

All In Democracy Challenge - Missouri Western State University

2018

Chair:

Paul Granberry III – Assistant Director of External Relations - Student Government Association

Administrative Members:

Brandt Shields - Director of External Relations – University President’s Office, Missouri Western

Shana Meyer - Vice President for Student Affairs, Missouri Western

Faculty Member:

Dr. Edwin Taylor – Associate Professor – Political Science

Student Members:

Jashira Bolden – Student Government Association Judicial Board Member

Rachel Gonzalez - Student Government Association Judicial Board Member

Breanna Miller – Criminal Justice Major

Engoma Fataki – Student Government Association Senator

Cameron Price - Student Government Association Judicial Board Member

Matthew Brimble - Student Government Association Senator

Andrea Gordon - Student Government Association Senator

Composition:

Missouri Western is utilizing a cross-institutional approach to planning activities related to political participation. The Student Government Association is leading the charge along with the Division of Student Affairs and the President’s Office.

Goal:

Our goal is to promote and organize events related to increasing participation among students. We believe that if students believe that they can make an impact through participation. Then the higher the likelihood they’ll promote voter’s participation to other students.

Activities / Events:

External Relations Committee (Ongoing)-- The External Relations Committee will meet bi-weekly during the school year to plan for increasing political participation among students.

SGA Legislation (Ongoing)— Student Government has tried to stay abreast of current public policy issues and has written campus legislation regarding DACA students and supporting

international students. We will continue to research policies that affect college campuses and inform our student constituents.

Local Elections (Ongoing)-- It is our goal to inform students about upcoming elections, issues of importance, and governmental leaders throughout the years to better prepare them for national elections.

Government Day (November 2017 / 2018)-- This was one of our most planned events. We provided transportation for students to City Hall where they toured the building and learned about different departments inside City Hall. Students also received the opportunity to speak with the mayor personally about issues that matter to them. This was a valuable opportunity that we will plan to continue in the future, and that allowed students to learn more about local government and upcoming local elections.

Dinner with Missouri State Representative McGee (December 2017)-- Students were able to network and mingle at a dinner hosted by Missouri State Representative McGee. He persuaded students why it is important to be politically engaged and they also got to hear about the importance on working on a campaign.

Governor's Forum on Faith & Values (January 2018) – Missouri Western will send one student to attend the Governor's Forum. This event focuses on faith and values in leadership. Students are given the opportunity to share their own experiences and beliefs with each other in order to become stronger leaders in their communities.

National Prayer Breakfast & Student Weekend (February 2018)—One student will attend this event in Washington, DC. The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual gathering in Washington, D.C. that draws 3,500 people from all over the world. During this event, the President of the United States, representatives from more than 120 nations, leaders from all areas of the United States Government, and individuals from various walks of life come together.

After the Breakfast, students attend a weekend retreat to build deeper relationships with one another, engage in deeper discussions of the leadership principles taught by Jesus, and further process through their experience at the Breakfast by exploring what it looks like to live reconciled lives.

Great Northwest Day (February 2018)-- Students will attend Great Northwest Day at the Capitol in Jefferson City. The program is a cooperative effort by Northwest Missouri communities to unify and enhance our region's image in the state capital, Jefferson City, and to pursue issues and legislation beneficial to the "Great Northwest." With a delegation of over 300 northwest Missouri constituents, Great Northwest Day includes introductions to the House & Senate and a regional lunch, followed by an evening buffet with State legislators, department heads and

elected officials. Missouri Western students will volunteer at the event and will schedule meetings with legislators to discuss items of importance to them and Missouri Western.

Student Government Elections (March 2018)—Our very own Student Government will hold elections in March. We will work to better inform students about how to run for a senate seat or as a member of the executive branch through participation in Heart Your Union events and SGA Week. We will also inform the general student body how to vote for their campus representatives and on Constitutional changes. In the past, student participation in campus elections have been low, in the 200-300 range of student votes, with many seats being uncontested. We hope to grow both the number of students running and the number of students voting by better promotion & informing our constituents.