



**CAMPUS
DEMOCRACY
CHALLENGE**

National Louis University 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan Developed by: Office of Student Affairs

Executive Summary:

The Civic Engagement Center provides the NLU community opportunities to engage in civic action projects, including Get Out the Vote Drives, and projects that allow students to address local, national, or global problems and issues.

The Civic Engagement Center maintains an annual calendar of events directed to the NLU community, both students (undergraduate and graduate) and faculty and staff, to raise awareness about social and civic issues and to observe nationally recognized days and months.

Leadership:

Assistant Dean of Students – Dr. Danielle Laban, dlaban@nl.edu

Campus and Community Resource Coordinator - Emily Heitzman, eheitzman1@nl.edu

Commitment:

Our campus signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

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

- Direct Email
- Flyers on Campus
- Social Media
- Text Messages
- Brought speakers to lead voter education discussions
- Social Sciences Dept. led voter education discussions in classes and special Welcome Week work sessions
- Tabling in Student Center

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data: 64.2% participation, a 3% drop from 2016.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals

are: Short-term - 68%

Long-term - 75%

Strategy:

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

- In-person voter registration drives, In-person voter education events (e.g. film screenings, debates, lecture series, etc.), Virtual voter registration drives (e.g. Couch Party text banking events), Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.)
- Partnered with Social Sciences Dept. to offer voter and ballot education sessions during Welcome Week and in social sciences classes. They also did tabling during lunch hours leading up to the election.
- Voter Registration Tables, at large fall events, including orientation and welcome week.
- Candidate Examination and Discussion
- Election Watch Party – Tues, Nov. 1st
- Partnered with Chicago Votes (community organization) to help with the following events:
 - Welcome Week Eagle Fest: Chicago Votes organizers registered students to vote and recruited student leaders to plan Parade to the Polls.
 - Student-led sign-making party and Parade to the Polls. (Social Sciences Dept. let students out of class early and gave extra credit to students who attended).
 - Organizer led ballot education discussion at Student Advisory Council Meeting.

NSLVE:

National Louis University has authorized NSLVE to collect our data.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan through an institutional assessment plan for learning and student engagement. Assessment will occur in conjunction with our Office of Accreditation and Assessment.

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 NSLVE reports will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.