, Civic, and Community Work Group, which returned to its original name in 2022.) As of June 2023, the Center was moved to a 1,500 square foot location centrally located on campus.

The campuswide civic engagement initiative continues to create a civic-minded campus culture among students, faculty, and staff while emphasizing their place in a global context. "If civic engagement is to gain real traction in today's higher education," suggests Barbara Jacoby, "it must be clearly defined, and civic learning outcomes must be established." In other words,

“Opportunities to learn about and practice civic engagement must be embedded throughout the curriculum and co-curriculum” (Jacoby, 2009:2). COC is doing just that. As stated in *A Crucible Moment* (2012:15), a civic-minded campus will incorporate the following areas:

### **Civic Ethos Governing Campus Life**

The infusion of democratic values into the customs and habits of everyday practices, structures, and interactions; the defining character of the institution and those in it that emphasizes open-mindedness, civility, the worth of each person, ethical behaviors, and concern for the well-being of others; a spirit of public-mindedness that influences the goals of the institution and its engagement with local and global communities.

### **Civic Literacy as a Goal for Every Student**

The cultivation of foundational knowledge about fundamental principles and debates about democracy expressed over time, both within the United States and in other countries; familiarity with several key historical struggles, campaigns, and social movements undertaken to achieve the full promise of democracy; the ability to think critically about complex issues and to seek and evaluate information about issues that have public consequences.

### **Civic Inquiry Integrated Within the Majors and General Education**

The practice of inquiring about the civic dimensions and public consequences of a subject of study; the exploration of the impact of choices on different constituencies and entities, including the planet; the deliberate consideration of differing points of views; the ability to describe and analyze civic intellectual debates within one’s major or areas of study.

### **Civic Action as Lifelong Practice**

The capacity and commitment both to participate constructively with diverse others and to work collectively to address common problems; the practice of working in a pluralistic society and world to improve the quality of people’s lives and the sustainability of the planet; the ability to analyze systems in order to plan and engage in public action; the moral and political courage to take risks to achieve a greater public good.

Guided by these four areas, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement is moving the discussion of civic and community engagement at College of the Canyons from margin to center. It continues working to breakdown campus silos and to offer a foundational framework for the entire campus to follow based on the following principles:

### **Mission Statement**

Democratic engagement fosters knowledge, responsibility, civility, and respect by encouraging greater awareness of the social, cultural, and political concerns affecting the public good. By addressing social issues from a local, national, and global perspective through campus and community partnerships, the citizenry become

agents of change. Critical thinking, reflection, and participation in “deep learning” experiences through curricular, co-curricular, and professional development opportunities achieve civic transformation.

### **Vision Statement**

Democratic engagement bridges theory with practice (e.g., praxis) to create a “civic-minded” culture which fosters representative thought and action to enhance the public good. Through collaboration, service, and reciprocity, students, faculty, staff, and community serve as civic leaders and help to inform others of social issues. Through civic awareness, a concerned citizenry can confront problems facing person, thing, and environment and create social change.

### **Philosophy Statement**

Democratic engagement exercises a philosophy of social action and personal responsibility through individual reflection by increasing awareness and confronting community, state, national, and global social problems to ensure greater well-being of the public good.

### **Core Values**

**Equity:** working to provide diverse, equitable, and inclusive access and opportunity to all members of society by employing ways to eliminate the “civic opportunity gap.”

**Activism:** speaking on behalf of a person, place, or thing by bringing attention to a social issue affecting the larger collective whole and suggesting social change.

**Sustainability:** increasing awareness of environmental concerns and encouraging personal action to help protect the environment and the world’s natural resources.

**Dignity:** understanding various cultural, social, political, and religious perspectives within the larger global context and respecting differences.

**Engagement:** creating opportunities to work with community members and organizations to achieve positive social change.

**Leadership:** guiding and inspiring others to contribute to the public good by displaying respect.

**Collaboration:** cultivating internal and external partnerships to address civic concerns through collaboration and shared responsibility.

**Integrity:** setting high standards and addressing issues with strong ethics while displaying consistency, honesty, and transparency of thought and action.

### **Project-Based Learning (PBL) and a Civic Mindset**

COC is also working to “rebrand” Community-Based Learning (from its earlier service-learning emphasis) to Project-Based Learning (PBL). This High Impact Practice is the best fit for COC to encourage civic learning and democratic engagement, while providing a holistic approach to campus and community, it encourages an entrepreneurial spirit among students. Promoting venues in which all students—no matter their ethnicity, race, gender, sexual identity, etc.—can engage in problem-solving of today’s *wicked problems* to increase their civic agency (Rittel and Webber, 1973). Because of attending four Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) trainings on PBL (two in-person, two virtual), the work of Civic Engagement is now focused on reframing, redesigning, and redefining the earlier model of Community-Based Learning. In addition, the Center has also taken part in three virtual trainings of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Integrative Learning and Signature Work Institute (renamed Integrative Learning and Engagement Institute).

The faculty director recognizes the long-term possibilities of this pedagogical emphasis, especially as related to Guided Pathways, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and 21st Century work readiness. Over the past year, the faculty director, working with another faculty member have created a guide stressing the importance of integrating this High Impact Practice in curricular and cocurricular work. The authors’ focus on P<sup>5</sup>BL by emphasizing project-, problem-, place-, personalized-, and principled-learning. In addition, the focus of the Civic and Community Engagement Center has intentionally moved to address aspects of civic diversity, equity, and inclusion in a purposeful and meaningful way to bring greater awareness to the challenges and outcomes experienced by underserved populations resulting from racial, ethnic, and socio-economic differences.

### ***Voter Engagement and the Public Good***

With COC’s work with voter engagement, greater awareness of how to get students involved in participatory democracy has become a priority for the Center for Civic and Community Engagement. Many question the current state of democracy in America, including the young, who express less interest in the fundamental foundations of democracy, as well as the traditional values that have driven American society. Democracy is at a tipping point. However, by revisiting the original mission of “Democracy’s Colleges” (President’s Commission on Higher Education, 1947), higher education, especially among community colleges, can foster a “civic mind-set” which will reclaim the voice of democracy for new generation which is displaying interest for social change for the public good. As the traditional and historical underpinnings of democracy remain examined, questioned, and challenged regarding representing all groups, hearing all voices, and confronting all inequities. This is especially important in academia, since a “civic empowerment gap” exists throughout our nation’s K-16 educational systems and is large as English and math gaps (Levinson, 2010). Most striking, however, is that this gap is most pronounced among underserved communities, including those affected by class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and first-generation status. ***These are the students who most represent the student body of community colleges.*** Participatory democracy is least likely used by those whose needs are most unheard; and, as a result, most ignored. Encouraging community colleges to get involved through voter awareness, education, and engagement is one why to have their voices heard through the political process for the public good.



The concept of the public good suggests that democracy is a commodity which is non-excludable and non-rivalrous to all within public higher education. Although correct, barriers of race, class, ethnicity, sex, and gender, among other characteristics, impede many from fully utilizing participatory democracy for personal and community well-being (See Kezar, et al., 2005). This is especially true for California's community college students, most of whom experience the "civic empowerment gap" based on marginalized status (Levinson, 2010). Considering that California's 116 community colleges enroll 1.9 million students, these individuals are most in need of having their voices heard (CCCCO, 2023). Civic work is often siloed throughout the curricular and co-curricular fabric of the campus community. As a result, whether a student fully recognizes the importance of participatory democracy or not results from random choice, not from integrative, intentional planning. As statewide initiatives shape the public good of education, it is timely that the civic engagement movement becomes part of the overarching discussion of Guided Pathways, DEI, and workforce readiness. Voter engagement is one way of accomplishing this goal. (See the Center for Civic and Community Engagement's most recent updates as of January 2024 at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vcDuLtAsVA6gT74tu6PzLKNYxNoCv2AM/view?usp=sharing>

## **Landscape**

### ***College of the Canyons***

College of the Canyons (COC), founded in 1969, is a California Community College and Hispanic Servicing Institution located in Santa Clarita, California, North Los Angeles County. COC is one of 116 community colleges operating throughout the state of California. The College operates two campuses, which together enroll 37,173 (2022-23 academic year). COC offers 96 degree programs and 160 certificate programs (COC Fast Facts, 2023). COC is the largest provider of higher education in Santa Clarita. Articulation exists with programs at the University of California, California State University, and several private institutions. Recent data report Latinx students account for 48 % of the students, White for 28%, African-American for 6%, Asian 6%, and Filipino for 3%, with the balance or individual comprising multiple or unknown race/ethnicity. The student body is 39% female and 60% male, while 53 percent of the students range in age from 19 years or below to 29 years (CCCCO Datamart, 2024 and COC Fast Facts, 2023). The success of the College results from the vision of Chancellor Dianne Van Hook, who has served College of the Canyons for over 35 years.

Dr. Van Hook is the longest serving Chancellor in the history of the California Community College System, and her commitment to civic engagement is great, as evidenced by the College's support of its Civic and Community Engagement Initiative. The development of this initiative, along with the establishment of a Center for Civic and Community Engagement, provides the foundation of a voter engagement action plan. In fall 2015, guided by the foundation of *A Crucible Moment (2012)*, COC committed itself to advancing the principles of civic ethos, civic literacy, civic inquiry, and civic action and created a new Center for Civic and Community Engagement, explicitly dedicated to promoting a "civic-minded" campus culture (See CCCCCO Datamart, 2023 and COC Fast Facts, 2023).

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

COC's *Engage the Vote* efforts have included working with regional and national groups,

including providing six Youth Voice Youth Vote (YVYV) Student Fellowships from LEAD California, as well as three student fellowships with A Band of Voters. (Two additional YVYV fellows will also serve during spring 2024.) Most of the ETV work has focused on meeting the mandates of AB 963. Specifically, COC joined the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) in 2018 and since that time, this partnership has yielded important data never known to the campus. The voter engagement data received from NSLVE over the past several years has been incredibly useful in understanding gaps in our *Engage the Vote* efforts. This has held true especially for understanding voting trends of aggregated groups based on sex, race, age, ethnicity, and field of study, for example. In addition, increases in voter registration to voter participation were noticed when the campus secured a Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk drop-off ballot box for early voting in 2018, followed by an on-campus Vote Center for later elections and most recently with a Mobile Vote Center. COC voter rates continue to climb, as we witness a correlation between voter participation and convenience of voting.

### ***How Data Are Used to Set Goals***

When reviewing the most recent NSLVE report, which provides comparisons of voting information specifically related to COC for election years 2014, 2018, and 2020, one notices that overall voter participation and engagement rates (not just registering but getting individuals to the polls) has increased. In fact, COC's voting rate increased significantly from 12.2 percent in 2014 to 42.6 percent in 2018 and then to 67.8 percent in 2020. These data provide evidence that our *Engage the Vote* work is making a difference. We also recognize the increased need to rally the engagement of all racial and ethnic groups and 25- to 29-year-olds. However, this means creating stronger partnerships with the newly established Intercultural Center and student alliances that especially focus on DEI. The overall *Engage the Vote* succession plan is unclear, but will remain part of the work of the next faculty director, civic and community engagement, before the current director's retirement. What occurs after her retirement depends on the continued funding of the faculty director position by the college. If the position experiences budgetary cuts, the "engage the vote" work will likely be left to Campus Life and Student Engagement, not Academic Affairs.

### ***COC's First Voter Engagement Action Plan***

The overall mission of the College's Civic and Community Engagement Initiative fits perfectly with the need to create and implement a voter engagement action plan. Although College of the Canyons is supportive of voter awareness and participation among its student body, the campus neither created nor facilitated an organized voter engagement action plan until 2019. In addition, the campus has primarily focused on voter registration only, while charging the Office of Campus Life and Student Engagement and Associated Student Government with this task. Although student voter registration is extremely important, this is only one part of voter engagement. When placing voter registration under the larger umbrella of civic learning and democratic engagement, it is also imperative for COC to address voter registration, voter education, and voter participation.

Working in fall 2018 with the theme of *Engage the Vote*, COC did much to create a "civic mind-set" focused on political engagement. In fact, when realizing that of 12,944 of COC's eligible voters, only 1,636 voted; or, stated differently, only 12.6 percent of students cast a ballot during the 2014 midterm election—although accomplishments exist, many remain unfulfilled.

Interestingly, 6,935 students at COC registered for the first time in 2014 while 53.6 percent voted. However, of those who voted, only 23.6 percent were between the ages of 18-24, the age group whose voice is most lacking at the polls. First-time and recent NSLVE data clearly showed, and continues to show, that COC's current action plan must continue to attend to voter education and participation year-round, not solely during voter registration cycles (see NSLVE, 2018, 2019, and 2021). ***In addition, it is vital to have top level administrative support; and, as previously stated, Chancellor Dianne G. Van Hook has committed to Engage the Vote by supporting the ALL IN Presidential Commitment.***

### ***COC Designated a Los Angeles County Vote Center***

How to vote in Los Angeles County changed in 2020. Los Angeles County has over 5 million registered voters, making it the largest voting jurisdiction in the United States. To accommodate these changes, registered voters no longer vote at neighborhood polling places but at large, county-wide Vote Centers that offer up to an 11-day voting period. In addition, voters can now vote anywhere in the country, as well as cast ballots at centers or place in drop-off ballot boxes. These centers, having met a strict regimen of requirements, offer the public new, easy-to-use voting devices that assist multilingual voters and voters with disabilities. Working directly with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (LARRCC), COC served as one of 50 sites throughout the county to hold a two-day Mock Election, September 28-29, 2019. Over 30 new voting stations were assembled in the Student Center and provided the community a "practice" session to tryout the new equipment. As a result, COC was asked to serve as an official Los Angeles County RRCC 2020 Vote Center for the Santa Clarita Valley.

In early 2020, the campus provided a 1,500 square foot location to serve on site to serve as an official L.A. County Vote Center for the California Primary. In addition, it welcomed a Mobile Vote Center (MVC) in May to address the 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional Special Election. And in November 2020, while in the throes of COVID, the East Gym served as an official Vote Center and welcomed voters from around the community for a 11-day vote period. Voters were required to follow L.A. County Department of Public Health COVID protocols.

### ***Census***

COC also partnered with the Bureau of the Census to increase awareness, provide education, and foster participation in the 2020 Census. A campus-wide campaign provided information from the U.S. Census and California Census regarding processes, timelines, employment opportunities, and FAQs. During fall 2019, the Center for Civic Engagement and the League of Women Voters of the Santa Clarita Valley (LWVSCV) organized an in-person community event about the Census. A representative from the Census Bureau provided an engaging talk about the history and purpose of the United States Census. He dispelled many of the myths surrounding census counts.

### ***Engage the Vote Results for 2018 and 2020—It Worked!***

The Center for Civic Engagement became actively involved with *Engage the Vote* through a grant received by Campus Compact in August 2018. As a result, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement worked to increase voter education, registration, and participation throughout the 2018 midterm elections. This included working with Young Invincibles, #VoteTogether, SLSV, ALL IN Challenge, Band of Voters, LWVSCV, Los Angeles County RRCC, and NSLVE. With its first-time work with many new partners, as well as joining ALL In Challenge, COC held a Bronze Badge

in comparison with 844 colleges and universities nationwide that fall. COC pledged to increase student voter registration for the 2018 midterm election by 10 percent (e.g., 691 students) and voter participation by 10 percent (e.g., 164 students). In addition, COC set voter engagement goals for the next two years. Lastly, A Band of Voters, working with Young Invincibles, worked to author California Assembly Bill 963 ([AB 963](#)), *Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act—California Public Universities*. Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, introduced the bill on April 26, 2019, to the California State Assembly Higher Education Sub-committee. COC’s faculty director, civic and community engagement, was one of several groups that provided testimony to support the bill. The Center also worked with the LARRCC to designate COC as an official Vote Center for the 2020 Primary and General Elections.

Whether the campus-wide effort to increase voter registration, education, and participation made a difference by 2018, COC can emphatically answer yes. Because of the dedicated work of the campus community, College of the Canyons received multiple awards at the November 12, 2019 ALL IN Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. These honors included Overall Most Improved Voting Rate at a Large Community College, Gold Seal for Achievement of 40-49 Percent Voter Participation, and Best in Class for its Action Plan. COC’s voter participation seal was elevated from the status of Bronze to Gold Badge. In fact, the College’s rate increased from 12.6 percent (2014 midterm elections) to 43.4 percent (2018 midterm elections), resulting in a 30.7 percent improvement. In addition, the campus served as a Los Angeles County Vote Center for the Santa Clarita Valley, as the LARRCC held its first-ever Mock Election in September 2019. COC was one of 50 sites selected throughout the County to pilot the new voting processes for 2020. Lastly, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the *Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act (AB 963)* into law on October 8, 2019, signifying support to increase voter participation among California’s 3.1 million students enrolled at 147 public universities and colleges (Feminist Newswire, 2019). (The current number of California Community Colleges, California State Universities, and University of California campuses has increased to 149.)

NSLVE data for the 2020 election showed greater voter engagement, even during the lockdown of the pandemic. The overall voting rate increased 18.7 percent from 2016 to include a 67.8 percent voting rate. The registration rate increased from 69.7 percent in 2018 to 81.1 percent in 2020, with the overall number of students registered to vote voting increased from 61 percent to 83.6 percent for the 2020 election. Increasing participation among all age groups was striking; however, younger (e.g., 18-21) and older (e.g., 50+) voted at the highest rates at 69 percent and 80 percent, respectively. Voting also increased among enrollment status (e.g., full-time and part-time) and among every field of study except Communication Technologies/Technicians (NSLVE Campus Report, 2021). COC’s *Engage the Vote* work and campus examples follow below.

COC’s continued emphasis to increase voter education, registration, and participation was recognized at the 2023 ALL IN Campus Democracy Awards Ceremony. Recognition categories that listed COC included:

- **Student Honor Roll:**  
Jesse Mc Clure

COC Student Trustee  
Santa Clarita Community College District

- **Nominated Presidents for President's Award:**  
Dr. Dianne Van Hook  
Superintendent/Chancellor  
Santa Clarita Community College District
- **Most Engaged Campuses:**  
College of the Canyons  
Santa Clarita Community College District  
Santa Clarita, CA
- **Highly Established Action Plan:**  
College of the Canyons  
Santa Clarita Community College District  
Santa Clarita, CA

Currently, COC now holds the following designations from ALL IN Challenge:



College of the Canyons cannot provide any additional description of its most recent NSLVE data, since the college has yet to receive results from Tufts University.

## Goals

Although the Center for Civic Engagement, along with COC's *Engage the Vote Student Action Team* continue providing professional development opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and

community, goal-setting with measurable outcomes remains a priority. In other words, our work lacks measurable assessments that can provide a greater understanding of why our NSLVE data are improving based on hard, quantitative evidence, not anecdotal, qualitative explanations. The college will unlikely ever reach 100 percent **voter participation**; however, engaging in pragmatic analysis and developing achievable strategies can achieve 100 percent **voter awareness**. In analyzing our most recent work, while ETV events are open to all students, there is much intentional work needed to reach and include marginalized and underserved students. Working on activities and presentations, as well as encouraging students to address social, cultural, and political issues in class through Project-Based Learning will help boost this awareness.

COC's faculty director, civic and community engagement, is working with a team of faculty, administrators, and community partners to embed P<sup>5</sup>BL; or, as previously mentioned, what COC is calling P<sup>5</sup>BL throughout curricular and co-curricular assignments and projects. The idea behind this pedagogical shift is to move students from counting hours of service to creating examples of community impact. By problem solving social problems, students can address issues they feel passionate about and recognize how their personal histories, experiences, and talents can affect change for the public good. P<sup>5</sup>BL grounded in civic learning and democratic engagement engages students in understanding their connection of self to society, as well as recognizing that the "personal is political" and the "local is global." This is one way COC can work to create greater awareness of local, national, and global problems among diverse student groups and foster increased interest in political engagement, especially through participatory democracy.

### ***Short-Term Tactics***

Campus-wide short-term tactics for the 2024 California Primary and General Elections follow below; however, long-term goals continue to include a year-long effort to keep the campus community engaged in civic and community concerns during non-election years, especially by holding dialogues, organizing presentations, and facilitating activities. This also includes the work of the *Engage the Vote Student Action Team* which meets weekly and the Civic and Community Engagement Steering Committee, which meets monthly. Additional goals have included rising the campus registration rate of eligible voters from 81.1 percent (2020) to 85 percent (2022) and increasing the voting rate of eligible students voting on Election Day from 67.8 percent (2020) to 75 percent in 2022 (see NSLVE, 2021). Once the most recent NSLVE data are available, additional recommendations will occur.

### ***Continuing to Engage the Vote During a Time of COVID***

The pandemic created a unique environment for Get Out the Vote efforts during fall 2020. COC transitioned to remote learning in March and then to an online format in August. Although classes did not meet on campus or in-person, using the virtual platform of Zoom rendered positive results. Beginning in early August, the *Engage the Vote Student Action Team* formed, which first included COC Honors students. However, as the semester progressed, several non-Honors students also joined the group, including an officer from ASG. Through our weekly meetings, participants identified specific topics of interest to pursue throughout the semester, including voter registration, voter education, and dialogue discussion. By creating a specific plan, the group divided into sub-teams to address the member's identified interests. These included increasing voter registration, providing information on voting, competing in California Secretary of State's University and College Ballot Bowl, taking part in Election Worker training, assisting the COC Vote Center,

promoting the *365 Days of Voters* project, supporting *Understanding California's 12 Propositions* webinar, attending the *Nation We Want to Be* dialogue, and organizing the *City of Santa Clarita's Water Board Candidate's 'Meet and Greet.'*

Members also placed directional signs and banners around the East Gym and related parking lots to assist with the 11 days of voting at the COC Vote Center. Accomplishments resulted through the efforts of this highly organized and motivated team. In fact, working virtually and presenting through a virtual medium allowed the group to reach a much larger campus and community audience. The team continues to meet weekly through the academic year. And the work associated with civic learning and democratic engagement extends far beyond the weeks leading up to an election. The faculty director has provided training about meeting the requirements of AB 963 to the College's Managers Advisory Council (MAC).

### ***Keeping Engage the Vote Going***

COC elevated its All IN Campus Democracy Challenge seal from Bronze to Gold in 2018 and is using NSLVE data from 2020 to continue increasing voting rates, especially among racially and ethnically diverse groups. Looking at the 2022 Midterm Election, voter registration, education, and participation goals remained focused and organized to:

- 1) Provide greater student outreach, participation, and mobilization of voter registration. In addition, think in terms of how to reach families, especially those of first-generation students.
- 2) Work with existing partnerships established since the 2018 midterm elections, including LEAD California (formally California Campus Compact), ALL IN Challenge, Young Invincibles, #VoteTogether, SLSV, Band of Voters, and Campus Vote Project. In addition, continue to build an ongoing partnership with the LARRCC.
- 3) Organize voter engagement activities throughout the year and provide ways to connect to PBL. The formation of an Engage the Vote Action Team creates an ongoing group of students who continue to address issues of voter registration and participation throughout the year. While working in tandem with the Civic and Community Engagement Steering Committee, PLACE (*Partnerships for Listening and Action by Communities and Educators*) Student Action Team, Engage the Vote Student Action Team, PBL projects, Honors, Associated Student Government, Intercultural Center, and related student alliances, as well as with curricular and co-curricular departments, the campus will keep the subject of voter engagement highly visible.
- 4) Connect issues of CLDE to the various events, presentations, and workshops organized by the Center for Civic and Community Engagement throughout the year. This also includes working directly with the Engage the Vote and PLACE Student Action Teams to examine issues of homelessness, food insecurity, housing insecurity, media literacy, civility, mass incarceration, mental health, climate resiliency, etc., and other topics that affect personal and community well-being. This work emphasizes the importance of taking part in participatory democracy.

As the Center for Civic and Community Engagement continues to revise its annual vote plan, it is

working more closely with the offices of Instruction, Admissions and Records, Campus Life and Student Engagement, Public Information, Facilities, and ASG to promote voter education throughout the academic year. This was especially important for the 2022 Midterm Election and upcoming 2024 California Primary and General Elections, as Millennials and Gen Z represented 37 percent of the nation’s electorate in 2018, falling behind Boomers (Cilluffo and Fry, 2019). In comparison, 18–29-year-olds are voting more (Pike, 2020)

COC’s faculty director, civic and community engagement, continues to work with the Civic and Community Engagement Steering Committee, which represents a diverse group of campus stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and community members, as well as student members of the *Engage the Vote Student Action Team*. The creation, facilitation, and implementation of a campus wide Civic and Community Engagement Initiative over the past eight years has provided COC with the opportunity to experience its own “crucible moment,” including the following examples.

### **Select History of Civic Engagement and Engage the Vote Work at College of the Canyons, 2015-present**

- Joined The Democracy Commitment.
- Agreed upon the use of Thomas Ehrlich’s (2000) definition of civic engagement.
- Established Civic Engagement Steering Committee.
- Attended 5<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration of The Democracy Commitment.
- Formed regional, state, and national partnerships and networks.
- Developed COC civic engagement strategic plan (e.g., *A Call to Action: An Initiative for Civic Engagement, Self, and Society*).
- Awarded five *Bringing Theory to Practice Grants*.
- Re-branded Service-Learning program to Community-Based Learning and now to Project-Based Learning.
- Organized deliberative dialogue trainings and dialogues based on support from The Democracy Commitment and Kettering Foundation.
- Presented at state and national conferences, including AAC&U Annual Conference, California Community College League of California, California Community College Research and Planning Group (RP Group), Imagining America, Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE), and Association of California Community College Administrators.
- Involved with Imagining America—Southern California Cluster.
- Organized five *California Community Colleges Civic and Community Engagement Student Summit*.
- Supported three COC Foundation annual student scholarships related to civic engagement.
- Created Civic and Community Engagement 15-unit Certificate along with the new courses, including Introduction to Civic and Community Engagement and Introduction to Community-Based Learning.
- Awarded a Zonta Grant.
- Hosted 2016 Candidate “Meet and Greet” of Assembly and Senate Candidates, as well as



- COC Board of Trustees Candidate “Meet and Greet.”
- Received a Foundation for California Community Colleges’ *Civic Impact Grant*.
  - Awarded nine *COC Foundation Mini-Grants* and four *COC Associated Student Government Grants*.
  - Nominated four COC students who served as Civic Impact Scholars with the Foundation for California Community Colleges *Civic Impact Project*.
  - Helped to found the League of Women Voters of the Santa Clarita Valley (LWVSCV).
  - Organized 2016 Presidential “Debate Watch.”
  - Established “*Making the Invisible Visible: Telling Their Stories*” Theme to guide Civic Engagement.
  - Collaborated with classified staff to create opportunities for professional development opportunities related to civic and community engagement.
  - Constructed and administered COC’s own *Civic Engagement and Mutual Respect Survey (2016)*. In addition, Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) data have been collected.
  - Commitment by Chancellor Dianne Van Hook to dedicated space (e.g., 1500 sq. fee) for a permanent Center for Civic Engagement.
  - Connection to California Community College System groups like the California Community Colleges’ Success Network (3CSN) and statewide initiatives like Guided Pathways, “Doing What Matters,” Student Equity, and “Vision for Success.”
  - Presented at LINKS 2018 Conference for 3CSN (California Community Colleges’ Success Network), which has proposed a statewide 3CSN Community of Practice for Community-Based Learning.
  - Served on the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) 2018 Annual Conference planning team, including faculty director and student intern.
  - Organized presentation by League of Women Voters of the United States National President, Chris Carson, in collaboration with the LWVSCV.
  - Planned multiple events with the LWVSCV, including “Cookies and Conversation—Understanding the Propositions” and “Sips and Civility”—A Community Dialogue on the “America We Want to Be.”
  - Administered Civic Engagement/Mutual Respect Surveys: Fall 2016. Results published in Civic Engagement/Mutual Respect Report #313.
  - Joined California Campus Compact.
  - Awarded AAC&U *Civic Learning in the Major by Design Grant*.
  - Awarded funding to assist with voter registration and election awareness, including support from Campus Compact and The Democracy Commitment Initiative, #VoteTogether, and Young Invincibles.
  - Joined Tufts University’s *National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)* initiative.
  - Joined All IN Campus Democracy Challenge.
  - Invited to take part in Campus Compact National Community College Planning Team convening.
  - Participated in third-year discussion of the Kettering Foundation and The Democracy Commitment community college deliberative dialogue project.

- Designated COC as an official LARRCC Vote Center.
- Organized Engage the Vote Action Team.
- Held multiple virtual informational presentations and candidate “meet and greets” during COVID.

***Additional efforts assisted the campus to Engage the Vote in 2018, included the following--***

- An interdisciplinary team of faculty developed the Youth Wave campus wide initiative to encourage students to register to vote and to cast their ballots. Students who provide proof of registration and voting receive extra credit points.
- A faculty member from Political Science, along with a team of students, created a Quick Response (QR) Code linked to the California Secretary of State’s Office, which provided online voter registration. The QR code was emailed to the entire campus community, as well as printed on bookmarks distributed throughout the campus.
- Several faculty presentations addressed issues or topics concerned with current affairs, political engagement, and issues related to self and society, including the departments of History, Humanities, Sociology, and the Institute of Ethics, Law, and Public Policy.

***Engage the Vote work has also included--***

- Worked with the LARRCC to place a Vote-by-Mail ballot box on the COC campus. Students registering for the first time were encouraged to Vote-by-Mail to take advantage of not having to cast their ballots at a polling location.
- Created a variety of marketing materials, including banners, flyers, bookmarks, and announcements posted on campus wide digital monitors. Help provided by the Public Information Office.
- Constructed an Engage the Election letter, as well as Engage the Election handout which was sent to over 2,000 individuals who are listed on the “coc-all” distribution list.
- Emailed a series of “Voting and Election Fun Facts” sent daily to coc-all for one week.
- Created a campus hashtag of #COCVotes to promote efforts via social media.
- Developed the tag line of “Democracy. Everyone’s Responsibility.” to reflect the Engage the Vote campus wide campaign.

***Engage the Vote 2020 Activities During COVID***

Below is a list of activities that the Center for Civic Engagement helped to organize and facilitate during fall 2020 for the General Election.

***365 Days of Voters***

Collaborated with L.A. artist Deborah Aschheim to gather narrative and headshots of the COC campus community to include in her 365 Days of Voters project.

***Engage the Vote Student Action Team***

- Worked with 25 students interested in voter education and registration. The group has met weekly from mid-August to the present. While the group addressed issues and activities concerning the November 3rd election, it will continue to meet and organize events for spring.
- Created social media accounts, including Instagram and Facebook.

- Organized and facilitated the *Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) Water Board 'Meet and Greet' Candidate Forum* (October 2). The two-hour presentation was recorded and made available for public viewing.
- Assisted Bridge to Home in registering clients experiencing homelessness.
- Participated in *Voting 101* and *How to Become an Election Worker* presentations presented by Jeff Klein, Los Angeles Register-Recorder/County Clerk's (RRCC) office. The one-hour presentation was recorded and made available for public viewing.
- Worked to get participants for 365 Days of Voters.
- Facilitated the October 27 campus dialogue entitled *The Nation We Want to Be*. This was the first of three--Dialogue #2: *The Community We Want to Be* (November 17) and Dialogue #3: *The Citizen I Want to Be* (November 24).
  - Dialogues are planned for spring and will include a “deep dive” into topics surrounding electoral politics and related legislative processes, as well as organizing “meet and greets” with local elected officials (e.g., city council, mayor, COC Board of Trustees, and SCV Water Board).

#### ***Partnership with League of Women Voters of Santa Clarita Valley (SCV)***

- Collaborated on *Understanding California's 12 Propositions* with a SCV League member COC Political Science professor on October 7. While the audience size was impressive, we failed to realize that we had scheduled the virtual event the night of the Vice- Presidential Debate. (The presentation was also presented virtually to the Belcaro Retirement Community on September 23 and Friendly Valley Retirement Community on September 25 as part of COC's *Afternoons with the Professors and Friends* lecture series).
  - The October 7 two-hour presentation was recorded and made available for public viewing.
  - A student from the Engage the Vote Action Team compiled information from the presentation, including the PowerPoint narrative, to create a written document explaining California's propositions. This information was disseminated electronically throughout the campus, as well as to community partners and networks.

#### ***Collaboration with Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk***

- Worked with Jeff Klein to create a campus-community informational session on *Voting 101* and *Becoming an Election Worker* on October 12.
- Combined efforts with LARRCC and COC Facilities Department to have COC's East Gym serve as an official Los Angeles County Vote Center for the General Election. The Vote Center provided Early Voting, as well as a ballot drop-box for mail-in ballots. The Center included a staff of 11 with 30 voting devices. Social distancing and wearing of masks were enforced, while the days/times of operation included:
  - October 24-November 3rd (11 days of consecutive operation)
  - October 24-November 2nd (10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
  - Election Day (7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- Faculty director took part in a 3-hour LARRCC training webinar, as well as worked with the COC Facilities Department in monitoring issues/concerns/problems of the Vote Center

over the 11-day voting cycle.

- Members from the Engage the Vote Action Team assisted in the posting of directional signs to the Voting Center, as well as providing limited decorations.
- Participated in the SLSV California Student Vote Summit
  - Faculty director served on the planning committee of this statewide group organized by California Campus Compact and Students Learn Students Vote Coalition. The virtual summit registered over 600 students from the State's 2- and 4-year colleges and universities.
  - Because of COC's participation on the planning team, as well as meeting several other requirements, the College received a \$500 mini-grant. The funding provided purchase of six 3' x 6' banners which were placed inside and outside of the Vote Center. Additional funds were used for supplies.

### ***California Secretary of State's University and College Ballot Bowl***

- Enrolled COC as a participant. In doing so, the College provided a registration link to the Secretary of State's website to register online through the COC homepage.

### ***Census***

- Disseminated announcements about the Census and its changing deadlines. Also held an on-campus event with a Census Bureau representative.

### ***Publications***

- COC mentioned as one of America's Best Colleges for Student Voting--published in *Washington Monthly*.
- COC highlighted in the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) monthly newsletter. The article examined voter campus involvement at three colleges. COC was the only community college discussed.

### ***Campus Wide Emails and Announcements***

The faculty director sent ongoing coc-all campus wide email blasts (reaching over 2,000 campus and community members) with messages, announcements, and reminders concerning deadlines and Vote Center information. In addition, various materials were disseminated electronically to encourage voter education and engagement. Emails were also sent to community partners to share with their community-wide networks (e.g., League of Women Voters of the Santa Clarita Valley, Zonta, City of Santa Clarita, Love SCV, etc.). A multi-page *Engage the Vote Resources* handout was also created by the faculty director to assist the campus community with important voting links, as well as recordings of local candidate forums.

### ***Vote Friendly Campus (Applied for 2021-2022 Voter Friendly Campus Designation)***

The Voter Friendly Campus designation program was started through a partnership between the Fair Elections Center's Camps Vote Project and NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) and its NASPA LEAD Initiative. The goal of the program is to help academic institutions develop democratic engagement action plans that coordinate the effort of the campus community to increase voter registration and participation.

### ***Washington Monthly Publication***

An article highlighting the nation’s best colleges for voting included College of the Canyons. See “America’s Best Colleges for Student Voting” *Washington Monthly*, September 9, 2020 and “America’s Best Colleges for Student Voting” *Washington Monthly*, August, 28, 2022.

### ***California Primary Election Activities 2022***

#### ***Engage the Vote Sign Painting with L.A. artist Deborah Aschheim***

Held on campus, April 13, 2022. See more information in Artists 4 Democracy ([A4D](#)) Newsletter.

#### ***Los Angeles County Sheriff Candidates’ “Meet and Greet”***

***April 28, 2022***

Six out of eight candidates participated in the virtual event with questions developed by Engage the Vote Action Team members. Students developed and asked the questions of candidates: Captain Steinbrenner, Captain Rodriguez, Chief Rhambo, Chief Luna, Chief Vera, and Lieutenant Strong.

### ***Student Civic Empowerment Summit***

***April 29, 2022***

The faculty director worked with A Band of Voters, Student PRIGs, and Democracy Works to plan and host this statewide event. In addition, as a sponsor, the Center for Civic Engagement helped to support the following speakers:

- **The Power of the Colleges**

Manju Bangalore, Director of Strategic Organizing, A Band of Voters

- **The Power of our Generation and the Law we passed: AB963**

D’Aungillique Jackson, President, Fresno State Associated Students, Inc.

- **The Power of the Action Plan and Student led Events**

Celina Avalos, Master of Public Policy Candidate, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy

- The faculty director continues to work with the original author, Joey Forsyte, on expanding knowledge of the Bill.
- Three students, Sona Tigranyan, Isabella Solorio, and Collin Shneour were selected statewide to serve as paid interns with A Band of Voters, Joey Forsyte, Founder and CEO.

### ***California Secretary of State—California Youth Voter Summit***

***May 6, 2022***

Engage the Vote Action Team member, Sona Tigranyan, spoke on behalf of community colleges at this statewide event.

#### ***L.A. County RR/CC Mobile Vote Center (May 31)***

COC will serve the local community by holding in-person voting on May 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Lot 4, Valencia campus.

### ***Assembly Bill 963—Student Voter and Empowerment Act***

- Passed into law by the California State Legislature in fall of 2019, COC is working

to meet the requirements of this law, including required activities, events, and presentations. Our goals to address civic learning and democratic engagement year-round.

***Plans to Engage the Vote in upcoming semesters. (Work will first include virtual formats during COVID, while all efforts will depend on staffing. Tentative goals include:***

- Work with students in Graphic Media Arts to create a visual image to complement the Engage the Election Vote effort for 2022. Display image throughout the campus community.
- Meet with the Public Information Office to create a *Engage the Vote* publicity plan for the campus, including hanging banners around campus, displaying important voter information on campus monitors and classroom computer screens, and ongoing Public Service Announcement (PSAs) regarding voting deadlines, activities, and presentations. This includes placing related events on the COC Event's Calendar, which is accessible to the public. With COC serves as a Vote Center, include information on the roadside marquees.
- Incorporate some aspect of voter education into COC's First Year Promise program.
- Increase voter registration during "off seasons" to include important days of recognition like Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, Citizenship Day, and Veterans Day, as well as Heritage Month themes.
- Organize an "Action Team Rush" at the beginning of spring semester to recruit students to join the Engage the Vote Student Action Team.
- Contact Andrew Goodman Foundation and discuss the possibility of creating an Andrew Goodman scholar position at COC.
- Encourage COC students to apply for the Ronald Reagan Leadership Foundation Scholarship.
- Administer Campus Election Engagement Project Campus Electoral Engagement Assessment.
- Distribute information (as done in 2018) regarding important registration and voter dates and deadlines, as well as helpful voting tips. Send via coc-all, as well as work directly with the Public Information Office to expand the College's outreach into the local community.
- Provide faculty with examples of how to engage students in the upcoming election by including examples of assignments and projects. Encourage faculty to infuse some aspect of civic learning and democratic engagement in their courses. This is especially true for PBL assignments.
- Advertise websites (as done in 2018) of organizations dedicated to increasing the vote among college students.
- Organize a "Department Challenge" Campaign. Departments will work to create ideas of how to politically engage students in their areas
- Encourage students to participate in campus wide dialogues by using issue guides available by the National Issues Forum Institute (NIFI) and Living Room Conversations.
- Create a repository of *Engage the Vote* resources for faculty, clubs, and ASG.
- Organize "Meet and Greet" sessions throughout the year with local elected officials.
- Develop Civic Engagement/Engage the Election mini-workshops to address a variety of

topics related to American history and government.

- Work to hold a naturalization ceremony in COC's Performing Arts Center, while encouraging student observation and participation.
- Send a campus-wide "Message from the Chancellor" regarding the importance of registering to vote, as well as voting.
- Create a large display board to highlight photos of COC campus community members with a quick response to the question, "I vote because...."
- Instruct a greater number of students, especially from ASG and student clubs, in the techniques of dialogue. Encourage students to lead dialogues on various topics related to democratic engagement.
- Increase number of students taking part in the annual Reagan Foundation Leadership Conference.
- Work with campus (e.g., *The Monday Report*) and local media sources (e.g., radio, newspaper, television) to publicize events.
- Include voter information in the annual college catalogue.
- Create a "Fact Bits" weekly email blast providing information on historical and political voting and election facts, as well as interest information about the Census. In addition, this election cycle we hope to include 100 days of "civility matters" sending out quotes from George Washington's 100 rules for civility.
- Train students how to register students effectively.
- Work with Academic Senate to create a campus resolution committed to fostering civic learning and democratic engagement among our campus community.
- Send reminder texts (e.g., voter registration deadline, Election Day) to students from Admissions and Records.
- Organize an *Engage the Vote* film series.
- Work with LARRCC to provide on-campus education and instruction on the mechanics of voting (e.g., how to read a ballot and use new interactive voting devices, etc.).
- Connect early to statewide challenges for colleges, especially as developed by the Office of the California Secretary of State and California Community Colleges Office of the Chancellor.
- Organize a campus-wide student "I Am a Voter" pledge card campaign.
- Continue efforts to organize *Making the Invisible Visible* themed civic engagement events while connecting to social and political concerns.
- Create a series of short one minute "Telling Their Stories" Video clips highlighting COC students and staff discussing "Why I Vote," "My First Time to Vote," etc.
- Train peer advisors seated at information desks to assist with voter registration.
- Include more information on COC Homepage, as well as include QR code to assist with voter registration.
- Train Engage the Vote Student Action Team members to make short presentations in classes regarding the importance of voting.
- Generate a campus-wide competition to beat our 2018 NSLVE data results.
- Organize a Civic Engagement Student Summit with a portion of the event devoted to voter awareness, education, and engagement.

***Activities for the 2022 Midterm Elections***

The Center for Civic Engagement combined the help of many groups on campus, including the *Engage the Vote Student Action Team*, ASG, and the Civic and Community Engagement Steering Committee, as they advanced a variety of plans forward fall semester 2022. The *Engage the Vote Student Action Team* met weekly, as it continues to do. Currently, the group is expanding its membership to represent a larger swath of the student population. Activities presented to increase voter registration and participation for the Midterm Election 2022 included:



## Midterm Elections 2022

### *Constitution Day*

Coordinated the first multi-campus/multi-state deliberative dialogue addressing Free Speech and the Inclusive Campus. Facilitators included Verdis Robinson, Kettering Foundation, Patty Robinson, College of the Canyons, Finn Kolsrud, Kirkwood Community College, David McMahon, Kirkwood Community College, and Connie Jorgensen, Piedmont Virginia Community College.



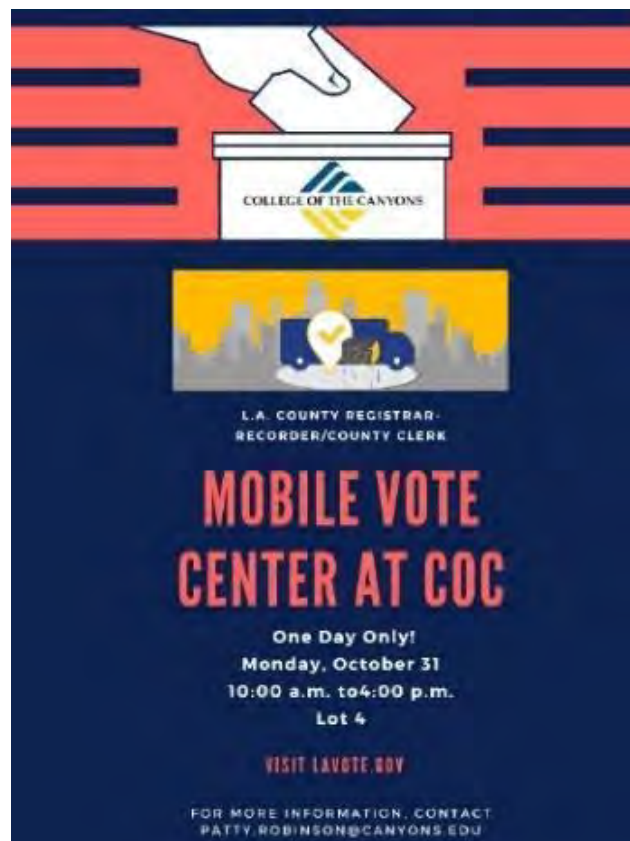
The flyer features a top border with a blue background and five white stars. Below this, the logos for College of the Canyons, PVCC, and Kirkwood are displayed. The main text reads 'SEPTEMBER 16TH CONSTITUTION DAY' in large, bold, blue letters. A QR code is positioned to the left of the subtitle 'Multi-Campus/Multi-State Deliberative Dialogue'. The primary topic is 'FREE SPEECH AND THE INCLUSIVE CAMPUS'. The event details include: 'Join our out-of-state peers for a collaborative dialogue.' followed by three time slots: '10:30-12:00 p.m. (PST) College of the Canyons, California', '12:30-2:00 p.m. (CST) Kirkwood Community College, Iowa', and '1:30-3:00 p.m. (EST) Piedmont Virginia Community College'. A Zoom link is provided: <https://canyonsonline.zoom.us/j/82756396002>. Contact information includes 'Dial by your location: +1 669 444 9171 US' and 'Meeting ID: 827 5639 6002'. The bottom of the flyer has a red border and the text 'For more information, contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)'.

### *Additional Opportunities*


- Enrolled Engage the Vote Student Action Team members in one-unit of internship credit for participating in 60 hours of work.
- Participated in the California Secretary of State's College and University Ballot Bowl.
- Provided a direct link to online voter registration on the COC Homepage.
- Disseminated flyers, emails, press releases, and reminders to the campus community about Engage the Vote activities, presentations, and deadlines.
- Distributed information about important guidelines and dates to the campus community

through emails, as well as by sending out a campus Engage the Vote guide to voting information.

- Organized an ESL student panel to discuss the importance of taking part in participatory democracy.
- Voter registration tables “personed” by ASG, Center for Civic Engagement, HUB Club, and Civic Engagement Club. Ruben Hoyos from the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project also worked a registration table.
- Sent out campuswide reminders about Voter Registration Week, Last Day to Register to Vote, Early Vote Day, and Election Day.
- Recognized as one of the nation’s best colleges for student voting, as reported in the *Washington Monthly*, August 28, 2022.
- Provided L.A. County Mobile Vote Center on campus October 31.
- Provided a table and distributed information about the Mobile Vote Center on October 31.



*Organized and facilitated in-person candidate forums, including:*




Presented by Associated Student Government, Engage the Vote Action Team, Civic Engagement Club, Center for Civic Engagement, & KHTS

# ENGAGE THE VOTE 2022

<b>OCTOBER</b> 2:30-4:30 P.M.	<b>12</b>	<b>SCV City Council Candidates' Forum</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b> 1:30-2:30 P.M. 2:30- 4:30 P.M. 4:30-5:30 P.M.	<b>13</b>	<b>A Conversation with Congressional Candidate Christy Smith</b> <b>William S. Hart Union High School District Trustees' Forum</b> <b>A Conversation with Assembly Candidate Pilar Schiavo</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b> 3:00-4:00 P.M. 4:00-5:00 P.M.	<b>18</b>	<b>A Conversation with Congressman Mike Garcia</b> <b>CANCELED</b> <b>A Conversation with Assembly Member Suzette Valladares</b>

DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK UNIVERSITY CENTER  
ROOM 258  
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS  
26455 ROCKWELL CANYON ROAD  
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355

Park in Lot #14 Free of Charge. Use QR Code for Campus Map.



For more information, contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)



**Organized and facilitated Virtual presentations for COC, as well as part of Bringing Theory to Practice's The Way Forward intersegmental grant project entitled Civic Dialogues:**

**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS**

**Civic Dialogues Series**  
10.07.22  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Equity, Quality, and Learning to Make a Difference: The Next Frontier for College Students' Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement**

Dr. Martha Kanter, CEO, College Promise and Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education (2009-2013) and Dr. Carol Geary Schneider, President Emerita, American Association of Colleges and Universities and Senior Advisor to the Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Coalition (CLDE)

Center for Civic Engagement  
Contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)




FLEX Credit Available  
Register through 3CSN:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoduGgrT8jHdKd8PLxa90EFhM-NciGaxUB>




**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS**

**ENGAGE THE VOTE 2022**

Presented by Associated Student Government, Engage the Vote Action Team, & Center for Civic Engagement

**THE 2022 CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITIONS**

**OCTOBER 5**  
12:00-1:00 P.M.

**JOHN FELIZ**

SENIOR FELLOW AT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIA AND POLITICS (ISPAM) AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

ZOOM LINK:  
[HTTPS://CANYONSONLINE.ZOOM.US/J/833384483881](https://canyonsonline.zoom.us/j/833384483881)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION  
+1 669 444 9171 US  
MEETING ID: 833 8448 3881

For more information, contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)



California Secretary of State Voter Guide



**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS**

**Civic Dialogues Series**  
10.18.22  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Educating for a Democracy in Question: The Role of the Faculty During Elections and Beyond**

Nancy Thomas  
Director, Institute for Democracy & Higher Education  
Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life  
Tufts University

Center for Civic Engagement  
Contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)




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Register through 3CSN:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoduGgrT8jHdKd8PLxa90EFhM-NciGaxUB>




**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS**

**Civic Dialogues Series**  
10.21.22  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Educating Citizen Professionals: How Pedagogy Can Connect Workforce Development with Public Engagement**

10.21.22  
Nicholas Longo  
Chair and Professor of Global Studies, Providence College

Center for Civic Engagement  
Contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)








FLEX Credit Available  
Register through 3CSN:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoduGgrT8jHdKd8PLxa90EFhM-NciGaxUB>




  
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

## ENGAGE THE VOTE 2022

Presented by Associated Student Government, Engage the Vote Action Team, Civic Engagement Club, & Center for Civic Engagement

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### HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW

**OCTOBER 25**  
12:00-1:00 P.M.

**JOHN FELIZ**  
CHIEF CONSULTANT FOR BOTH THE CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY AND SENATE

**GUEST APPEARANCE**

**WILLIE BROWN**  
FORMER MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO, SPEAKER OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY AND LONGEST-SERVING SPEAKER IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY, 1980-1995.

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**ZOOM LINK:**  
[HTTPS://CANYONSONLINE.ZOOM.US/J/81821038085](https://canyonsonline.zoom.us/j/81821038085)

**DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION**  
+1 669 444 9171 US  
MEETING ID: 818 2103 8085

For more information, contact  
[patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)

  
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

The Center for Civic Engagement  
10.26.22  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
The Power of Youth in Our Politics

**Scott Warren**  
Johns Hopkins University  
Founder and Former CEO of Generation Citizen





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<https://canyonsonline.zoom.us/j/84923399629>  
For more information, contact  
[patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)

  
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS



### CARNegie FOUNDATION CLASSIFICATION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Carnegie Foundation's Elective Classification for Community Engagement application provides institutions with an opportunity for self-assessment; an accountability measure for mission and commitment to public purpose, and the legitimacy of processes, institutional alignment, community partnerships, and outcomes. The workshop will include an overview of the application process and a discussion of strategies that have been effective for successful applications to demystify the application process.

**OCTOBER 28**  
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
**DR. DIANNE VAN HOOK UNIVERSITY CENTER**  
RM. 258  
**COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS**

Lunch Provided  
FLEX Credit Available

Register through 3CSN:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoduGgrT8jHdKd8PLxa9OEFhM-NciGaxUB>



Marisol Morales, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Carnegie Elective Classifications  
American Council on Education



Lauren Bartshe  
Associate Director of the Carnegie Elective Classifications  
American Council on Education

For more information,  
[contact.patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:contact.patty.robinson@canyons.edu)




  
COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

Civic Dialogues Series  
11.04.22  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Connecting Campus with Community:  
The Power of Civic Engagement

**Bobbie Laur**  
President  
Campus Compact

Center for Civic Engagement  
Contact [patty.robinson@canyons.edu](mailto:patty.robinson@canyons.edu)





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FLEX Credit Available  
Register through 3CSN:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcoduGgrT8jHdKd8PLxa9OEFhM-NciGaxUB>






Launched the “I Vote Because...” Campaign to gather short narratives to compile into a digital zine.



- Besides the hours of support provided by COC’s Associated Student Government officers and many faculty and academic departments, the Center for Civic Engagement will continue partnerships with local, regional, and national groups.

### Civic Dialogues Spring 2023



  
**Center for Civic Engagement**  
**Civic Dialogues Series**  
 Spring 2023  
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
 (March 17th Workshop, 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.)  
 FLEX Credit Pending

03.03  
Empowering Student Leadership Through Community Engagement & Holistic Support  
Keetha Mills, President and CEO, Foundation for California Community Colleges and Dr. Manuel Baca, Director, Board of Directors, Foundation for California Community Colleges

03.10  
Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement as a Cornerstone of the Integrative Mission of Community Colleges  
Dr. Carrie B. Kisker, President, Kisker Education Consulting and Director, Center for the Study of Community Colleges

03.17  
College of the Canyons’ Project-Based Learning Symposium, College of the Canyons, University Center, Rm. 258


03.24  
What Matters? How to Frame the Civic Mission, and How to Deliver It  
Dr. Brian Murphy, President Emeritus, De Anza Community College and Co-Founder, The Democracy Commitment

03.31  
Leveraging Campus and State Stakeholders to Foster Civic and Community Engagement  
Virginia “Ginni” May, President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

04.07  
Recognizing the Importance of Advocacy in Addressing Issues Affecting California’s Community Colleges  
Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, President, Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

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 Presented by  
 Bringing Theory to Practice, College of the Canyons, & the California Community Colleges’  
 Success Network (CSN)  
 Register at:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/zoom/register/1ZJocuaqDwpGgE-cbUjB6Yy5kh7aZLDxOZ>

# Civic Dialogues Fall 2023



**Center for Civic and  
Community Engagement  
Civic Dialogues Series  
Fall 2023  
(10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.  
on Zoom)  
FLEX Credit Pending**

09.29  
Nicole Webster, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Penn State University  
*The Importance of Civic and Community Engagement in Addressing Issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

10.06  
Scott J. Peters, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Global Development  
Cornell University  
*Learning from Stories of Relational Organizing in Higher Education: Practice and Promise*

10.27  
Clifford Harbour, J.D., Ed.D.  
Professor, Higher Education Program (Retired)  
Department of Counseling and Higher Education  
University of North Texas  
*Community College Occupational Education: Preparing Students for New Lives and New Worlds*

11.03  
Meira Levinson, Ph.D.  
Julianna W. and William Foss Thompson Professor of Education and Society  
Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Harvard University  
*How to Close the Civic Empowerment Gap: Let's Start by Addressing Civic Ethics*

11.17  
Peter Levine, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs  
Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life.  
*How to Handle the Hot Debates About Teaching History in U.S. Schools*



Presented by  
Bringing Theory to Practice, College of the Canyons, &  
the California Community Colleges' Success  
Network(3CSN). Contact  
patty.robinson@canyons.edu for more information.  
Register at:  
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjcoduGgrT8jHdKd8PLxa9OEFhM-NciGaxUB>

## National Voter Registration Day 2023

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS  
**NATIONAL VOTER  
REGISTRATION DAY**  
September 19th  
**BECAUSE  
YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**  
Center for Civic and  
Community Engagement  
Seco 101  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
You can do the  
following things:  
• Register to Vote  
• Learn How to Update Voter  
Record; Check Voter Status;  
Request a Vote by Mail; and Find  
Election Information  
For more information, please contact:  
patty.robinson@canyons.edu

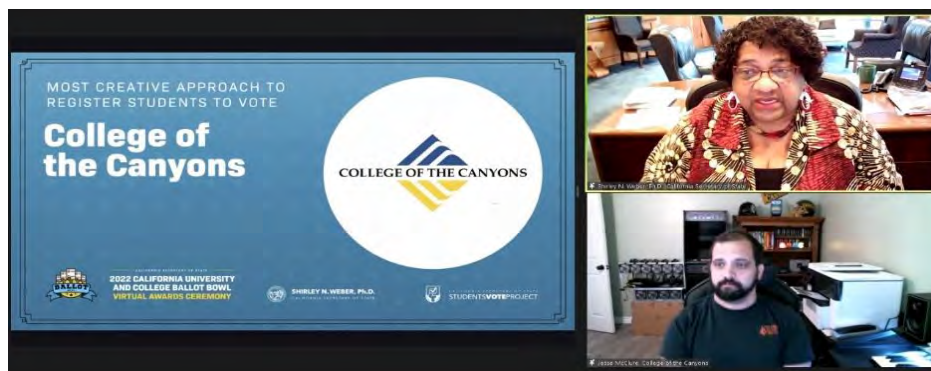
## Constitution Week 2023

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS Kirkwood Cerritos College NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM  
SEPTEMBER 20TH  
**CONSTITUTION  
WEEK**  
*Multi-Campus/Multi-State  
Deliberative Dialogue*  
**HOW SHOULD WE PREVENT  
MASS SHOOTINGS IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES?**  
Join our out-of-state peers for a collaborative dialogue.  
12:30-2:00 p.m. (PST) College of the Canyons, California  
12:30-2:00 p.m. (PST) Cerritos College, California  
2:20-4:00 p.m. (CST) Kirkwood Community College, Iowa  
3:30-5:00 (EST) National Issues Forum, Ohio  
<https://canyonsonline.zoom.us/j/6831559228>  
Dial by your location +1 609 444 9171 US  
Meeting ID: 683 155 9228  
For more information, contact  
patty.robinson@canyons.edu



The California Secretary of State Students Vote Project (SVP) presented the 2022 California University and College Ballot Bowl Virtual Awards Ceremony, May 3, 2023. COC was recognized for its work with Engage the Vote, fall 2022:

- Most Creative Approach to Register Students to Vote:
  - CCC: College of the Canyons
  - CSU: CSU Channel Islands
  - UC: UC Berkeley
  - AICCU: California College of the Arts



- Jesse McClure nominated by the faculty director and received the 2023 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll distinction.
- COC also received the Vote Friendly Campus Designation 2023-2024 (4<sup>th</sup> year) from ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

### **Vote Friendly Campus**

COC designated as a Vote Friendly Campus by the NASPA and Fair Elections Center’s Campus Vote Project Voter Friendly Campus program, which in 2023 is recognizing and supporting a network of 262 colleges and universities with strong commitments to nonpartisan democratic engagement. This designation will be in effect from March 2023 - December 2024.

### ***Long-Term Tactics***

College of the Canyons is working to embed aspects of P<sup>5</sup>BL and CLDE throughout the teaching and learning experience.

This long-term strategy is designed to embed Project-Based Learning into curricular and co-curricular venues to provide a pedagogical emphasis on real world/applied teaching and learning



grounded in civic learning and democratic engagement. P<sup>5</sup>BL is not a program of study but a teaching and learning pedagogy. As such, it supports all aspects of curricular and co-curricular instruction, as well as the Office of Instruction, by supporting student engagement through transdisciplinary, collaborative, real-world, experiential learning, internships, and action teams. As a teaching and learning pedagogy at COC, especially through its integration of CLDE, P<sup>5</sup>BL moves students from an earlier service model focused on hours to one focused on impact. Specifically, P<sup>5</sup>BL emphasizes design thinking, action research, social entrepreneurship, critical-thinking pedagogy, and asset-based community development. Its primary goal is to prepare students as informed, skilled, and citizens for democracy.

Experiential learning through PBL is most often offered, as well as practiced, in upper-division courses at four-year colleges and universities. However, our goal is to provide all students the opportunity to engage in a P<sup>5</sup>BL curricular or co-curricular experience while attending COC. Specifically, this means including some aspect of P<sup>5</sup>BL in an assignment and/or project in an introductory level class during a student's first year. By embedding P<sup>5</sup>BL throughout Career Education and General Education courses, every student will have the chance to experience real-world problem solving while employing P<sup>5</sup>BL techniques. It is here that students will identify social, cultural, and political issues that most affect their lives and discover ways to problem solve for change.

In addition, as the ETV Action Team moves civic learning and democratic engagement forward on campus, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement is focusing on how to engage students in real-world problem-solving of social issues by engaging in legislative research and writing. Working with faculty co-leads, Dr. Patty Robinson and Ms. Linda Beauregard-Vasquez, as well as receiving guidance from several political consultants and community members, students will address actual problems affecting the Santa Clarita Valley, state, and/or nation. ETV was offered as an internship last year, and the description for this one-unit internship, co-curricular, Project-Based Learning project follows below. Unfortunately, funding issues hampered proceeding with the project as an internship in fall; however, ETV continues as a not-for-credit action Team.

### **Engage the Vote Action Team Internship Spring 2023**

Let's face it. Today's world is filled with "wicked" problems—problems that lack clear definition and solving them seems almost impossible to do. However, the truth is that people can and do come together to affect change. If you want a better life for yourself and the people you love, this internship is for you!

For this internship, we will teach you how to become an agent of change, working to improve yourself, develop real-world career skills, and how to make a dent in wicked problems. We will begin by teaching you to ask the right questions and to figure out which questions must be asked that might otherwise be overlooked, so that you can then empower yourself, learn crucial career skills, and help solve some of the wicked problems we all face.

More importantly, you will have a chance to network with people from all walks of life to collaboratively create activities and events to help inform the campus community about important social issues affecting self and society.

This semester, interns will have opportunities to work on all or part of the following items:

- Work with top political consultants in California from both sides of the aisle, who are working with the Governor's office, multiple county supervisors (past and present), city councils, mayors, economic development personnel, and state and federal elected officials.
- Work directly with various community partners to create and amend other pieces of legislation.
- Help to create a model program to house, educate, train, and transition homeless people into productive lives with long-term housing, reduce or eliminate the fentanyl and opioid crisis, work on improving the mental health and reduction of mental illnesses for Californians, and other such topics with the goal of creating both legislation and results.
- Research and craft legislation that interests the intern for an issue that they are interested in pursuing.
- Draft descriptive narration to help create various pieces of legislation for topics of your choice.

Please note that additional guests will join our conversations!

In addition, team members can use their talents to explore ways to facilitate greater interest in participatory democracy, whether, for example, through facilitating dialogues, creating short videos, or organizing presentations.

Engage the Vote interns will meet weekly with Dr. Patty Robinson, Director, Civic and Community Engagement, and Ms. Linda Beauregard-Vasquez, English Instructor, via Zoom. (Depending on the activity, we will hold additional meetings in-person.) Students from all majors who want to connect with their peers and share with others, as well as to create a more inclusive environment, are welcome to apply for this internship. Engage the Vote will provide opportunities to maximize your talents, interests, and passions, no matter your academic discipline.

All majors are welcome to apply for this internship. Engage the Vote will provide opportunities to maximize your talents, interests, and passions, no matter your academic discipline.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND/OR SKILL SETS**

An Engage the Vote Intern shows the willingness to learn how to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking
- Express views in a non-partisan manner
- Identify social issues
- Utilize personal academic, social media, and/or artistic talents
- Engage others in participatory democracy
- Work collaboratively with peers and community members
- Engage in critical thinking
- Work to problem solve issues
- Collaborate through teamwork
- Communicate professionally
- Engage in deep learning and research
- Explore digital literacy
- Provide analysis
- Increase emotional intelligence
- Interns will enroll in the CWE course for internship credit

## **Plans for 2024**

- **Vote Center**

The Center for Civic and Community Engagement is currently planning for the 2024 election year. This includes working with the Los Angeles County RRCC to continue designating COC as an official voting site. (We hope that the new COC Intercultural Center will provide space for the March 5, 2024, California Primary Election, while another space will be confirmed for the November 5, 2024, General Election.)

- **Democracy Pocket Guide and Display Wall and Case**

The Center is also working with former COC Student Trustee, Jesse McClure, to create an elected official's pocket guide, democracy wall, and democracy case. The guide will provide a three-fold, wallet sized insert listing national, state, and local officials, as well as identifying senate, congressional, and assembly districts. The hope is that the guide can assist in educating students about their elected officials, as well as understanding the districts in which they reside. The democracy wall will provide a visual display of the same information located in the administration building, Canyons Hall, for campus visitors and students. The display will complement the existing photos of the COC Board of Trustees. The plan is to provide photos along with elected positions to help the public familiarize themselves with representatives. The same idea will also be duplicated in a democracy display case located outside the Center for Civic and Community Engagement, Seco 101.

- ***Civic Dialogues Speakers Series***

The virtual speakers' series known as Civic Dialogues, which is moving towards its fourth year, will also continue, as Dr. Patty Robinson works with Dr. Kimberly Rosenfeld, Cerritos College, to introduce some of the nation's leading researchers, practitioner, and scholars to the community arena. Five to six presenters will provide presentations during spring and fall 2024 semesters by addressing a variety of topics related to civic learning and democratic engagement.

- **Voter Registration**  
 COC will continue to register campus members throughout the year. Non-voters are encouraged to register either online or in-person. In-person registration is available year-round by either completing a registration form at the Office of Student Life and Campus Engagement or at the Center for Civic and Community Engagement. The faculty director plans to work with the Intercultural Center to supply hard copy voter registration forms in the Center to encourage non-registered students to register. In addition, the faculty director will also work with the Vice President of Student Services to discuss a way send out a blast text to students to remind them to register, as well as to vote before the California Primary and General Elections.
- **Public Dialogue and Conversation**  
 As the faculty director, civic and community engagement, begins her role serving on the Board of Directors for the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), she plans to hold multiple campuswide dialogues addressing a variety of social issues. Conversation addressing tough social issues is needed, as is problem-solving solutions.
- **Meet and Greet Local Officials**  
 Plans for the year include holding several Meet and Greet activities where students can sit down and talk informally with elected officials. The setting will include light refreshments. The goal is to have students—many of whom may be voting for the first time—learn more about what it means to serve in public office.
- **Candidate Forums**  
 As candidate names are solidified for various local and regional positions, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement will organize in-person candidate forums related to those offices up for election. The forums will be live-streamed via Zoom to provide information to a larger swath of the campus and community.
- **Understanding the Propositions**  
 As in previous years, information, likely in the form of a live presentation (which can be streamed and recorded) by a campus and/or community member will provide a non-partisan review of the current ballot measures.
- **Learning About the Voting Process**  
 Again, as with previous years, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement will partner with the Los Angeles County RRCC to provide a presentation on the basics of the voting process for new voters. Many new voters are unaware of how to meet deadlines, read a ballot, use voting machines, case a mail-in ballot, or find information about candidates, measures, and propositions.
- **Participating in the California Secretary of State’s Student Vote Project and Ballot Bowl**  
 College of the Canyons will continue to provide the California Secretary of State’s Office

with a copy of the college's annual vote plan, as well as meet the mandates of AB 963. Additional activities will include continued participation in the Ballot Bowl, as well as attend scheduled meetings of the Student Vote Project.

- **Continuing to Address Social Problems Using P<sup>5</sup>BL**

The ETV Action Team will remain committed to addressing a variety of topics related to community wellbeing, especially as the Center for Civic and Community Engagement continues to welcome LEAD California Youth Voice Youth Vote fellow.

- **Expanding Community Partnerships**

The Center for Civic and Community Engagement will work to expand community partnerships directly related to upcoming voter education, registration, and participation activities, including working with the local Santa Clarita Valley chapters of the NAACP and Zonta International.

## **Reporting**

COC's Faculty Director, Civic and Community Engagement, provides updates and revisions to this plan. In addition, she shares information with members of the Civic and Community Engagement Steering Committee, *Engage the Vote Student Action Team*, ASG, and several administrators, as she helps guide participants in ongoing reflection of successes and challenges. Review of the vote plan occurs annually, while strategies to meet the above goals remain fluid, as ideas shift. The faculty director shared COC's 2018 and 2020 NSLVE data with the campus community, as well as the most recent NSLVE report provided in September, 2022. As soon as the 2023 publication is available, she will also share the report with the campus community. In addition, press releases to local media send from COC's Public Information Office help disseminate information. Data are helping to shape future voter registration, education, and participation strategies for the upcoming March 5, 2024, California Primary Election and November 5, 2024, General Election, just as they did for the June 7, 2019, California Primary and 2022 Midterm Election. Using outcomes derived from the evaluation of the data, new strategies exist. NSLVE data are made available to the entire campus community, while several administrators receive the vote plan directly before being publicly posted on the ALL IN website. Lastly, the plan is also part of the Center for Civic and Community Engagement's annual program review.

## **Evaluation**

While COC continues to create an evaluation process which will gauge the impact of civic engagement and its related activities on participants, we will continue to monitor headcounts of participants or attendees. The Center is currently reviewing a variety of publications that discuss evaluation measures for civic engagement, as well as AAC&U's Civic Engagement VALUE Rubric (AAC&U, n.d.). In addition, COC was one of 18 colleges and universities selected to participate in the 2022 *AAC&U's Advancing Evidence on Civic and Community-Based Engagement in Higher Education Project*. Findings from our internal analysis clearly suggest our need to implement better assessment and measurement tools. As a result, of our work to move forward P<sup>5</sup>BL, along with its intersection with civic learning and democratic engagement, a handbook, rubric, and reflection assignment have been developed for faculty use. An 18-hour online faculty training course entitled *Teaching P<sup>5</sup>BL for Civic Inclusion and Closing the Equity*

Gap will be offered through COC's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning spring 2024. In addition, much reflection is taking place about our work, as well as how we can engage more campus stakeholders. Upper administration is interested in this work, as our revised *COC Strategic Plan* now addresses the Center's civic engagement work by emphasizing the role of applied learning:

***MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY*** *Building on the planning framework for partnerships and community engagement above, COC continues to be at the forefront of leadership and action on engagement in a community college setting. The College aspires for the Carnegie Foundation's elective classification for Civic and Community Engagement. This prestigious designation would recognize COC's ongoing leadership and efforts in this important domain. COC has an expansive concept for Integrative Learning, Civic and Community Engagement which has further developed engagement from concept into active practice and place, working with our community as co-educators to identify skills and competencies needed. This work also supports global literacy, awareness, and understanding of diverse perspectives and customs that can support staff and students in the navigation of complex and exciting challenges in a globalized world. To these ends, the College is guided by the following definition of civic and community engagement to help shape these efforts embedded in planning: Civic and community engagement means working to make a difference in the well-being of our communities, whether through political or non-political processes, while encouraging members to develop the knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make positive change. Civic and community work ranges from community organization, service, and advocacy to community-engaged learning based on real-world application focusing on inquiry, reflection, and action. It also means promoting the quality of life in a community, especially through mutually beneficial campus-community partnerships that promote collaboration and reciprocity to foster social responsibility for the public good through the sharing of co-knowledge, co-education, and co-production of solutions to address community issues. (Note: This definition was informed by Thomas Ehrlich (2000) and the Carnegie Foundation)*

In addition,

*Integrative Experiential Learning College of the Canyons provides opportunities for the College community to engage in experiential learning with learners taking a more active role in doing hands on work and then reflecting about their new knowledge in a way that enhances their learning experience. This work includes project-based learning, which identifies and creates meaningful community relationships with local schools, colleges and universities, businesses, government, and social agencies. This work is part of larger curricular and co-curricular initiatives that help to create a civic-minded College culture that infuses community-based learning, civic ethos, civic literacy, civic inquiry, and civic action throughout the College (COC 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, pages 20-21).*

COC also applied for the Carnegie Elective Classification for Civic Engagement on May 1, 2023. The faculty director, civic and community engagement, was informed on December 15, 2023, that COC achieved the designation. COC was the only California community college—out of 116 campuses—to submit an application. Although an arduous and exhausting process, the self-study is an excellent way to examine the civic and community work taking place on one's campus. (This

process is especially important for community colleges.) COC also submitted the narrative for the first-time Carnegie Classification for Leadership for the Public Purpose to Carnegie on December 9, 2023. Again, while an exhaustive process, the self-study rendered much self-reflection, as well as identified areas in need of growth.

Reflecting on the work of the 2022 Midterm Election, we must find a different a more effective way to communicate directly with students, since overall student participation in events was low. This also includes the participation of faculty and departments that one traditionally thinks would most likely support civic learning and democratic engagement. It is important for faculty to understand participatory democracy is everyone's responsibility. In addition, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement and academic disciplines that often think of this work as "their work," need to collaborate more, since Engage the Vote work requires the support of all campus groups. In addition, there is a need for greater collaboration with the Intercultural Center and student alliances, clubs, and honor societies, as well as better coordination of cross-campus activities and partnerships. With increased staff support possible in the upcoming year, increased collaboration and outreach is possible.

While communication strategies have relied on faculty and staff, this may not be the most effective way to reach Generation Z. Campus regulations protect student communication, as it should, from inundating students with endless messages; however, there is a great need to send messages directly to students through instant messaging. This is a real and necessary conversation for future elections, since we can no longer assume students are paying attention to voter information posted by third parties on course Canvas shells. Direct communication is the most effective tool to reach young voters. The 2022 Midterm Election cycle has illustrated this point and shown how the entire campus must get involved with voter registration, voter education, and voter participation. In other words, Engage the Vote cannot depend on a few campus champions but needs *all* campus stakeholders. To engage students in civic learning and democratic engagement, it takes a campus, not one office, department, or program. Our hope is to implement a better communication process this coming year to "rally" student voter participation.

It is also apparent that a vast majority of students, faculty, staff, and community members remain unaware of their local voting districts, unfamiliar with their elected officials, and uninformed about the role of local officials or local laws, much less have knowledge of their rights and duties as discussed in the United States Constitution. Because of this lack of knowledge, Jesse McClure, former COC Student Trustee, is creating a *Santa Clarita Valley Engage the Vote Pocket Guide and Democracy Wall*. Lastly, comparisons between past and current NSLVE data will assist with the evaluation of the CCE's overall action plan. In addition, the *Democratic Action Plan Rubric* created by the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition continues to provide guidance (Students Learn Students Vote, 2019: 27-28). (See also Assembly Bill 963 Toolkit, 2021.)

## **Conclusion**

As an institution of higher education, College of the Canyons can no longer allow its students to observe as spectators nor to watch as bystanders, especially as local, national, and global problems escalate. To address social issues collectively is a basic tenet of democracy, as John Stuart Mill proclaimed in 1859, since the sovereignty of a nation lives in its people or, more precisely, its

citizenry (Mill, 2002). In fact, “A morally and civilly responsible individual recognizes himself or herself as a member of a larger social fabric,” suggests Ehrlich and “considers social problems to be at least partly his or her own.” (Ehrlich, 2000:xxvi). Therefore, to act, especially through voter engagement, is paramount to ensure the continued wellbeing of society (Bowen, 2010). The Center for Civic Engagement, *Engage the Vote Student Action Team*, and the Integrative, Civic, and Community Engagement Work Group has done much to bring attention to social concerns in the campus community by organizing presentations, events, workshops, summits, and dialogues. *Making the Invisible Visible* frames our Engage the Vote work, since it is time that political engagement becomes visible. With the help of *Engage the Vote: A Campus Voting Action Plan and Report, 2023-2024*, we are confident that by 2024, student voices will increase.

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