



## Community College of Rhode Island 2024 Nonpartisan Democratic Engagement Action Plan

### **Executive Summary**

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) for the 2024 election.

CCRI serves over 15, 000 students across the state of Rhode Island, with four physical campus locations; Warwick, Lincoln, Providence, and Newport.

The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement by increasing; student voter registration, education for democratic engagement, and physical turnout in the 2024 election.

Our primary goal for the next several months is to establish a campus coalition focused on increasing CCRI students' civic engagement through outreach and education. This will require relationship building, idea generation and implementation, and resource sharing.

The coalition will focus on specific goals of better understanding our voter data, adding voter registration to New Student Orientation, and increasing communications about important voting dates and information.

### **Campus Partners**

The team working on this initiative will include the following departments, campus groups, and organizations:

Daniel Tovar, Coordinator of Student Engagement – Point Person for Action Plan  
Emma Montague, Dean, Student Engagement  
Christine Jenkins, Associate Dean, Student Engagement  
Laurie Sherman, Advisor to the PTK Student Group  
Student Leaders from PTK Student Group  
Political Science/Social Science faculty  
Student Government Leadership  
Local Government Agencies  
Organizers of the National Voter Registration Day

The Students Learn Students Vote Coalition  
And local elected officials

### **PTK Involvement and Guidance with Goals:**

The Office of Student Engagement is partnering with CCRI's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Pi Omicron to develop this action plan, convene a planning committee for the implementation of this action plan, represent student voice on the planning committee and to help with contextual knowledge that would serve as helpful to move this action plan forward.

Having PTK on board will ensure peer-to-peer voter engagement which has proven to be helpful in recruiting college students to turn out to vote.

### **Our Commitment**

The CCRI Mission is to offer recent high school graduates and returning adults the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for intellectual, professional and personal growth through an array of academic, career and lifelong learning programs

Based on our mission, it is critical for us, as a community, to deliver the importance of civic engagement to our students. As a community college, we serve our local community and thus are committed to engaging with all that our community represents.

We aim to support our students becoming informed individuals who feel a sense of responsibility to themselves, to others, and to society.

### **Landscape**

CCRI is a public community college. We are a Hispanic Serving Institution, serving the State of Rhode Island. As a commuter campus, our in-person students come from the surrounding Rhode Island towns.

The following is demographic information about CCRI's student population:

- Fall 2023 total enrollment: 12,518
- Full-time: 5,072 (41%); Part-time: 7,446 (59%)
- Gender: 60% female, 35% male, 5% unspecified
- Race/ethnicity: 3% Asian, 11% Black or African American, 28% Hispanic or Latinx, 6% Other/Unknown, 6% Two or more races, and 46% White

The dates below are upcoming important election dates for Rhode Island

- € August 21 - September 9: Early voting and emergency mail ballot period - primaries
- € September 10: Party Primaries
- € October 6: Deadline to register to vote in the general election
- € October 15: Deadline to submit mail ballot applications - General Election
- € October 16 - November 4: Early voting and emergency mail ballot period - General Election
- € November 5: General Election

## Goals:

Our institution's nonpartisan democratic engagement goals for this year are:

- Establish a campus civic engagement coalition, with representation from faculty, staff, students, and college leadership.
  - Meet regularly to plan civic engagement programming (as outlined in strategy section below) and to assess effectiveness.
- Have our president sign the [ALL IN Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation](#).

## Strategy

The Community College of Rhode Island will implement the strategies above to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

### Important Dates

- **Mid/Late September 2024 - National Voter Registration Day Event:** The college will partner with local voting organizations to host a voter registration drive. This event will have opportunities to register and provide important information on voting at the local, state, and national levels. We will have food and giveaways.
- **October 7 – 11: National Voter Education Week:** During this week, the college will host a Voter Education Event which will include: a voter registration drive, information regarding getting to know what will be on the ballot and where to find this information depending on where the student is registered to vote and information on planning to vote and understand the entirety of the voting process including early voting.
- **Late October - Early Voting Celebration:** To celebrate Vote Early Day, CCRI will host an event guiding our community toward early voting processes and where to find the accurate information to cast their ballot early. The event will also outline the benefits to voting early and how to support friends and family with their voting plans. There will be snacks and giveaways for attendees.
- **November 5: Election Day** – we will table on this date to remind students to vote and provide food and giveaways. We'll guide community members, including students, to polling sites along nearby bus routes since our campuses are situated on RITPA bus routes.

In addition to the specific events listed above, we will create a website within the CCRI website devoted to civic engagement. This site will provide links to voter registration sites, voting info for residents of RI, and important dates. This is where we will share our NSLVE data, info about our campus coalition, and other opportunities to be engaged.

We also hope to develop programming that supports students and CCRI community members to have facilitated discussions about politics and current issues in thoughtful and respectful ways. It is our goal to keep building upon this plan so that we can have a strong campaign for voter registration each academic year.

## **Evaluation**

We are looking to re-enroll in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement and have this data be used as a metric for voter registration statistics and comparison. CCRI will evaluate the increase of student voting by comparing our campus voter turnout and voter registration rates to past elections to measure progress on increasing both.

We will also track attendance at events and programming.

## **Reporting**

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

- Our action plan will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.
- Our campus NSLVE reports will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.