

**ALL IN Democracy Challenge**  
**Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver)**  
**Action Plan, January 2020**

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### **MSU Denver ADP Committee Mission Statement**

The American Democracy Project at MSU Denver aims to develop citizens who can demonstrate civic skills, knowledge, and motivation at local, regional, national, and global scales. The values that ground this work are self-efficacy, fairness, social justice, equity, diversity, collaboration, and personal and collective responsibility.

### **Vision**

We envision a University-wide commitment, including from both curricular and co-curricular programs, to develop students into engaged and informed citizens of our globally connected democracy. Students, staff, and faculty will develop and employ the skills of democracy, such as collaboration, coordination, dialogue, and deliberation, and MSU Denver students will engage broadly in the processes of participatory democracy. All involved in civic engagement (students, faculty, staff, and community partners) will have a shared understanding of the impact of engagement on student learning, on community partners, and on the University. Lasting, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial relationships with community partners will be valued.

## Civic Learning Outcomes

When students graduate from MSU Denver, they will be able to:

- Articulate a sense of responsibility and personal commitment to addressing global and local challenges.
- Demonstrate skills of influence and action, including persuasion, appropriate contacts, and understanding organizational arrangements.
- Demonstrate skills of communication and leadership, including taking responsibility for group outcomes, processes and products; speaking publically.
- Demonstrate skills of political analysis and judgment, including the ability to weigh pros and cons as well as take trade-offs into consideration.
- Demonstrate skills of teamwork and collaboration, including managing conflict and navigating diverse positions.

### ALL IN specific goals (January 2020)

1. Provide high quality engagement programming to increase civic discourse and educated voting. We will continue to focus on maintaining awareness of current legislative issues and upcoming elections. It is our goal to keep students interested in the issues and engage even those who do not have the right to vote.
2. Based on the NSLVE data, MSU Denver increased its midterm elections voting rate by 12.9 points achieving a 54.9% voting rate. (The rate for *registered* student voters was 70%, a 14.8 point increase). Our goal for 2020 is to maintain our previously high voting rates for a presidential election year, and stretch to achieve a 70% voting rate (compared to 65.9% in 2016).
3. Based on the NSLVE data, in 2018 our voting registration rate was 78.5%. Our goal is to increase our registration rate to 80%.

### **2019-2020 Civic Engagement Programming**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Aug 29- Oct 14	12:00-2:00	Book discussions (10 meetings) for <i>We Rise</i>	Golda Meir house	1B/1P/2T
Sept 6	9:00-1:00	Service project for <i>We Rise</i>	Denver Botanic Gardens	1B/1P/2T
Sept 12	11:30 – 1:00	Census Training for members of Student Government	SSB 330C	Undergraduate Studies, SGA and US Census Office
Sept 17	10:00 – 11:00 am and 2-3:00 pm	Constitution Day event to educate students about the coming 2020 Census. Led by Prof. Balik, Spicer- Dormuth, and Berry (Tri-institutional)	Tivoli Baerresen Ballroom	Community College of Denver, MSU Denver, and UC Denver
Sept 19	2:00 – 4:00	Dialogues facilitators training	Tivoli 740	Department of Communication Art and Science, Student Engagement & Wellness

Sept 20	9:00-1:00	Service project for <i>We Rise</i>	Denver Botanic Gardens	1B/1P/2T
Sept 24	2 pm	Roadrunners Rock the Vote – TABOR Panel Discussion	Tivoli 640	ADP
Oct 2	10:30-11:00	Governor Polis press conference	JSSB lobby	
Oct 8	11:00-12:15	Panel discussion for <i>We Rise</i>	Tivoli Multicultural Lounge	1B/1P/2T
Oct 9	11 am	Political Polarization talk <i>The Exhausted Majority</i>  Stephen Hawkins	CAVEA	D-Phi
Oct 14	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Colorado Student Voting Summit	Tivoli Baerresen Ballroom	ADP, All In, CEEP
Oct 15	3:00 pm	Art Show: <i>Abstract Cultural Landscape in the Era of Climate Change</i>	CMEI Lounge	1B/1P/2T
Oct 16	11:00-12:00	Author visit for <i>We Rise</i> - Xiuhtezcatl Martinez	Tivoli Turnhalle	1B/1P/2T
Oct 17	2:00 – 4:00	Dialogues facilitators training - <i>Presentation of Free Speech</i>	Tivoli 740	Department of Communication Art and Science, Student Engagement & Wellness
Oct 17	6:30 – 9:00 pm	Concert with Xiuhtezcatl Martinez	St. Cajetan's	1B/1P/2T
Oct 22	11:00 – 2:00	Film Screening of <i>Before the Flood</i>	St. Cajetan's	1B/1P/2T
Nov 5		Election Day		
Nov 21	2:00-3:30	Senate Candidate - Hickenlooper	CAVEA	Office of the President
Nov 21	2:00 – 4:00	Dialogue	Tivoli 740	Department of Communication Art and Science, Student Engagement & Wellness
Jan 28	11:30-1:00	Senate Candidate -  Stephanie Rose Spaulding	CAVEA	Office of the President
Jan 29	10:30-12:00	Senate Candidate -  Michelle Ferrigno Warren	CAVEA	Office of the President

Feb 11	2:00-3:300	Senate Candidate Trish Zornio	CAVEA	Office of the President
Feb 13	3:30 - 5:30	Dr. Simon Critchley	Tivoli Adirondacks	D-Phi
Feb 18	1:00-2:30	Senate Candidate Andrew Romanoff	CAVEA	Office of the President
Feb 20	2:00-4:00	MSU Denver Dialogues - Civility online	Tivoli 320 B &C	Department of Communication Art and Science, Student Engagement & Wellness
Feb 25	1:30-3:00	Senate Candidate - Diana Bray	CAVEA	Office of the President
Mar 10	7:30-11:00 or 10:30-2:00	MSU Day at the Capitol	State Capitol and nearby venues	MSU Denver Champions
Mar 19	2:00-4:00	Denver Dialogues: Local Issues	Tivoli 320 B&C	Department of Communication Art and Science, Student Engagement & Wellness
April 16	2:00-4:00	Denver Dialogues: Cancel Culture	Tivoli 320 B&C	Department of Communication Art and Science, Student Engagement & Wellness

### **Spring 2020 Civic Engagement Programing Planned**

- Dialogues Program
- D-PHI events
- Congress to Campus visit planned for early April
- Census 2020 work on & beyond campus (ongoing all spring w/ community partners)
- Speaker series through Political Science department
- Super Tuesday primary election watch party (Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Debate watch parties
- Candidate visits to campus (scheduled for Senate candidates, ongoing)
- Behavioral messaging campaign to get more STEM and business students to vote

During the Colorado Student Voting Summit, our team developed an action plan to continue moving forward with our goals to increase student registration and voting, as well as more generally education on candidates and issues, including the 2020 Census and other areas of democracy and civic engagement that encourage engagement by students who do not have the right to vote. It is important that *all* students and community members be part of our civic action and engagement regardless of citizenship status.

Our action plan includes the following:

	Must Do	Want to Do
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Short-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a voter education web page</li> <li>• Create social media “I care about” posts and a student take-over of social media</li> <li>• Add election day to the Academic calendar on the website</li> <li>• Send out a message from the University President encouraging all who can to vote (this was done for the 2019 local election)</li> <li>• Golf cart outings (during voting periods and for Census 2020 - ongoing)</li> <li>• Engage students in work of educating and promoting the 2020 Census</li> </ul>	Promote/ host debate watches Super Tuesday Election watch party Major campus events on April 1 <sup>st</sup> to launch the 2020 Census (tri-institutional)
Medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ongoing, tri-institutional info sessions for DACA (EP); tri-institutional</li> <li>• Deliberative Dialogue events</li> <li>• Promote/ host speakers/candidates</li> <li>• Visit faculty/chairs to promote voter engagement, particularly in disciplines with lower voting rates</li> <li>• Work with Exploratory Majors advisors to promote registration and voting among these students (who have low registration and voting rates)</li> </ul>	Plan large scale events for 2020 Work with Met Media on article series National Issues Forum discussions during spring and into summer

### **Moving Forward**

We do not expect any significant implementation challenges to our plan. Our committee will meet 2 times a semester, with individuals and teams working on specific pieces in between. We will evaluate our successes and challenges after the release of the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement report. Through this report, we will measure the impact of our efforts. We want to stress that goal one is an ongoing initiative that is independent of election cycles and that work on the 2020 Census will prime our teams for the work of the 2020 election season.