



# EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

## Executive Summary

Eastern Arizona College (EAC) is dedicated to providing our students with opportunities to embrace civic learning and democratic engagement to better prepare them as informed voters. Our action plan is to be implemented campus-wide, providing the necessary resources for our students to become more engaged citizens. This action plan was written by Travis Catt, the leader of the EAC Votes Coalition. This plan will be implemented at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Arizona, and is a living document, and will be altered as on-campus climate changes. This action plan outlines goals and strategies that will be used in 2024/2025. We intend to register student voters, increase community participation, and empower students to learn about voting in their communities. This plan will be implemented by student Democracy Fellows, members of the non-partisan club, interested faculty members, and EAC leadership.

## Leadership

The leadership team for civic engagement at EAC is led by Travis Catt. He is also responsible for supervising the Democracy Fellows at EAC. Other members of this coalition include Dean Gary Sorensen, assorted faculty members, and the advisors for the Democrat and Republican student clubs. Other engaged groups on campus include: athletics, student life, and residence life. We seek to engage *all* students at EAC by interacting with the broader population on a regular basis and inviting *all* faculty to give input to the coalition. In the event that Travis Catt is to leave his position at EAC, this action plan will be handed down, and Emma Burns of CVP will train his replacement to ensure that civic engagement programs can continue on this campus.

## Commitment

Eastern Arizona College leadership is deeply committed to the success of this program. Our Dean, Gary Sorenson, has been a fierce supporter and advocate for civic engagement efforts on campus, and acts as a faculty liaison to garner support for our initiatives. Recently, we were able to bring our Chief Government Relations Officer, Non-partisan club advisor, and 5 students to the Arizona Student Voting summit to demonstrate even further to leadership the importance of this work and the impact that it can have statewide.

The College also currently has a strong working relationship with the Graham County Democratic Party and the Graham County GOP Committee. The EAC History and Political Science departments encourage students to attend and participate in democratic and political events held on campus. In addition, ASEAC (Student Council) supports and promotes student participation in civic engagement. EAC already hosts a polling place on campus for all elections held in our county. We continue to build relationships with athletic departments and residence life to have a broader impact on campus.

## Landscape

Eastern Arizona College is a Hispanic Serving, Native American Serving Non-Tribal, and Rural Serving Institution, making accessible registration and voter information available is critical as the student



# EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

body is composed of vulnerable voter populations. EAC is also the home to the [#1 nursing program in the state](#) with numerous other healthcare options available. Against comparable careers, healthcare professions have [significantly lower voting rates](#), making frequent reminders and accessible registration key in ensuring *all* students, not just those in the political silo, are active civic participants.

EAC is also located in an area where student housing is scarce, with approximately 150 students on the waiting list for on-campus accommodation. As a result, upwards of 350 students reside in the dorms.

As Eastern Arizona College is located in a remote area where students attending EAC outnumber the city's total population, students rely heavily on events hosted on campus for social interaction, information, and community engagement.

## Goals

Our Goal here at Eastern Arizona College is that with the help of outside organizations like the Campus Vote Project and ALL IN, our students will be more informed than before on the importance of being part of civic learning and democratic engagement. In the end, we want all of our students to trust in the voting system so they can help their community and not turn their back on it. In the next ten years, EAC hopes to increase the number of students embracing democratic engagement and becoming more involved in helping this project continue. During the next two years, EAC hopes that many more of our students will become aware of the importance of becoming civically engaged. We have already taken the first steps in accomplishing this by being designated a Voter Friendly Campus by the Campus Vote Project, as well as finalizing the process to start receiving NSLVE data from Tufts University to best analyze the needs of our students.

## NSLVE

Historically, we have not been a participant in the NSLVE program. We have authorized the use of this program for 2024/2025 and will use this data to inform our future action plans. We have collected data in the past, however, that informs our strategy.

In 2022, We had over 200 of our 500 incoming full time freshman register to attend Monster Bridge, reaching 40% of the student body in informing them of voter registration in Arizona and handing out registration forms. We also hosted an early vote location, where one student said "I went in and realized I didn't know nearly enough to make an informed decision. I'm glad I came in to vote early, because now I am going to go home and do my research so I can vote the right way next week"- this shows us that although students are enthusiastic about voting on campus, we need to work to bridge the education gap. Looking at student voting demographics on campus, (as referenced above), EAC is the home to the [#1 nursing program in the state](#) with numerous other healthcare options available. Against comparable careers, healthcare professions have [significantly lower voting rates](#), making



# EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

frequent reminders and accessible registration key in ensuring *all* students, not just those in the political silo, are active civic participants. This shows us that we need to concentrate efforts in areas where students would otherwise not receive critical election information.

## Strategy

We will partner with Campus Vote Project to train all resident advisors in proper voter registration techniques. These RAs will host one Fall semester event where students can check their voter registration status and register to vote at their current address.

Voter registration efforts will not be confined to residential halls, however. As Eastern Arizona College is located in a remote area where students attending EAC outnumber the city's total population, students rely heavily on events hosted on campus for social interaction, information, and community engagement. In response, EAC strives to host frequent fun and educational events to engage the entire student body. In order to register the maximum number of students possible to vote, we plan to provide an opportunity for students to register to vote at *every* high-attendance campus event throughout the academic year. These events include, but are not limited to, Monster Rush (EAC Club and Resource Fair), Constitution Day, Kindness Day, the annual Volleyball home opening game, and regularly hosted socials and school dances. Opportunities to register will not end after the election season. We will offer upcoming election information at the Halloween Spooktacular, Bonfire, Homecoming Parade, and Dia de los Muertos events. We also intend to offer registration opportunities at events like the late January Cash for College event and the Spring transfer college fair.

We also plan to use Ask Every Student funds to supply event mini-grants to existing student organizations that wish to plan and participate in Civic Holiday programming and student voter registration. In order to ensure that these events are successful and well staffed, we will be paying small stipends to faculty participants. In order to receive funds, these members of staff would have to attend monthly coalition meetings, attend and participate in 3 VR events per calendar year, and attend one voter registration and dialogue training session. We also have started the EAC Votes coalition, where we will meet monthly with staff to discuss activities and opportunities. Further, we will engage members of this coalition with tasks such as LMS voter information/ registration integration, form distribution, and curriculum development to include civic participation.

We will also distribute stipends to student volunteers who participate in event planning and execution, as we strive to ensure that students are compensated for the contributions that they make to their campus.

Although EAC has a committed history of civic engagement and student outreach, funding for paid staff members to dedicate themselves to integrating civic opportunities does not exist. To fill this gap and ensure that the program can endure throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, we are using AES funds to provide a stipend for an existing faculty member to oversee CVP democracy fellows,



# EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

establish and maintain an EAC Votes Coalition, and coordinate on-campus civic engagement events. This stipend will be distributed at the conclusion of the academic year upon completion of the above goals and thorough follow-through on the items proposed in the AES grant. The ability to offer a financial incentive to faculty to undertake this leadership role is critical in ensuring multi-semester success.

## **Reporting**

We will track student voter registrations by incorporating a cover sheet per event into paper packets and uploading completed cover sheets into a shared Google folder. This tracking method will be incorporated into all EAC VR events, and faculty participating will be made aware of and trained to track data before events. We will use the Vote America system to track voter registration forms submitted digitally and log the data into a shared spreadsheet.

We will also track attendance at events, collect commit to engage cards, and conduct feedback surveys at coalition meetings and events on campus to gauge public interest and opinion.

## **Evaluation**

To evaluate this plan, we will convene as a coalition to discuss our reporting numbers, feedback from the semester, and general opinions on our progress. We will then meet with CVP to evaluate our actions and revise our Action Plan accordingly. We are committed to representing the student voice, so the opinions of student leaders will be incorporated into this action plan as well.



# EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

## Timeline

Timeline	
<b>Aug.</b>	Welcome Back Activity Monster Rush/ Move-In Yearbook Social
<b>Sept.</b>	Volleyball Opener  Back to School Dance  Kindness Day  Constitution Day/ National Voter Registration  National Voter Registration Day & AZ Student Vote Summit
<b>Oct.</b>	Homecoming Dance  Halloween Spooktacular  Bonfire
<b>Nov.</b>	Dia De Los Muertos  National Voter Education Week  Voter Registration Deadline
<b>Spring</b>	Cash for College Transfer Fair TBD