



**CAMPUS
DEMOCRACY
CHALLENGE**

Loyola University Chicago 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan Developed by: Demetri Morgan / Vivian Mikhail

Executive Summary:

Growing Public Service Programs and Pathways

One of the goals of LUPE is to encourage students to pursue careers in public service. To that end, we will encourage participation in the DC Internship Program, and help connect students to other opportunities for undergraduates in public service across the city of Chicago and Illinois. In providing pathways to public service, LUPE will also strive to mitigate the very real barriers to entry for many who would like to engage in this work. Often, internships in public service are unpaid and very few can afford to work in these jobs for free. Additionally, many groups have historically faced—and still face—barriers based on minority or marginalized status. To this end, we propose the creation of scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of funding and support for students who would like to pursue internships and positions in public service but cannot afford to do so.

Becoming a Resource for Elected Officials

As a hub of information, research, and expertise about public service, LUPE should be a resource for elected officials. This could include providing training for aldermen and state officials. The Office of Civic Engagement is currently working on reports that reflect Loyola's contribution to the local community and city as a whole. This report will be available to local elected officials as well as the public, making it a good starting point for this work.

Further Connections with Local Community

To achieve these goals, we need to strengthen and expand our connections with local community groups. This will also involve centralizing information about where these connections exist within the university. As we pursue this work, we will support those existing partnerships where we can and share this information to ensure stronger, more strategic partnerships. These connections will also inform and strengthen the other work LUPE seeks to do and will provide us with invaluable insights into the perspectives of those with whom we share a community.

Encouraging Scholarship in Public Service and Democratic Engagement

Scholarship is an essential aspect of LUPE's work. To encourage and promote this work, especially as it relates to public service and democratic engagement, we will pursue several different avenues. First, the University Libraries will explore the creation of a Public Engagement Collection in Loyola University Chicago's eCommons (<https://ecommons.luc.edu>) to promote and provide access to the research efforts of faculty, students and staff.

The Civic Engagement Librarian will provide support for discovering and acquiring scholarly resources in civic engagement. However, as neither LUPE nor the University Libraries currently have dedicated funding to support collection building in this area, we will seek to establish a subject-specific endowment. This would allow us to broaden and deepen our general and archival collections in public engagement.

To promote the use of University Libraries collections in pursuing research on topics related to public engagement we will seek funding to support archival fellowships for graduate students to identify and describe appropriate material from our archival collections.

For faculty and post-doctoral candidates, we will seek funding to establish research fellowships in public engagement, possibly including a collaboration with the Gannon Center to fund research on women in political and civic organizations.

To publicize local expertise in public engagement, we will work with University Marketing and Communications to make sure that faculty working in this area are well represented in the Faculty Experts database (<https://bit.ly/2FD78NL>).

Public Service Internship Repository

By Fall of 2019, the Office of Civic Engagement will provide a master list of government and public service-related internships. This is an opportunity for LUPE to become a hub for this kind of information, in that we will be able to use that information and information from other units on campus to connect students, staff, and faculty to appropriate resources and people.

Engaging Staff

We hope to provide ample opportunities for staff to participate both in this work and in any programming we provide. We may do so by engaging those who supervise staff, and by providing programs specifically targeted towards staff which do not interfere directly with their ability to complete work in a timely manner.

One opportunity we have identified is the prospect of making voter registration available during the benefits and health fairs, or as a part of annual benefits renewal.

It is also important to us that we establish a reciprocal relationship with university shared governance, including Staff Council. By keeping Staff Council apprised of our efforts, we will ensure that staff members are aware of how they can help support our goals while simultaneously staying informed about the issues on campus and in the community which matter most to staff.

Mentoring Students

To understand the complex landscape of public engagement and to fully represent the broad range of opportunities in the public sphere, LUPE will provide mentoring opportunities for students. This includes peer-to-peer, alumni-to-student, and professional-to-student mentoring. A strong mentoring program exists in Inside Government, from which we could potentially model or expand future mentoring initiatives.

Evaluation & Assessment

In partnership with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, LUPE plans to leverage existing data collection efforts to track trends related to LUPE's mission. For example, in the summer of 2018, Loyola enrolled in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) to receive data on how many LUC students register to vote and end up voting. Additionally, there are relevant questions on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and The Freshman Year Survey that ask specific questions about student's civic and democratic experiences. Bringing together these and other forms of data will allow LUPE to help demonstrate Loyola's comprehensive commitment to this work.

Growing & Sustaining Student Involvement

This is a step-by-step process. From Freshman/Transfer students to student group collaboration, it's essential to get student attention early on in order to sustain involvement (as mentioned earlier regarding yearly process). We will work with our campus and community

partners to provide opportunities for involvement at every level. See section V for more information.

Momentum between Election Years

As a task force, we have been working to sustain and expand the work began by the Loyola Votes initiative. That this work is not central only in years containing national elections, but every year, is a huge asset for us. By keeping public engagement in the minds of our students, staff, faculty, and administration, we will never need to completely reinvent our efforts, nor will we need to struggle to obtain buy-in every two or four years. Continuing the momentum of our work each year also shows our campus and community partners that we are committed to this work and will sustain partnerships.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Demetri Morgan, Assistant Professor - School of Education
Vivian Mikhail, Program Coordinator - Office of Civic Engagement
Phillip Hale, Vice President of Government Affairs
Marissa Lucchesi, Director of Student Activities and Greek Affairs
Geoff Swindells, Associate Dean of Libraries
Claire Kruchten, President of Inside Government and Student Worker in the Office of Civic Engagement
Claire Harrison, Senator for Student Government of Loyola University Chicago

Commitment:

Our campus has not yet signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, but we are working with the Office of the President to have it signed.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email, By posting on institutional social media channels, E-newsletters; Sakai site that faculty added to their course; presentations to courses and different community groups.

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

2016: 57.5%; 2018: 40.8%, Enrollment: ~17,000 Demographic Breakdown: White 56%, Black: 5%, Asian: 12%, Hispanic/Latino: 17%, Two or More: 4%

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Short Term:

- Increase voter registration numbers
- Increase percent of students casting a ballot
- Provide voting resources for election education

- Facilitate non-partisan virtual events on different civic engagement topics
- Encourage planning and execution of post-election events and support
- Strengthen partnerships with university partners and entities. Consistent branding and voice around elections and broader public engagement efforts.

Long Term: LUPE aims to provide a vision for a complete four-year experience for our undergraduates regarding Public Engagement. What follows is a series of scaffolding experiences.

High School

We will work with the Schools 2020 program and other partners to expand programming around Public Engagement which is appropriate for a High School audience. We will support existing programs of this nature by providing information, and by promoting their efforts. The School of Education's partnerships with Senn High School is a good example of a partnership which is not only already incorporating civic education curriculum taught by student teachers from Loyola but is also a partnership which would be incredibly fruitful to support, amplify, and emulate elsewhere.

First Year

The focus of the first year is to introduce students to Public Engagement opportunities on campus and in Chicago more generally. This is the only time when we have the attention of the entire undergraduate population (through UNIV 101).

Main efforts will include:

- Implementing a UNIV 101 unit which centers on Public Engagement at all levels
- Rambler card/UPASS voter registration & voter information for Freshman & Transfer students.
- Various tabling events and programs during key dates: Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, Election Day, etc.
- Introducing students to Public Engagement resources and opportunities on campus (e.g. Inside Government) by having a presence at the Student Organization Fair and the Job, Internship, and Service Fair.

Second and Third Years

During the second and third years, we seek to provide opportunities both curricular and co-curricular for students to participate in public engagement. Though students are all incredibly busy, we seek to offer compelling programs which are also informative and support the development of our students as citizens.

Main efforts will include:

- Partnerships with units such as the Center for Experiential Learning/ Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to provide opportunities for undergraduate research in Public Engagement pairing students with faculty from a variety of disciplines.
- Programming which focuses on public engagement including but not limited to:
 - o Workshops to help students hone public engagement skills
 - o Discussion- and problem solving-focused events which inform students about global, national, or local issues and allow students to model civil discourse in their discussions.
 - o Lectures, speakers, etc.
 - o "On the Table" style events which create a lunch/happy hour event for various audiences, whether it be students, the Loyola campus community, residents of the Rogers Park and Edgewater neighborhoods, and/or alumni, etc.

☞ On the Table is based on dedicating an hour to discussing various issues that matter in the community. We are free to focus it on whatever topic we choose.

- Connecting students with internships and jobs in the public sector

Fourth Year

The fourth year is likely our final opportunity to prepare our students to become citizens before they leave the undergraduate environment. As students are focused on the next steps they will take in their lives after graduation—including jobs, internships, and graduate school—we want to ensure our efforts align with that focus.

Main efforts will include:

- Partnering with CEL/LUROP to provide opportunities to present and/or publish student work surrounding Public Engagement.
- Providing opportunities for undergraduates to meet graduate students, professional students, alumni, and faculty working in Public Engagement.

Arrupe Students

It is of vital importance that Arrupe students are included within these experiences, whether they pursue a four-year degree at Loyola following the completion their two-year associate's degree or not. Because Arrupe accepts students from populations with historically low voter turnout and those who have been marginalized by municipal and federal policies, we are dedicated to including Arrupe students in this work. Therefore, we will be mindful in our efforts to invite Arrupe students to programs, especially those hosted on the Water Tower Campus, and in our creation of programming specifically for Arrupe students. In all efforts, campus-wide, we will be cognizant of the fact that not all community members are able to participate in all aspects of public engagement and will therefore make sure to emphasize the various channels of civic engagement. LUPE recognizes that United States citizenship is not a requirement for being a citizen, as we have previously stated.

Additionally, student's families are very important in Arrupe's approach to education. Outreach to the families of Arrupe students might be an opportunity to broaden our efforts into South and West side communities.

Graduate & Professional Students

We are also dedicated to making sure this work is salient for graduate and professional students. These are two distinct groups and the opportunities will (in many cases) differ. In our outreach to graduate students, we want to emphasize that Public Engagement is a legitimate and rewarding area of research in numerous disciplines. We will therefore consider the establishment of cross-disciplinary reading groups, fellowships, and an annual research colloquium. These same strategies could also be applied to faculty as our efforts expand. Public Engagement is relevant to professional practice in a variety of professions. It will therefore be the focus of our efforts to bring professional students and practitioners together, perhaps through an annual symposium on careers in public engagement.

Health Sciences

In accordance with Strategy 4 of Plan 2020, we will work with the Health Sciences campus to support research and programming which reflects "a commitment to addressing health disparities." As we expand and deepen our partnership with members of the Health Sciences Division, we will add to our strategies to make sure LUPE's work is salient to Health Sciences students, faculty, and staff.

Alumni

Our alumni are integral to these efforts, as we rely upon them to serve as models to our current students. As previously mentioned, we will call upon them in hopes of recruiting mentors. We'll also work with Alumni Relations and UMC to make sure our efforts are communicated to alumni, who can then participate, support, or learn more about LUPE. This could also lead to expanded opportunities, such as an alumni-sponsored lecture series concerning public engagement

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

Classroom voter registration presentations (in-person or virtual), Virtual voter registration drives (e.g. Couch Party text banking events), Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.), Pledge to Vote drive, Loyola made the decision to eliminate in-person events to prioritize the health and safety of the Loyola community and surrounding area.

Will submit separately via email.

NSLVE:

Loyola University Chicago has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

- Increase in the percentage of voter turnout over 2016
- Debrief with the leadership on what went well and what would we do differently
- Creating an infrastructure to better evaluate the evaluation (quantifying emails, hours spent presenting, prep work).

Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

Our action plan will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.

Our campus hasn't confirmed a plan to post our NSLVE reports on our campus website.