



Michigan Tech

Michigan Tech 2018 Action Plan
All In Democracy Challenge
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Institutional Context

Michigan Technological University is a public research university, home to more than 7,000 students from 60 countries around the world. Founded in 1885, the University offers more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science and technology, engineering, forestry, business and economics, health professions, humanities, mathematics, and social sciences. Michigan Tech joined Campus Compact in the 2016-2017 academic year and has remained engaged by participating in their conferences and webinars. Also in 2016-2017, a task force of faculty and staff examined community engagement at Michigan Tech and wrote a proposal shared with deans, the Provost, and Student Affairs V.P. on ways to better coordinate and support community engagement in the future. During this process, the task force learned about NSLVE data for Michigan Tech, which revealed voting rates below national averages, and began to consider ways to bolster democratic engagement on campus. Members of the task force are also participating in the All In Democracy Challenge Committee.

On National Voter Registration Day 2017, a subset of the All In Democracy Challenge Committee organized a voter registration drive in collaboration with the Houghton County and Houghton City Clerks, the Copper Country League of Women Voters, and an Introduction to Sociology class taught by Dr. Winkler. A total of 160 students registered to vote in the four hours of tabling throughout campus that day. Information was also available to students on the items that would be on the November ballot. Students in the Introduction to Sociology class learned about procedures, rules, and challenges to voter registration and incorporated their classroom learning and hands-on voter registration experience in a reflection assignment. Volunteers and students shared feedback on this first voter registration drive, which will be incorporated into our planning for next fall.

Committee Members

The All In Democracy Challenge committee at Michigan Tech consists of:

- a) Kari Henquinet, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology & Pavlis Honors College
- b) Richelle Winkler, Associate Professor of Sociology
- c) Angie Carter, Assistant Professor of Sociology
- d) Blair Orr, Professor in School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science
- e) Zachary Rubinstein, Assistant Director of Center for Diversity and Inclusion
- f) Mary Raber, Assistant Dean of Academic Programs, Pavlis Honors College
- g) David Watkins, Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering
- h) Susanna Peters, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences, Law and Society Program
- i) Bonnie Gorman, Dean of Students
- j) Lorelle Meadows, Dean of Pavlis Honors College
- k) Tristan Odekirk, Peace Corps Master's International student in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Americorps alum
- l) Bradley Wells, doctoral student in Biological Sciences and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer

Goals and measures of success

Michigan Tech's ***long-term goal*** is to reach the national average with 75% of the eligible voters in the Michigan Tech student body registered to vote. To achieve this goal we plan to **increase our registered eligible voters by 10% (using 2014 as the baseline) in the 2018 midterm elections to 60%**. In the 2014 midterm elections 49.9 % of Michigan Tech's eligible student voters were registered. We will register 500 voters to achieve this goal. For the **2020 general election our target is 72%**, a 10% increase over the 2016 presidential-year election when 62.3% of the eligible voters at Michigan Tech were registered. (These goals are based upon current NSLVE data.)

Action Plan for 2018

Spring Semester 2018 Plans

We will hold several meetings with the All In Committee named above during the spring semester to accomplish the following:

1. Coordinate with organizers of Constitution Day events to plan for fall
2. Coordinate with Center for Diversity and Inclusion to identify and invite a guest speaker on voter suppression to campus for the Social Justice Lecture Speaker
3. Review feedback as a committee from National Voter Registration Day 2017 and start planning this event for 2018

Fall Semester 2018 Plans

1. September: Advertise widely for the Constitution Day events to take place September 17
2. September or early October: Social Justice Lecture Speaker on Voter Suppression
3. Sept 25, 2018: National Voter Registration Day - campus wide voter registration drive coordinating with the Houghton County and City Clerks, the Copper Country League of Women Voters, student government groups, and key classes (e.g., SS 2700 Introduction to Sociology, SS 2610 Intro to Law and Society, SS 3661 Constitutional Law, and SS 2600 American Government). We will work with student representatives on the All In Committee to develop student group competitions and marketing strategies to raise student awareness and engagement. We will use "tappers" to collect emails from students who stop by tables and create a database of email address to send out voting reminders later in the fall.
4. October and November - Follow up with email reminders to students about deadlines to register to vote and election day.

When available, we will obtain new NSLVE data to review any changes in the fall 2018 election compared to past years, particularly other midterm elections, to evaluate if we have met our goals.