

**Henry Ford College  
2022-2023 Democratic Engagement  
Action Plan**

Henry Ford College (HFC) supports and promotes democracy and civic literacy and is proud to be a part of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

HFC's mission is to transform lives and build better futures by providing outstanding education. As a student-centered, evidence-based college, our success is measured by the success of our students. We empower learners through the development of independent, critical and creative thinking, and we foster diversity, inclusion, understanding, and acceptance to prepare learners to succeed in a global society. HFC serves approximately 13,000 students.

This action plan is designed to increase civic learning, democratic and political engagement, and voter participation among our students. Students are encouraged to register to vote, turn out at the polls, and engage in other forms of political participation. The goal is to build and promote ongoing internal and external activities to increase students' awareness of civic importance and involvement in various forms of activism and democratic participation.

**Leadership**

Members of the College work together to coordinate and promote various activities for civic engagement. With the core leadership team, many faculty, staff, and students play a role in the execution of activities. The leadership team is listed below:

Cassandra Fluker, Director of Student Activities and the ALL IN contact  
Dr. Anthony Perry, Political Science Instructor and Director of The Michigan Democracy Institute Consortium  
Mandy Earl, Student Activities Associate  
Student Council

The Michigan Democracy Institute Consortium is a coalition of college and community leaders who collaborate and execute initiatives to foster civic literacy among students and the community-at-large.

The partners are Henry Ford College, Oakland Community College, Oakland University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, The League of Women Voters, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Netimpact.org., Michigan Voices, Wayne State University, Next-Gen, and Detroit Community School District.

**Goals and Strategies**

**NSLVE**

HFC receives the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) Report. The report is shared with the College and used to create and design activities to increase students' learning and knowledge of the importance of being active participants in our democratic society.

According to the 2020 National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) Report, Henry Ford College incredibly improved its ratings since 2018: Registration Rate from 63.4% to 78.2%; Voting Rate of Registered Students from 51.5% to 64.6%; and the Voting Rate from 32.7% to 50.5%. Last year, increasing the registration and voter turn-out rates was part of the College's Strategic Plan, and various efforts were implemented to accomplish the goal. We will continue to engage faculty, staff, and students in this effort, and create a campus culture where lifelong democratic habits are developed throughout the academic year.

### **Civic Learning**

Under the Michigan Democracy Institute Consortium, a student group called M-[DICE](https://dicenational.org) ([dicenational.org](https://dicenational.org)) coordinates activities to involve more students in the democratic process. M-DICE student leadership is primarily recruited from political science courses at the partner institutions. M-DICE will coordinate bi-weekly engagement nights during the Fall semester to build community, network, and discuss issues impacting communities. Students are provided with civic knowledge and resources to progress ideas.

M-DICE will organize a series of virtual meetings with Michigan State Legislators. The purpose of the sessions is to allow students the opportunity to speak with legislators about their concerns that may affect their communities and them as students.

HFC will sponsor its Public Service Seminar and the Michigan Democracy Institute Community Student Engagement (MDICE) Conference in 2023. It is a non-partisan event featuring various methods to civically engage, educate and encourage students and citizens/members of the community. There will be speakers, panels and activities centered on voting rights/responsibilities/laws, registration, and service. The speaker selection will include local mayors, judges, senators, and state representatives.

Local agencies and organizations will also set-up to promote volunteer opportunities for the engagement of students in the community and service projects.

### **Political/Civic Engagement**

Political and civic engagement events will be coordinated during the academic year to educate and inspire students to get involved. Civic engagement activities include volunteer days, such as Make a Difference Day and Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service. Students are taught social responsibility and to become active members of their communities.

### **Voter Education Sessions**

The Office of Student Activities (OSA) and Student Council will host voter education sessions to educate students on the importance of voting, the act of voting, political positions and candidates, and voting laws. Sessions will be facilitated by knowledgeable leaders in the community, including students who have served as poll workers.

### **Voter Registration**

The OSA will facilitate campus and online voter registration drives to encourage students to register and vote. The campus registration drive is marketed as a convenience for students to

register on campus, instead of visiting the Secretary of State, and the service of mailing the applications to respective city clerks' offices is provided. Online voter registration is promoted via emails, fliers, class presentations, and announcements. An email with the link to the state's website will be sent to the student body, encouraging them to register to vote. The link will also be posted on the College's website on an ongoing basis.

Hard copies of the Voter Applications are also available year-round in our OSA and Campus Safety building for students to complete and take as needed to friends and family members.

The Get Out the Vote campaign will begin in late August at the start of the Fall 2022 semester. The campaign consists of Student Activities staff and student volunteers covering the campus with table set-ups and structured strolls to encourage new students to register to vote and registered students to exercise their right to vote.

HFC has partnered with Campus Takeover to gain tools and resources for greater coverage of registration activity and awareness of democracy. HFC will participate in celebrating civic holidays: National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, Vote Early Day, and of course, Election Day.

### **Other Registration Coverage**

Voter registration will also be set-up for the Constitution Day observance and during the Fall Welcome Back Days events. Voter registration information will be covered during class presentations by the Student Activities staff and students.

### **Faculty Involvement**

Instructors (full-time and adjunct) provide encouragement in their classes for students to complete the online Michigan Voter Application and encourage students to vote. Faculty who teach in-person classes are also given the applications from the OSA and asked to return the completed applications for mailing to the city clerks' offices. Faculty encourage students to vote and educate themselves on candidates and their positions.

### **Democracy Interns**

Henry Ford College is a member of the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) and anticipates the offering of the Student Fellowship position to aid with democratic engagement. The College will seek to fill the positions. The interns will assist with the coordination of registration and civic engagement activities.

### **Resources**

Henry Ford College is a member of the Campus Election Engagement Project, Campus Vote Project, the Voter Friendly Campus Designation, and Campus Takeover. All organizations provide tools, resources, ideas, and support to help engage students in democracy.

### **Marketing and Promotion**

The following are used to market all programs and activities: Email, social media, College website, class announcements, campus calendar, campus digital boards, LED message center, fliers, lawn signs, WHFR radio station, and The Mirror News (student newspaper). Our

Marketing & Communications department also creates press releases, as needed, and contacts other communications channels.

### **Reporting**

A copy of the 2022-2023 action plan and the NSLVE report will be posted to our College's website for viewing by the campus community.

### **Evaluation**

The Michigan Democracy Institute Consortium will assess the civic learning activities and make improvements based on the review of information. The staff of OSA will assess the voter registration, education sessions, and civic activities for improvements. In addition, the voter participation rates will be reviewed upon the release of the next NSLVE report. The data will be evaluated, and improvements made accordingly.