

## **Lincoln University Executive Summary**

Lincoln University located in the rolling hills of Southern Chester County was founded in 1854 7 years prior to the start of the Civil War. Originally established as The Ashmun Institute, Lincoln University is the first degree-granting Historically Black University. From its beginnings, Lincoln University has placed great emphasis on a liberal arts education, one dedicated to students acquiring the knowledge and skills needed for success. In addition, we encourage students at Lincoln University to live a life empowered by education. With that said, civic learning and democratic engagement is equally important to their success.

So in a very deliberate way we desire to increasing our civic learning and democratic engagement campus wide. We aspire to cultivate democratic change in alignment with our vision: Reimagining the Legacy: Learn. Liberate. Lead. We seek to learn what it means to be civic minded and fully engaged. The intent is to liberate ourselves and others while leading civically for a lifetime.

The civic learning and democratic engagement action plan was created by the Dean of the College and Vice President for Student Success and the 2019/2020 SGA Level up administration. For implementation purposes the action plan will transfer to the AVP for Student Success and Dean of Students, the AVP for Experiential Learning, 2020/2021 SGA, Class Deans, Political Science and History Professors, the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Organization (Student lead) and community partners. Our goal is to ensure our efforts are collaborative, coordinated, and that a variety of perspectives are taken into consideration. A clear explanation of the roles and responsibilities of each will be addressed in our first meeting in August.

Our action plan includes short and long terms goals (See attachment) based on the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement as well as our current work efforts and outcomes. The implementation process will begin with our New Student Orientation August 2020 and conclude early May. The action plan will be updated bi-annually once in December and again in June.

Our framework for accomplishing our goals include assembling a team and developing a timeline, assessing current work efforts and outcomes, researching new initiatives based on best practice, establishing short and long term goals, establishing intentionally designed activities to achieve the goals, documenting and implementing the plan, reviewing the plan bi-annually, and assessing progress towards the plan.

Towards this end our specific activities, (see attachment) are entrenched in our history and culture. Our plan serves as a tool to educate and prepare our students for affianced involvement through democratic participation and social responsibility while fostering a civic philosophy that persist naturally. Our overarching goal is to increase civic learning and democratic engagement and embed it in our everyday learning thus lives advancing our glorious history.

**Lincoln University**  
**Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Action Plan 2020**

Mid-Year Progress    Year End Progress

Civic Engagement Team	Dean of the College and VPSS, AVP for SS and Dean of Students, AVP for Experiential Learning, SGA, Class Deans, Political Science and History Professors, Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement Org, Community partners and other campus partners		
Action Plan	All activities will be campus wide, informed by data and tied to our Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOS.) Activities will focus on local, state, and federal elections, curricular and noncurricular programming throughout the school year, continuous.		
Timeline	August-May focus on sending consistent messages about civic learning opportunities and democratic engagement as well as activities for the month Attend bi-weekly meetings Assessment (Our spring semester ends early May.)		
NSLVE Report findings	NSLVE report was used to establish short & long term goals as well as activities		
Goals	<b>Short term goal-(1)</b> add voter registration information on SS webpage <b>Goal (2)</b> Register 85% of the incoming students to vote during NSO “Constant & True” <b>Goal (3)</b> Institutionalize the practice of the President or VP sending a letter to all students every year about the significance of civically engaged and participating in elections <b>Goal (4)</b> Align this project with Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOS) <b>Long Term Goal (1)</b> Increase student voting rates by 5% points <b>Goal (2)</b> Incorporate civic education and democratic engagement into		

	curriculum & co-curricular unit by fall 2021		
Strategy	Establish team, establish bi-weekly meetings, assess what has already been done campus wide, set short and long term goals, discuss what event is next on the calendar, select activities based on best practice and prepare for fall 2020		
Reporting	This plan will be shared on the Division of Student Success, Dean of Students, AVP for Health and Wellness, AVP for Experiential Learning and SGA webpages and with the following teams the President's Cabinet, Extended Cabinet, Faculty, Staff and Students. We will use Instagram, the student Wire and the daily bulletin to share information.		
Evaluation	Focus groups, Documents which includes meeting notes, attendance records, and impact of the session, documents, NSLVW report, pre and posttest, and rubrics		
Timeline (Overarching)	<b>July-August</b> 2020 focus on voter registration & Learning about new voting systems		
	September focus on activities for National Voter Registration Month		
	<b>October-November</b> focus on promoting new voter registration deadline (October 19 <sup>th</sup> ) Mail in ballot deadlines (apply & return Ballots) And Election Day (How will election day look at LU)		
	<b>December</b> focus on assessing the action plan and the implementation process		
	<b>January-February</b> focus on voter registration & learning about new voting systems		
	<b>March-June</b> Focus on voter registration deadlines, mail in ballots, and primary		

	<b>June</b> focus on assessing the action plan and implementation process for overall improvement		
(LU) Activities	<b>August</b> register all eligible new and transfer students during NSO Register all returning students during First Thursday Activities		
	<b>September</b> focus on speaking to FYE classes about civic learning and voter registration		
	<p><b>August-May</b> focus on bi-weekly meetings, messaging, engaging the campus and local community in class, co-curricular, weekly and weekend activities to raise awareness locally, state, &amp; National on who is running and why, ballot questions, invite candidates to engage, discuss the importance of voting, panel discussions in and out of the classroom, watch parties of conventions and debates, invite candidates to speak in class and after class</p> <p>(In our first meeting in August we will plan the monthly first semester events of activities as well as plan for the November election.)</p> <p><b>December</b> focus on debriefing and assessing the action plan and implementation process see what's affective</p> <p><b>June</b> focus on assessing what worked and what didn't work adjust plan for next year REPEAT</p>		