

All In Campus Democracy Challenge (“Challenge”):
Farmingdale State College (“FSC”) Voter Engagement Action Plan

Overall strategy:

Facilitate a cross-campus, interdepartmental, voter education and registration collaboration, including marketing efforts through Institutional Advancement and other avenues of outreach.

Summary:

The campus community of Farmingdale State College (SUNY) is committed to fostering the next generation of civic leaders. Given that FSC classes are nearly all remote in the academic year 2020-2021, we have created an interdepartmental voter engagement plan that relies heavily on virtual voter registration and engagement. Further, we have coordinated our virtual voter registration dates to correspond with both National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day. Additionally, civic-related educational presentations are also being offered to enhance student engaged citizenship and to encourage participation in voter registration and voting.

Campus Committee:

As required for participation in the Challenge, a campus-wide committee has been convened that includes the following members from academic affairs, student affairs, and the student body: Eva Pearson (Academic Affairs and Challenge campus contact), Rena Varghese (Academic Affairs), Ashley Perrone (Academic Affairs), Eunice Ro (Student Affairs), Lukas Medreich (Student Affairs), Darrien Hunt (President, NAACP FSC Student Chapter).

Voter Registration Plan:

Virtual voter registration events have been planned by the FSC Office of Student Activities and the FSC Nexus Center for Applied Learning & Career Development (“Nexus Center”) and advertised through the Student Activities portal “RAMCentral” - the one-stop information hub for students. Students will be directed to “Take the Pledge” and register to vote online at: <https://allintovote.org/>

While the link to register to vote is available to all students on a continuous basis, live assistance with registering is available on specific dates corresponding with larger initiatives and activities: Constitution Day (September 17) and National Voter Registration Day (September 22). On these dates, Nexus Center virtual voter registration events will be coordinated by student leaders, including a partnership with the FSC student chapter of the NAACP. Supervised by the Nexus Center Applied Learning Counselor (Ashley Perrone), student coordinators will volunteer to conduct voter registration education and post-event reflection. This co-curricular community service activity has been formally approved by the FSC Applied

Learning Review Board so that student coordinators may earn 5 hours of credit towards satisfying the FSC Applied Learning Graduation Requirement.

Educational Forums

For the past several years, FSC's plans for Constitution Day have traditionally included a presentation from Dr. Michael Motta, Assistant Professor in the department of History, Politics and Geography. These presentations are consistently well attended and well received. The topic of Dr. Motta's presentation this year is: "Hamilton - The Man, The Musical." Given the remote nature of our campus activities this academic year, Dr. Motta is working with our Office of Institutional Advancement to record and upload this presentation to the campus community on September 17, 2020 - Constitution Day 2020. Dr. Motta is also serving as a moderator for the SUNY-wide Constitution Day forum. This forum has been advertised to students directly through faculty efforts and through a Student Activities led virtual participation forum.

Challenge committee member and campus contact, Eva Pearson (Nexus Center), has arranged for a non-partisan presentation from the Nassau County Board of Elections (BOE) during the Nexus Center virtual voter registration drive on September 17. Two BOA representatives (one from each major political party) will educate students about: how to register to vote; and the various ways to vote in this unusual election year, including mail-in ballots and early voting.

Student Outreach and Marketing Efforts:

Members of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs are working together, along with the President of the FSC student chapter of the NAACP, to enhance student awareness of their applied learning voter registration opportunity. The Nexus Center will conduct direct faculty outreach with the goal of reaching a larger student population. Outreach to the executive boards of student clubs is being conducted through coordinated efforts between the Office of Student Activities and the Nexus Center. Advertisement of the virtual voter registration opportunities and the Constitution Day educational presentations will also be advertised through the FSC Office of Institutional Advancement, which markets events through FSC's "Campus Times" and social media outlets.

FSC Involvement in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

Farmingdale State College is a participating NSLVE campus, re-authorized to remain in NSLVE beyond 2018 and up to date with participation until 2023. The campus contact for NSLVE is the office of Institutional Research. Farmingdale State College will make previous NSLVE reports available to the Challenge.