



DUQUESNE VOTES!

This Duquesne University All In Campus Democracy Challenge Action Plan was developed to: increase civic learning, political engagement, and voting rates for the 2020 presidential election among our campus community—encouraging participation in the democratic process as a Core Value at Duquesne University.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission and History

Duquesne University was founded in 1878 by Catholic missionaries known as the Spiritans. As a school originally founded to serve the children of Pittsburgh’s impoverished immigrant population, the university has grown to become one of the leading institutions of higher education in western Pennsylvania. Through the last two centuries, Duquesne has exemplified its unwavering commitment to serve students, give back to the community in which we live and work, and provide an education for the mind, heart, and spirit.

Background

The mission of the University and the Spiritan charism of our founding congregation frame the social justice-oriented nature of the University to ensure that community engagement is a hallmark of our students' collegiate experience. In pursuit of this mission, the Duquesne University community has historically worked with local and global communities; providing support in order to make a positive and sustainable difference by addressing the most pressing public issues of our world alongside stakeholders such as community members, community-based agencies, legislators, etc.

Coalition

The Duquesne University Coalition—comprised of staff and faculty representatives from student life, academic affairs, community engagement, mission and identity, the library, center for teaching excellence, global engagement, athletics, and students—developed this action plan to increase our campus community’s civic engagement and voter turnout. Our aim for the 2020 presidential election is to increase voter registration, education, and participation among Duquesne University students.

All In Membership

As new members to the All In Democracy Challenge, we do not currently have access to historical student voter engagement data, and therefore, are using the 2020 election to establish our baseline goals. Our goals for our inaugural membership year are:

- Achieve a 2020 student Voting Rate of 25%.
- Achieve a 2020 student Registration Rate of 35%.
- Achieve a 2020 Rate of Registered Students who Voted of 25%.

LEADERSHIP

The action plan was developed by the following coalition members:

Leader

Dr. Jessica Mann, Assistant Vice President for Community Engagement
Institution: Duquesne University City/State: Pittsburgh, PA
Office: Office of Community Engagement and Government Affairs
Email: mannj@duq.edu
Phone: (412) 396-5893

Membership

Sherene Brantley, Associate Athletic Director, Academic and Student Services, Senior Woman Administrator, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Duquesne Athletics

Dr. Joseph DeCrosta, Executive Director
Center for Global Engagement

Luci-Jo DiMaggio, Director of Mission Animation
Mission and Identity

Dr. Erik Garrett, Associate Professor
Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies

Joan Hilton, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Community Engagement
Office of Community Engagement and Government Affairs

Dr. Anthony Kane, Director
Diversity and Inclusion

Amber Lasure, Assistant Director Wellness and Fitness
Center for Student Wellbeing

Tim Lewis, Director
Commuter Affairs

Dr. Mary Parish, Associate Director of Online Learning & Strategy
Academic Affairs

Angelle Pryor, Assistant Director of Programs, Partnerships, and Business Operations
Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research

Dr. Erin Rentschler, Associate Director for Faculty Development
Center for Teaching Excellence

Diana Sasso, Assistant University Librarian for Teaching, Research and Engagement
Gumberg Library

Dr. Alydia Thomas, Associate Director for Student Development and Programming
Office of Residence Life

Dr. Adam Wasilko, Assistant Vice President of Student Involvement
Center for Student Involvement

Nubia Williams, Student Development Graduate Assistant
Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research

Leadership Responsibilities within Coalition

Dr. Jessica Mann, Coordinator of the Civic Action Plan

Dr. Adam Wasilko, Coordinator of Freshman Advisement Summer Transition (FAST)

Dr. Anthony Kane, Coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion Programming

Dr. Alydia Thomas, Coordinator of Residential Student Programming

Timothy Lewis, Coordinator of Commuter Student Programming

Angelle Pryor, Coordinator of Voter Registration, Activity Calendar, Polling Places and Election Day Engagement

Diana Sasso, Coordinator of Library Engagement

Community Engagement Scholars, Coordinators of Student Advocacy Coalition, Student Debate Watch Parties

CETR Undergraduate Staff, Coordinators of Campus and Social Media Outreach

Coalition Meetings

Our entire coalition group was only able to meet in person once prior to mandated COVID-19 shelter in place orders were implemented. Our core coalition group, however, has met several times virtually in order to proceed with enrolling in the challenge and creating the action plan. The core group plans to continue to meet twice weekly leading up to the general election on November 3, 2020. The full coalition group will re-convene after the institution solidifies their Fall 2020 plan.

Succession Plan

Our plan for leadership succession is to allow for each department to designate representation due to vacancies.

Student Organizations and Clubs

With the assistance of the Assistant Director of Student Organization Services, *Center for Student Involvement*, Mike Cecil, we hope to partner with the following student organizations to collaboratively program for student voter registration, education, and voting.

American Bar Association/Law Student Division

American Constitution Law Society

American Constitution Law Society

Animal Law Society

Black Greek Council

Black Law Students Association

Black Student Union

BSNES Multicultural STEM Group

Campus YMCA Congress

Christian Legal Society

Collegiate 100

Corporate Law Society

Duquesne College Democrats

Duquesne Hillel Jewish Students Organization

Duquesne Intellectual Property Law Association

Duquesne Italian-American Law Society

Duquesne University College Republicans

Duquesne University Cultural Ambassadors
Duquesne University Undergraduate Mock Trial Team
Ebony Women: Women for Social Change
Education Initiative for Individual Diversity
Education Law and Policy Society
Election Law Society
Environmental Law Society
Evergreen
Family Law Society
Federalist Society - Duquesne Law Chapter
Filipino American Student Association of Duquesne
First Generation Society
Gender Forum
Graduate and Professional Student Council
Health Law Society
Hispanic American Bar Association
Intercultural Business Student Association
International and Immigration Law Society
International Students Organization
Jewish Law Students Association
Labor & Employment Law Society
Lambda
Latin American Student Association
Military Law Society
Muslim Student Association
NAACP
Older and Wiser Law Students
Phi Alpha Delta
Political Science Club
Pre-Law Society
Public Interest Law Association
Puerto Rican Student Association (PRSA)
Saudi Student Organization
School of Law - Office of Student Organizations
School of Law DUQ's UKEs
Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS
Chapter at Duquesne University)
Sports and Entertainment Law Society

Student Bar Association
Student Government Association
Student Wellbeing Club
Women's Law Association
Young Americans for Liberty

External Partners

Allegheny County Elections Office
All In Campus Democracy Challenge
Ask Every Student
Campus Vote Project
Civic Nation
Democracy Works
Every Vote Counts
League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh (LWVGP)
National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE)
Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)
PA Student Voter Coalition (PASVC)
Rock the Vote
TurboVote
Voter Friendly Campus

COMMITMENT

The mission of Duquesne University expresses a profound concern for moral and spiritual values as well as a strong emphasis on service to the church, the community, the nation, and the world. Moreover, the current strategic plan for the university, *Re-Imagining Duquesne's Spiritan Legacy for a New Era*, plays a crucial role in shaping our direction for the future. Within the plan, it clearly outlines in Strategic Imperative 1 "identifying pathways to offer students the knowledge and skills needed to have fulfilling and successful lives and careers in the 21st century by providing a safe, comfortable, interactive living environment that fosters the growth of students as citizens and incorporating civil discourse into the curriculum." Strategic Imperative #2 outlines Duquesne's commitment to community engagement and its desire to enhance the University's community engagement initiatives in order to promote civic awareness among the entire campus community.

LANDSCAPE

Service and justice are core values deeply rooted in Duquesne's history and unique Spiritan identity. Duquesne University was founded on Oct. 1, 1878, as Pittsburgh Catholic College by the Rev. Joseph Strub and the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. The College's 40 students and six faculty members held classes in rented space above a bakery on Wylie Avenue, in Pittsburgh's lower Hill District. The institution was founded to educate children of local immigrant families. Duquesne moved to its current home on the Bluff, in 1885. According to the

Hill District Consensus Group, the Greater Hill District includes the Bluff, Uptown, and Hill District neighborhoods and is bounded by Sixth Avenue to the West, Boulevard of the Allies to the South, Robinson Street to Aliquippa Street to Centre Avenue to the Southeast, to Bigelow Boulevard to the East and North. From Wylie Avenue to the Bluff, Duquesne has always made a home in the Greater Hill District.

Duquesne students and faculty are involved in a wide range of community-engaged projects at the state, national, and global level while maintaining partnerships with a large number of hyper-local Pittsburgh-based agencies and community organizations. Duquesne University's Collaboratory, a database of community engagement and public service activities, includes over 700 community agencies and lists more than 100 activities that the campus community has partnered on over the past two years.

Assessment of Current Work and Outcomes

We have tremendous room to grow in regard to student participation and the coordination of a unified effort to engage students in the civic process. To our present knowledge, the institution does not currently have an existing system or process for registering, educating, and mobilizing students to the polls.

•Overview: What are the main goals your campus has for carrying out democratic engagement in 2020?

- Voter Registration
 - Register as many students as possible to vote. We will utilize TurboVote to help remove technical barriers related to the process.
- Voter Education
 - Make information available and easily accessible to all students regarding the process and purpose of voting as well as details specific to the upcoming 2020 general election. We plan to offer ample opportunities for voter education through workshops, debate watch parties, and other events both on campus and virtually.
 - Create a comprehensive non-partisan voter guide to help students find more information on presidential candidates as well as senatorial candidates and judges.
 - Explore the creation of digital modules to provide voter education, current state of voting rights, voting basics, and information literacy.
- Voter Turnout
 - Because we were not able to currently review our 2018 NSLVE report, we set a goal to increase voter turnout to 20% of our student body. To accomplish this, we plan to offer a diverse slate of activities to encourage students to vote. To our knowledge, this is the first time our campus has put together a campus-wide effort to mobilize students for civic engagement.

Outside of our coalition, we hope to work with constituencies across campus such as: Public Safety, Office of the Registrar, and ESL.

Goals

Short Term (2020 Presidential Election)

- Achieve a 2020 student Voting Rate of 25%.
- Achieve a 2020 student Registration Rate of 35%.
- Achieve a 2020 Rate of Registered Students who Voted of 25%.

Long Term

Our long-term goal is to foster students' civic development, encouraging their lifelong active participation in the community. To move toward that goal over the next 10 years, we hope to:

- Inspire the University President sign on to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation
- Increase voter participation to over 90% for eligible voters
- Meaningfully engage students who are not eligible to vote including international and undocumented students
- Expand opportunities for students to stay engaged in the community all year long

Strategy

Voter Registration

- TurboVote
 - We will partner with TurboVote in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years.
- Voter Registration during Orientation
 - In partnership with the Center for Student Involvement, a formalized process is being developed for the orientation experience where students have the opportunity to register to vote through the TurboVote platform or sign up to receive election related reminders.
- Civic Engagement and Voter Registration Event
 - Gumberg Library will partner with national libraries for a registration event led by American University
- Constitution Day
 - Constitution Day program is in development
- National Voter Registration Day
 - We will be hosting an event on campus to get as many students as we can registered to vote on National Voter Registration Day. We will collaborate with TurboVote and the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh (LWVGP)
- Debate Watch Parties
 - During the Fall 2020 semester, students will be able to register to vote at any debate watch party

- Faculty Involvement
 - We plan to coordinate with faculty members to encourage their students to register to vote in the first weeks of classes. A list of courses that incorporate civic engagement in their sections has been created to target faculty and their students for outreach and inclusion
- Increasing Availability of Information
 - We plan to create bulletin boards that provide voter registration information, voter guides, and sample ballots, that will be showcased in different offices and highly-frequented locations around the university.

Voter Education

- Debate Watch Parties
 - Through hosting debate watch parties, students will have access to learning about candidates and their various viewpoints related to their candidacy and the election.
- “Duquesne Votes!” Information Website
 - Develop a website that is regularly updated to provide information about voter registration, information for voting, sample ballots, candidate issue guides, upcoming events, and other resources that may prove helpful to students.
- Voter Information Flyers
 - We plan to regularly distribute voter information flyers with non-partisan details on candidate issues, voter registration information, and promotions for early voting.
- University Mass Email
 - We will send a mass email regarding voter information and registration in the beginning weeks of the Fall 2020 semester. The mass email will include links to TurboVote and other resources on voting, as well as information for upcoming events surrounding civic engagement.

Voter Participation

- University Mass Email/Targeted Emailing/Election Engagement Strategy
 - TurboVote
 - We plan to partner with TurboVote in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years.
 - We plan to send a mass email regarding voter information and registration in the beginning weeks of the fall 2020 semester. The mass email will include links to websites and other resources on voting as well as information for upcoming events surrounding civic engagement. Later in the semester we will send another email to students reminding them about early voting and Election Day and provide information on how they can find their polling place.

- Students will be able to send emails to pryora@duq.edu with questions or concerns they have regarding the elections. Angelle Pryor will read and respond to said emails as quickly as she can.
- Bulletin Boards
 - We plan to create bulletin boards that have voter registration forms, voter guides, sample ballots, and issue guides that will go to different offices and student-heavy locations around the university.
- Flyer Distribution
 - In the days leading up to the general Election, we will post and distribute flyers encouraging students to get out and vote.
- Social Media
 - We will organize social media campaigns to encourage student engagement and voting. This will involve sending regular updates through various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) across multiple accounts to remind students of important deadlines and other pertinent information regarding the elections, deadlines, and the candidates
- Blackboard
 - We are hopeful to partner with Blackboard administrators to have reminders on the Blackboard homepage for students and faculty members with information about general election day voting.
- Election Day
 - Parade to the Polls to motivate those who have to vote at community polling places
- Election Results Watch Party
 - We will host a watch party to reveal the election results on campus.

Available Resources

- We will seek out opportunities for grants from outside groups to be used toward our civic engagement efforts; for example, Ask Every Student and the Andrew Goodman Foundation
- We will be co-sponsoring a number of events with other offices across campus, including Student Involvement, Residence Life, Commuter Affairs, Center for Student Wellbeing, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the library
- We will be co-sponsoring a number of events with student organizations across campus, including the possibility of “Election Pre-Flection” and “Election Reflection” spaces, perhaps virtual and “Civic Conversations”

Challenges and Limitations

- COVID-19 restrictions will pose a challenge to reaching the entire student population
- The lack of NSLVE data from prior elections prevents data-based goalsetting for the 20/21 academic year

- Many students at Duquesne commute to and from campus, therefore we have partnered with Commuter Affairs to reach our commuter students

Tentative Calendar of Events

- August 16-18 – Orientation Voter Registration & Education
- August 26, 2020 – Women’s Equality Day Voter Registration & Education
- September 7, 2020 – Labor Day Voter Registration & Education
- September 9, 2020 – [OFFICIAL EMAIL] About Voter Registration, Events, and Resources
- September 11, 2020 – Patriot Day Voter Registration & Education
- September 15-22 – Voter Registration Week Event – Gumberg Library
- September 17,2020 – Constitution and Citizenship Day Event
- September 22, 2020 – National Voter Registration Day Event
- ??, 2020 – [Official Mass Email] About Voter Registration, Events, and Resources
- October 12, 2020 – Indigenous People’s Day/Native American’s Day/Columbus Day
- October 19, 2020 – Last day to register to Vote for general election
- October 27, 2020 – Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot
- ??, 2020 – Party at the Polls
- November 3, 2020 – General Election
- November 11, 2020 – Veteran’s Day Voter Registration & Education
- January 18, 2021 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Civil Rights Day
- February 1, 2021 – National Freedom Day Voter Registration & Education
- February 15, 2021 – President’s Day Voter Registration & Education
- March 31, 2021 – Cesar Chavez Day Voter Registration & Education
- May 1, 2021 – Law Day Voter Registration & Education
- May 31, 2021 – Memorial Day

Proposed events yet to be scheduled:

- Debate Watch Parties
- Election Pre-Flection – Provide a space for students to write and talk about upcoming election
- Election Reflection – Provide a space for students to write and talk about past elections
- Democracy Plaza – Have a space on campus for community to express feelings about democracy
- Civic Conversations – Programming centered around conversations about civic engagement
- Pass the Mic – A community dialogue where a mic is passed from one speaker to another
- Real Talk – Small group, unfiltered talk about issues related to elections, voting, etc.
- Voter Information and Additional Voter Registration Events

- Tunnel of Oppression - 20-30-minute interactive theater that challenges the way we think about marginalized groups. Allows participants to experience biased behaviors and the perpetuation of racist stereotype

Additionally, events will arise throughout the election cycle that will be added as unanticipated events.

Reporting

This action plan will be shared with all members of the larger coalition, posted on the "Duquesne Votes!" website and incorporated into reports to upper administration. We will also share the data from the NSLVE report on the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) website under Government Relations. Where applicable, we will also share updates and information through social media channels and official University news outlets.

Evaluation

The core coalition will lead the assessment evaluation process, building on engagement data from the 20/21 academic year. The data will then be used to improve process and procedure for future civic engagement initiatives campus wide. Data including campus event and program attendance, participant satisfaction, and NSLVE voter participation will be used. We will share the information gathered with all of the coalition members and upper administration, and plan to share with the broader campus community as appropriate.