

## Executive Summary

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) is an 1890 land-grant institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues, and the empowerment of citizens and communities. Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University was originally established as The State Normal College for Colored Students was Florida's first state-supported Black college. Since that time, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University has evolved into a beacon of excellence whose impact stretches throughout the state of Florida, across the nation, and beyond. Today, FAMU enrolls approximately 9,000 students, is highly regarded as one the nation's top historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) and is part of the 12-member State University System of Florida. FAMU is recognized by U.S News and Report Best College Rankings 2024 with the following honors in higher education; Named 5 years in a row (2020-2024) the #1 Public HBCU, #3 HBCU overall, #91 Public Schools and National Universities, and #21 in Social Mobility. As a Historically Black College University, community enrichment and civic engagement are deeply embedded in our mission, vision, and strategic goals.

**FAMU's Vision:** To become the undisputed high-performing center of excellence for talent management, diversity, and stakeholder engagement.

**FAMU's Mission:** To continuously improve and sustain the University's ability to attract, develop and retain excellent and diverse talent in a compliant and inclusive environment.

**FAMU's Core Values:** Diversity & Inclusion, Performance, Respect, Service Excellence, and Teamwork

The FAMU Campus Vote Project (CVP) collaboration has served as a foundation for FAMU's Student Engagement Action Plan Model. Since the Campus Vote Project Inaugural year, 2022, this initiative has developed a plan with the intent of establishing and maintaining a sustainable blueprint to increase student participation and engagement in the democratic process.

### COALITION/LEADERSHIP:

Florida A&M University's Department of Social Work, College of Social Science, Arts and Humanities served as the university's Campus Vote collaboration organization since August 2022. Graduate students, Gary Russ, Chanel Hall, and undergraduate student, Evelyn Lopez served as CVP Fellows for the 2022-2023 academic year. Gary Russ is a Democracy Fellow and Secretary of the Department of Graduate Affairs with FAMU Student Government Association. Chanel Hall and Evelyn Lopez served as student representatives at the 2022 HBCU Summit to identify strategies to support civic engagement and campus readiness for the 2024 elections. Dr. Kenisha Thomas, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work has over a decade of experience in community organizing, political activism, and copious amounts of knowledge in implementing action plans, which will serve to elevate the potential of the project.

Through her leadership, Campus Vote initiatives have developed partnerships with several university student lead organizations. Campus Vote Project has collaborated with FAMU's

Student Government Association, History Department, Devine Nine Fraternity and Sororities as well as the Leon chapter of the NACCP and Urban League. These organizations along with others serve as incubators to campus life, active civic engagement, and meaningful advocacy for the student body. Working to establish a coalition with student campus organizations through Student Services will ensure that all students are adequately informed on the issues on the ballots, as well as get students mobilized to get registered to vote and most of all out to vote on Election Day.

#### AY AUGUST 2022-DECEMBER 2022 SUCCESS

Student Social Work Association (SSWA), the Student Government Association (SGA), and the Student Florida Education Association here at FAMU. By working to create a coalition of campus civic organizations, Campus Vote Project Fellows inform students of voter rights and ballot issues, mobilize voter registration events, and even hosted a special event, “Get Out to Vote - Pizza on the Plaza,” on Election Day. It is the goal of CVP at FAMU, through the efforts of the Social Work program and its collaborators, to leave a legacy of impactful engagement towards social justice, democracy, and the “good trouble” that is always necessary

- **Voter Registration Drives**
  - Pledge to Vote Campaign September 2022
  - Student PIRGS (Student Registration Training September 2022)
    - 12 Students Completed Training
  - Dorm Dash Voter Registration Drive (October 7, 2022)
  - Football Athletic Registration Day (October 11, 2022)
  - Set FRIDAYS Voter Registration Drive (October 14 and 21, 2022)
    - 3 Campus Voter Registration Events, 84 students registered to vote
- **Voter Education Speaker Forums**
  - Are You Vote Ready, Wednesday, October 26, 2022
    - Collaboration with the History Department, Leon County NAACP, and Community Advocate.
    - Homecoming Voter Education, Voices from Alumni (62 participants)
    - Post-Election Panel Discussion (27 graduate students attended)  
November 16, 2022
- **ELECTION DAY READY**
  - Pizza on The SET, Early Election - Get Out the *VOTE* - November 4, 2022

Mr. FAMU



Social Work Students



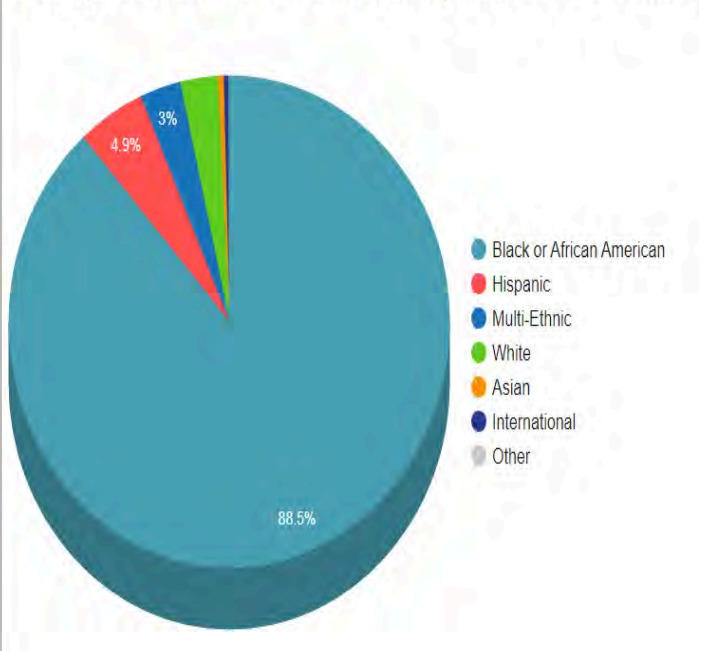
Student Engagement



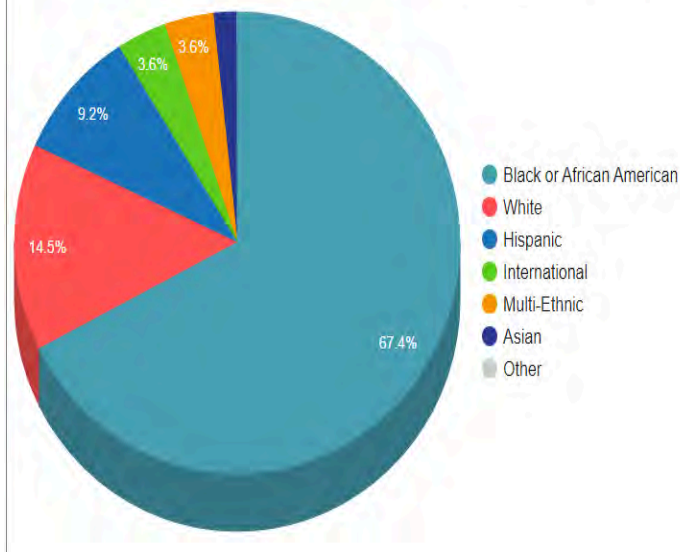
LANDSCAPE:

Florida A&M University supports and endorses the Board of Governors' Statement of Free Expression and expects open-minded and tolerant civil discourse to take place throughout the campus community. FAMU enrolls approximately 9,000 students (Tallahassee Campus and Orlando Campus) with over 300 student lead organizations.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Undergraduate Racial-Ethnic Diversity



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Graduate Student Racial-Ethnic Divers.



## GOALS:

Florida A&M University's democratic vision is a campus political climate where students take pride in being civically engaged and responsible citizens. The mission is to foster a culture that results in increased democratic participation by informed and empowered students. Ultimately, the mission of this action plan is to cultivate a politically engaged student body year-round and promote voter registration and education while continuously implementing civic engagement

### SHORT-TERM: DEVELOP VOTER CONSCIENCE CAMPUS INITIATIVES.

1. Develop a "Rattlers' Vote" voter engagement presentation/video featuring student leaders, organizations, campus royalty, and administration.
2. Incorporate the "Rattlers' Vote" voter engagement informational video for 1<sup>st</sup>-year orientation and Freshman Seminar.
3. Host (2) student voter registration events to increase participation in the 2024 elections with a certified Florida Registration. Identify a third-party voter registration organization approved by the Division of Elections with an assign ID number to facilitate the Voter Registration.  
*(FLORIDA: Deadline to send vote-by-mail ballots to domestic voters: September 26, 2024 - October 3, 2024 Deadline to register to vote: October 7, 2024)*
4. Partner with the local Supervisor of Elections office to provide 1 training for students interested in democratic engagement work on campus, including opportunities for students to serve as poll workers.
5. Enhance capacity for voter education by partnering with 3 campus organizations, to promote civil discourse, understanding ballot issues, and Florida Laws.

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**LONG-TERM:** INSTITUTIONALIZE VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND ENGAGEMENT ON CAMPUS.

**CAMPUS WIDE COLLABORATIONS BUILDING:** JULY 02, 2024 - DECEMBER 20, 2024

1. Work with the Office of Public Policy Events (OPPE) at FAMU to promote 2 campus wide speaker series on Civil Discourse. OPPE host distinguished scholars and policymakers, national and regional think tanks, and subject matter experts for debate forums on current public policy issues. Forums address a broad range of perspectives and viewpoints and feature speakers who represent widely held views from divergent and opposing perspectives to foster a more engaged citizenry for the 21st century and beyond.
2. Establish a working relationship with The Office of the Provost, specifically the Division of Academic Affairs. The office supports student success initiatives and oversees The Council of Deans, Director of Communication, and Associate Provost for First Year Studies and Academic Excellence.
3. Collaborate with The Office of Student Activities and Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). The Office of Student Activities manages Florida A&M University 300 RSOs on campus.
4. Enhance the program structure with the Department of Social Work, under the umbrella of the College of Social Science Arts and Humanities academic programs (History, Political Science, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Sociology) and Nursing.

#### STRATEGY:

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#### INSTITUTIONALIZATION:

- Systemic integration of voter engagement throughout the institution through a voter education/ registration link in the iRattler student portal such as TurboVote or studentvote.org.
- Engage faculty and academic departments through getting voter information in syllabi, approval for nonpartisan announcements, and ensure administrative follow-through for the provision of voter engagement resources and information.
- Establish consistent branding and messaging publicly on campus with students, faculty, staff, and student organizations.
- Pursue efforts to get 15 min spots of promotion targeting first-year students, transfer, and graduate students, including partnering with student housing to help advance student awareness.
- Develop a QR Code that students can access that will provide pertinent information to prepare for/how to register to vote.

#### EVALUATION

Florida A&M University is one of many colleges and universities that participates in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) study. The NSLVE is an initiative by the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life aimed to provide campuses with their institutional data (student voter registration

and voting rates). The research is intended to assist institutions in creating strategies that increase student participation in the democratic process. The primary sources of evaluation will be the voter registration report for the local Board of Election and the NSLVE report that tracks voter demographics, voter registration, and voter engagement in the election.

In accordance with the University's strategic priority of "Boldly Striking", this plan employs multidimensional ways to effectively work with administration & faculty to cement the usage of campus as an early voting place and an Election Day polling place to ensure that all student voters have access to the ballot. This plan will serve to increase democratic engagement and maximize the practice of civic duty by increasing new research on student civic activity, expanding the onsite polling options, as well as expanding the mobilization of young voters to return to the polls. With this in mind, the activities that will be used to execute this plan shall involve active voter registration drives, voter education opportunities, and virtual/in-person discussion panels. This plan is set to begin in July 2024 and end in December 2024.

Submitted By: Kenisha Thomas, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work  
Campus Vote Project FAMU Advisor