

All In Democracy Challenge
Missouri Western State University
2020

Chair:

Konnor Buczek – Student Director of External Relations - Student Government Association

Administrative Members:

Steve Johnston - Director of External Relations, University President's Office, Missouri Western State University

Dr. Hannah Piechowski - Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Missouri Western State University

Faculty Member:

Dr. Edwin Taylor – Associate Professor, Political Science

Student Members:

Jashira Bolden – Student Government Association, Judicial Board Member

Engoma Fataki – Student Government Association Past-President

Tate McCoy - Student Government Association Parliamentarian

Nathan Scott - Student Government Association President

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 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 Black Lives Matter and Racial Justice, reductions in funding from State Governors, DACA students, access to housing amenities, and

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

Financial Oversight Committee (Ongoing): This committee is responsible for allocating fund provided by the University to various organizations and individuals that request funding for sponsorships, travel, or projects. By being engaged in this process, students develop a strong understanding of University budgets, needs, and pressures.

Local, State, and Federal 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. A partnership will be established with the “[Griffs Vote: Voter Engagement Project](#)”, chaired by the Campus Election Engagement Project Fellow. This project includes events and activities dedicated to voter registration, voter education, and get out the vote.

Partnership with Saint Joseph City Council for Police & Fire Station (Ongoing): The External Relations Committee has started working with the Saint Joseph City Council to build a new police and fire station adjacent to campus. This partnership is still ongoing and will provide closer safety and emergency services for all students residing on campus and/or attending classes.

Government Day (November 2020): 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.

Invitation to Dinner for Missouri State Senator Hegeman (December 2020): Students are able to network and mingle at a dinner hosted by SGA for Missouri State Senator. The Senator will be asked to discuss why it is important to be politically engaged and the importance of working on a campaign.

Missouri Governor’s Student Leadership Forum on Faith & Values (January/February 2021): 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 5-9, 2021): 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 2021): 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 2021): 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, averaging about 300 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.