

# Northampton Community College

Center for Civic and Community Engagement



## Democratic Engagement Action Plan

# #BeEngaged

## Message from the Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition

The Center for Civic and Community Engagement (CCCE) is one of the core components of Northampton Community College's (NCC) commitment to student engagement. Through the myriad of programs and activities coordinated through the CCCE, NCC continues to prepare the next generation of leaders.

At the end of 2022 and the start of 2023, the Center will begin a transition which will likely come with a name change. However, this does not change NCC's commitment to democratic engagement. We will continue to ensure that our students develop the skills, knowledge and dispositions associated with civic engagement; thereby empowering them to have their voice heard

Today, we invite you to support our mission to encourage students to strengthen our communities through civic learning and democratic engagement initiatives.



As a member of the Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC), I have been fortunate to be involved in efforts of the CCCE to encourage NCC students to be informed and engaged citizens. My work with the CCCE has included facilitating an Interactive Forum focused on "How Personal Values Inform Civic Engagement".

In my numerous roles at NCC: Professor of Psychology; Chair of the Pan African Caucus, a staff and faculty affiliation and advocacy group; advisor the Black Student Union on the Bethlehem campus; and leader of the Diversity Committee, I recognize the power and importance of student involvement, both in and out of the classroom. I have seen my students energized by participating in events coordinated by CCCE; all of which will continue to serve them as they move beyond NCC to

pursue additional academic and occupational goals.

It has been exciting to see NCC earn various recognitions through the efforts of the CCCE and I am proud of my involvement to increase civic learning and voter engagement.

*Gina Turner*

Dr. Gina A. Turner  
Coalition Member  
Professor of Psychology

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## Executive Summary

Since 1967, NCC has educated over 400,000 students and grown to become the region's largest, most diverse open-access postsecondary institution. NCC offers more than 100 college degree, certificate, specialized diploma, and enrichment programs to more than 28,000 credit, non-credit, and community education students each year at its three Pennsylvania campuses: Main in Bethlehem Township, Monroe in Tannersville, and Fowler Family Southside Center in the city of Bethlehem. NCC is often the only viable college option for underserved students. Sixty-four percent (64%) of students enrolling directly from high school are from the bottom half of their graduating class; 36% are the first in their family to attend college.

NCC has the highest number and percent of minority students in the three-county region representing over 41% (Bethlehem campus) and 52% (Monroe campus) of all credit students; 59% of part-time and 45% of full-time students care for dependents. Fifty-two percent (52%) of NCC's students receive some form of federal, state, or institutional financial assistance, without which a college education would be out of reach.

NCC is committed to our students' success as evidenced by its mission: *Recognizing that students are the primary reason that Northampton Community College exists, we seek to provide excellent, accessible, and comprehensive learning experiences in partnership with the dynamic, diverse communities we serve.*

The following list highlights various accomplishments and efforts to enhance civic learning and democratic engagement in recent years:

- NCC received an award for the Best Action Plan.
- NCC earned a Silver Seal for nonpartisan student voter participation in the 2020 election.
- NCC was listed in the 2021 Washington Monthly Honor Roll, as one of America's Best Colleges for Student Voting.
- NCC was given the designation of Highly Established Action Plan for 2022 by All In.
- NCC hosted a successful Candidates' Day, a day where all local candidates were invited to campus just weeks before the November election.
- NCC was recently awarded an All In Community of Practice Grant to support democratic engagement activities.
- CCCE Student Ambassador was elected as the first ever Muslim and Asian-American Candidate for Easton City Council.
- CCCE facilitated approximately 20 civic education/engagement programs and activities to increase student voting during this calendar year.
- Through collaboration with the Office of Global Education and International Services, CCCE continues to ensure that the Community College Initiative (CCI) program participants are engaged in service learning, civic and community engagement activities.

The development and implementation of the Democratic Engagement Plan is rooted in the work of the CCCE, with execution from the office of Student Life and Leadership Development, in conjunction with NCC students, faculty and staff.

## Leadership

### **Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC)**

No one entity on campus is solely responsible for the development, implementation, and promotion of democratic initiatives. Many departments work collaboratively with the members of the CDEC to review and discuss the programs and activities highlighted in the plan. Student Life office staff leadership have jumped in and maintained continuity of mission and provide a clear direction for the committee. CDEC members are approached on a rolling basis to join the committee considering an individual's interest, campus role and relationship with civic engagement priorities. The flexibility in size and involvement of committee members allows CDEC to accommodate the fluid schedule of community college faculty, staff, and students while avoiding burnout and maintaining momentum. Now that the committee has an established presence on campus, we will consider expanding our membership. As highlighted below, the coalition members consist of representatives from both external and internal groups/clubs, offices, and divisions that have a major focus on democratic engagement.

### *Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) List*

Dr. David Ruth – President, Northampton Community College  
 Dr. Sedgwick Harris – Vice President, Administrative Affairs  
 Dr. Gina Turner – Professor of Psychology  
 Doug Smith – Director, Student Life and Leadership Development  
 Belinda Austin – Associate Dean, Student Services-Monroe Campus  
 Dr. Nathan Carpenter – Director, Global Education & International Services  
 Dr. Precie Shroyer – Associate Dean, Monroe Campus  
 Samuel Chen – Assistant Professor, Political Science  
 Dr. Amy Porter – Director, Housing & Residence Life  
 Brandon Andrews – Professional Assistant, English as a Second Language  
 Kristie Miers – Grants Specialist & Adjunct Professor  
 Frances Boshell – Assistant Director, Student Life & Leadership Development-Monroe Campus  
 Morgan Flagg-Detwiler – First-Year Experience Coordinator  
 Erin Lindenmuth – Records Assistant  
 Zachary Cruz – Financial Aid Counselor

Acronyms:    NCC – Northampton Community College  
                  CDEC – Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition  
                  CCCE – Center for Civic and Community Engagement  
                  NSLVE – National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement

## Commitment

Educating for civic learning and democratic engagement is a hallmark of NCC's institutional culture. NCC is committed to inspiring our students to be informed and active citizens through a myriad of engagement opportunities coordinated by CCCE. The following highlights NCC's efforts and strategies to foster civic/democratic engagement among students, faculty, and staff:

### Strategic Planning

In 2012, NCC's newly inaugurated President, Dr. Mark Erickson led the campus through a comprehensive strategic planning process that identified Student Outreach and Community Engagement as strategic focus areas for NCC. This strategic planning process led to the creation of the CCCE. The following highlights CCCE's mission, vision and values statements.

- ✓ **Mission** - *To provide enhanced programs, valuable services and sustained partnerships that encourage students, faculty and staff to be agents of change.*
- ✓ **Vision** - *Inspire the campus community to be civically minded and make a difference around the globe.*
- ✓ **Values** - *The Center for Civic and Community Engagement is committed to the following fundamental values:*

***Integrity:** We approach every situation with honesty and trust.*

***Accountability:** We take responsibility for our work and actions.*

***Teamwork:** We work collaboratively with others to promote change.*

***Advocacy:** We inspire individuals to take actions in support of a cause.*

***Respect:** We treat people with courtesy and civility.*

***Creativity:** We set goals and find ways to meet them.*

***Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** We recognize and embrace the differences in others.*

NCC's mission, vision and values serve as the foundation of the college's commitments to meet the needs of our students through numerous programs and projects that align with the college's six Strategic Focus Areas:

- i. **Enhancing Student Access:** Create multiple pathways and reduce barriers to college entry through collaborative work with our school district and workforce partners, while offering quality, affordable, and responsive educational opportunities for all of our student populations.
- ii. **Inspiring Academic Excellence:** Engaging students with high-quality instruction delivered by experienced, professional, and dedicated faculty following best practices in an engaging, dynamic, and collaborative environment to support learning.
- iii. **Fostering Diversity and Global Engagement:** Encourage and expand the vast diversity we celebrate at NCC and learn from our unique perspectives while preparing our students to navigate the complexities and nuances of our world.



- iv. **Engaging with our Communities:** Engage and develop the internal and external communities we serve in unique and collaborative ways, helping students to become better citizens and to further address the needs of our communities.
- v. **Advancing Excellence in Technology:** Supporting our students, by providing faculty and staff with technology that will empower and inspire them to deliver the most effective teaching and instructional support for all learners
- vi. **Increasing Student Retention, Completion, and Transfer:** Align the College's practices, strategies, policies, and procedures to provide a comprehensive student experience that will promote students' success in attaining the degree, credential, or endeavor sought.

While the strategic plan has 6 areas of focus, the overarching goal of CCCE closely aligns with Strategic Area Focus #4 (Engaging With Our Communities). As programs offered by the CCCE have increased, democratic engagement activities have become a core aspect of our student offerings and spurred campus-wide involvement in similar initiatives. Programs and events are based on current issues that affect local, state, national and global communities.

### **Recognition and Achievement**

Over the years, NCC has been recognized for its commitment to civic and democratic engagement. The U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for the National Community Service has awarded NCC designation on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the past ten years. This award is granted to colleges like NCC for their extraordinary and exemplary community service contributions of its students, faculty, and staff in meeting critical community and national needs. In 2021, NCC was part of the All IN Campus Challenge, received the Silver Seal for our voter engagement rate (60%-69%) and gained recognition for having the best action plan.

NCC is one of the 240 colleges and universities in the country to have earned the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification in 2008 and again in 2015 through 2025. The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification recognizes a college's commitment to community engagement. Drawing its criteria heavily from Campus Compact's Indicators of Engagement Project, the classification reaffirms institutional commitment to deepen the practice of service and to further strengthen bonds between campus and community. This classification was conferred to NCC after a rigorous submission and evaluation process including accreditation review of documented materials describing the nature and extent of our engagement with the community locally or beyond. Achieving the Carnegie Classification signifies that NCC is a campus where community engagement is not just a priority, but also a practice that is demonstrated in outstanding and meaningful ways.

### **CCCE Focus Areas**

To help students become Engaged Citizens, CCCE focused on three key areas: service-learning, community service and volunteerism, and civic engagement. To help students identify the similarities and differences between these three focus areas, the following distinguishing characteristics were established and embedded in CCCE's webpage.

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**Figure 1: Distinguishing Characteristics between Service-Learning, Community Service and Volunteerism, and Civic Engagement**

Characteristics	Service Learning	Community Service/Volunteerism	Civic Engagement
<b>Primary Beneficiary</b>	Student and Community Partner(s)	Community Partners and Clients/Recipients	Student and Community
<b>Primary Focus</b>	Intentional Learning and Meaningful Service	Meaningful Service	Political Participation/Advocacy
<b>Intended Educational Purpose/Benefits</b>	Academic Learning and Enhanced Intellectual	Moral, Personal and Social Growth and Development	Sense of Citizenship and Awareness of Complex Social Issues
<b>Nature of Activity</b>	Based on Discipline or Student Career Objective	Based on Student Interest	Based on Student Passion or Motivation
<b>Curricular Integration</b>	Full Integration within the curriculum	None	Supplemental
<b>Reflection</b>	Includes Structured Reflection	Generally not Included	May Include Reflection

### **Integration of Democratic Engagement in Curriculum and Co-Curriculum**

Evidence of NCC's commitment to embedding the ideals of civic learning and democratic engagement in students' academic programs and co-curricular activities include, but are not limited to the following:

#### **Curriculum**

- i. **Criminal Justice:** Teaches students how to decipher patterns of human behavior, legal and ethical responsibilities, and how data on crime and prevention is collected and reported. Courses also cover psychological and sociological theories of crime causation, as well as fundamentals of criminal law, criminal procedure, civil law and the courts and our faculty bring valuable, real-world experience into every classroom.
- ii. **Political Science:** Focuses on basic issues including political theory, comparative political institutions, dominant ideologies and ideas, the importance of law, the domestic and Third World struggles for civil and political equality and international relations.
- iii. **Sociology:** Examines current social problems in the United States from the major theoretical perspectives in sociology; substance abuse, crime and violence, family problems, ageism, sexism, racism, problems relating to work, education, urbanization, technology, health care, population, and the environment.

#### **Co-Curriculum**

- i. **Community College Initiative:** One of the CCI program goals is *"to provide opportunities to engage students in civil society through professional internships, service learning and community engagement activities."* The implementation of the CCI program at NCC is essential because it not only creates an opportunity for international students to attend NCC for one year of study, but also supports the United States' efforts in the strengthening of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the educational system.

- ii. **Black Student Union:** The Black Student Union serves as a social, intellectual and political community for students of the African Diaspora with the mission of increasing Black cultural awareness through unity, respect, and self-consciousness (awareness).
- iii. **Political Science Club:** A non-partisan group open to all NCC students regardless of major. It promotes student awareness in the political process and world events through panel discussions, voter registration drives, and educational trips.
- iv. **Hispanic American Culture Club:** The Hispanic American Culture Club promotes and educates about Hispanic Culture.
- v. **Women's Club:** Promotes women's culture and awareness and expands the educational experience of women at NCC.
- vi. **NCC Pride:** Promotes social opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning students and their straight allies. We participate in local and national campaigns to raise awareness and educate our school and local community on LGBTQIA issues.
- vii. **Model United Nations:** Promotes an understanding of the United Nations and issues affecting the global community. The Model United Nations shall emphasize global citizenship, diplomacy, collaboration and conflict resolution.

#### **Collaboration and Partnership**

NCC continues to maintain a non-partisan stance and affiliations with various nationally recognized civic professional entities which include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. **Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV):** A national hub and largest nonpartisan network in the United States dedicated to increasing college student voter participation.
- ii. **ALL IN-Campus Democracy Challenge:** A national awards program that encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship
- iii. **The Andrew Goodman Foundation:** A nonpartisan organization that supports youth leadership development, voting accessibility, and social justice initiatives on campuses across the country.
- iv. **Campus Compact - Newman Civic Fellowship:** A fellowship that recognizes and supports community-committed students who are change-makers and public problem-solvers.
- v. **Campus Vote Project:** An initiative to normalize and institutionalize student voting across the country.

- vi. **League of Women Voters:** A nationwide, nonpartisan grassroots organization of women and men who believe that through informed action, people can make profound changes in their communities.

NCC also formed new partners in the second half of 2022 with the Northampton County Election Commission and Democracy for All-PennFuture to continue nonpartisan voter registration efforts.

In addition to these external partnerships, NCC also has a strong internal partnership with various offices and departments including the Office of the President, Grants, Marketing and Communications, Academic Affairs Division, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Financial Aid Office, etc.

### **Assessment and Report**

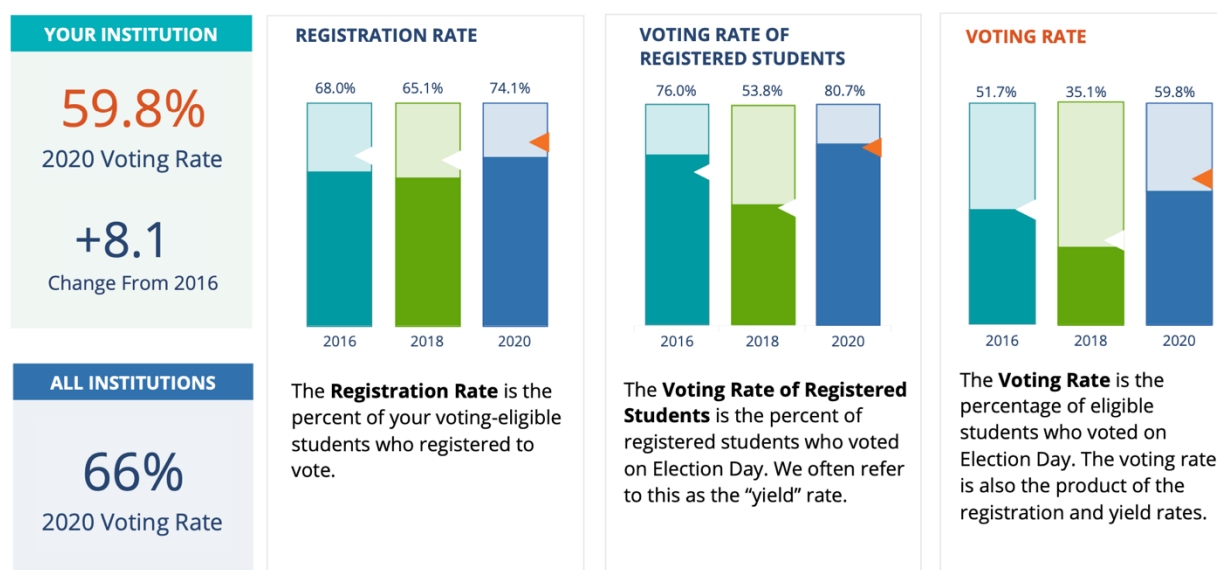
Assessment is of great importance in examining various efforts in increasing student participation in the areas of voter registration, education, and participation. NCC is continually improving in their assessment efforts in the area of civic and community engagement through the following:

### **National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)**

NCC assesses students' voter engagement through the data from National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement's (NSLVE) study and signed up to participate until 2023. According to the NSLVE's 2020 Campus Report published in October 2021, NCC students' voting engagement improved by 8.1%. This data is aged, but as we wait for the most recent election data we could not wait to take action. This data prompted us to be more specific with our programming and creating partnerships with the Women's Club and NCC Pride during National Voter Education Week. This programming, as well as a Democracy 101 session on Women in

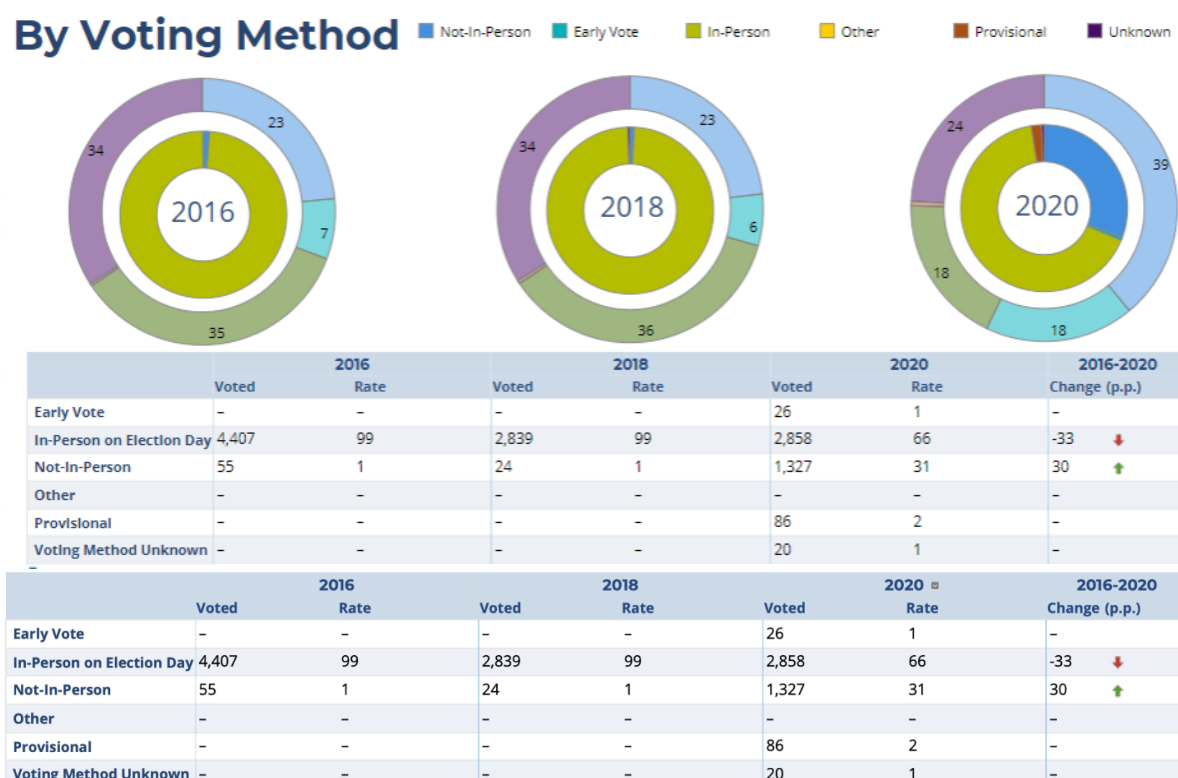
Corporate America and a forum on gender inequality in Higher Education were intended to engage women on campus and eventually close the gender gap in voter involvement on campus.

**Figure 2: Overall Student Voting Rate**



Arrows to the right of each bar represent relevant national averages (medians), which you can find in IDHE’s national report *Democracy Counts 2020*.

**Figure 3: Student Voting Rate by Method**



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Figure 4: Comparison of Student Voting by Race and Ethnicity

By Race / Ethnicity

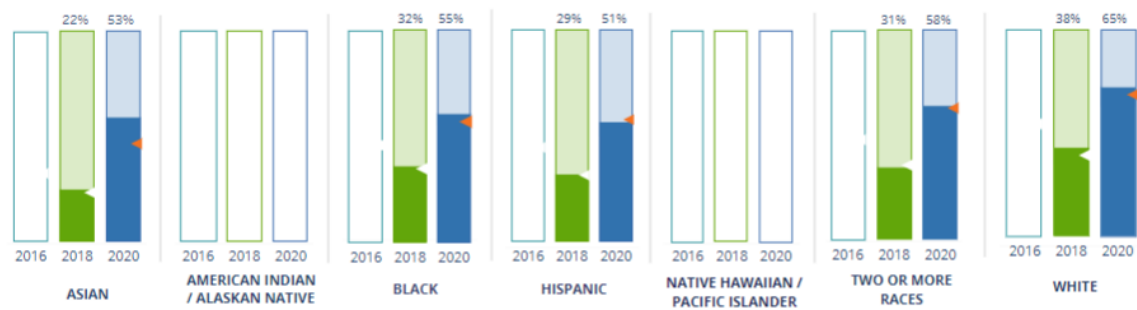


Figure 5: Comparison of Student Voting by Gender

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
Female	-	-	-	5,015	1,741	35	4,714	2,760	59	-
Male	-	-	-	3,292	1,132	34	2,571	1,557	61	-

Figure 6: Comparison of Student Voting by Age

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020 Change (p.p)
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	
18-21	4,587	2,226	49	4,419	1,407	32	3,777	2,228	59	↑ 10
22-24	1,367	651	48	1,163	368	32	1,036	597	58	↑ 10
25-29	1,121	540	48	1,078	373	35	973	537	55	↑ 7
30-39	957	556	58	941	346	37	887	525	59	↑ 1
40-49	489	332	68	480	236	49	435	286	66	↓ -2
50+	233	162	70	226	143	63	177	144	81	↑ 12

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*Figure 7: Comparison by Education Level/Undergraduate Class Year*

	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Enrolled	Voted	Rate (%)	Change (p.p)	
<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b>											
Undergraduate	8,431	4,279	51	8,090	2,763	34	7,052	4,150	59	↑	8
Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Class Unknown	323	188	58	217	110	51	233	167	72	↑	13
<b>CLASS YEAR</b>											
First Year	3,041	46	1,414	1,747	27	475	1,553	51	795	↑	5
Second Year	5,713	53	3,053	6,556	37	2,397	5,732	61	3,522	↑	8
Upper Level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>ENROLLMENT STATUS</b>											
Full-time	-	-	-	3,978	1,289	32	3,378	1,962	58	-	-
Part-time	-	-	-	4,329	1,584	37	3,907	2,355	60	-	-

*Figure 8: Comparison by Field of Study*

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	359	180	50	295	112	38	278	159	57	↑	7
Business, Management, and Marketing	1,154	611	53	1,061	341	32	943	555	59	↑	6
Communication and Journalism	176	101	57	141	63	45	106	70	66	↑	9
Communications Technologies/Technicians	107	59	55	115	47	41	108	74	69	↑	13
Computer and Information Sciences	420	211	50	424	165	39	352	212	60	↑	10
Construction Trades	34	17	50	51	17	33	37	21	57	↑	7
Education	368	190	52	426	147	35	418	249	60	↑	8

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FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Engineering and Engineering Technologies	355	184	52	311	112	36	252	143	57	↑	5
Health Professions	564	295	52	662	225	34	844	497	59	↑	7
Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Protec..	491	215	44	470	136	29	368	202	55	↑	11
Legal Professions and Studies	76	41	54	65	28	43	71	50	70	↑	16
Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Humanities	3,274	1,640	50	2,991	985	33	2,113	1,226	58	↑	8
Mathematics and Statistics	17	-	-	19	-	-	16	-	-	-	-
Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Techni..	183	93	51	160	44	28	87	50	57	↑	7
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	22	11	50	16	-	-	18	13	72	↑	22
Natural Resources and Conservation	45	27	60	60	33	55	45	33	73	↑	13
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Stu..	98	38	39	76	14	18	68	31	46	↑	7
Personal and Culinary Services	75	38	51	75	26	35	40	33	83	↑	32
Physical Sciences	58	32	55	61	18	30	36	26	72	↑	17
Precision Production	13	-	-	45	17	38	25	17	68	-	-
Psychology	64	25	39	77	27	35	368	199	54	↑	15

FIELDS	2016			2018			2020			2016-2020	
	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Enrolled	Voted	Rate	Change (p.p)	
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	173	90	52	166	60	36	178	96	54	↑	2
Visual and Performing Arts	354	192	54	314	129	41	277	182	66	↑	11
Unknown	271	166	61	224	113	50	237	169	71	↑	10

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## **Landscape**

Our 2022-2023 programming is deeply influenced by our student demographics and lessons learned from our past efforts, as well as the changing climate after the height of the COVID pandemic. Educational programming is extremely important in improving voter engagement because it helps students see beyond partisan politics and make connections between the issues that are critical to them and their vote. Student Engagement is at its highest with community-informed programming. Modifying our student worker program, providing subgrants and increasing co-sponsored events will improve cross department collaborations and encourage student-led programming. CCCE programming recognizes and seeks to address the time constraints, limited resources, and stressors community college students face. Engagement programming will address these challenges by providing a living wage, offering meals and other support, allowing students to participate in civic engagement opportunities on campus.

Within NCC, civic learning and democratic engagement initiatives have been fully supported by all levels of administration in terms of leadership, funding, faculty, staff, and students. NCC currently participates in several activities and events related to civic learning and democratic engagement, coordinated through the CCCE. Those activities include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Ask Every Student Initiative**

NCC received funding from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition (SLSV) for the implementation of Ask Every Student initiative, which allows NCC to ask every enrolled, credit NCC student to register to vote at least once, in campus programming, residential life, and as part of special activities, in-person or virtually during the 2021-2022 academic year. Funds are also used to support Project Ambassadors, implement peer-to-peer outreach activities, promote and implement democratic education events, and integrate voter registration strategies into common campus activities. During the Spring 2022 semester, a residence life voter registration competition where six (6) residence halls competed to see who could ask the most students on campus to register to vote.

### **2022 Lobby Day**

NCC continues to encourage students to participate in Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges' Annual Lobby Day at the Capitol. Through participation in Lobby Day, students can get involved and make their voices heard. Due to the pandemic, the 2022 Lobby Day was organized in a virtual format, and ten NCC students, along with NCC staff: President Mark Erickson, Board of Trustees Chairman - Robert Fehnel, Legislative Liaison – Joe Uliana, and Chief of Staff – Dr. David Ruth, participated in each event. Legislative Attendees include Sen. Mario Scavella, Rep. Rosemary Brown, Rep. Maureen Madden, Rep. Jack Rader, Sen. Lisa Boscola, Rep. Jeanne McNeill, Rep. Ann Flood, Rep. Robert Freeman, and Rep. Steve Samuelson.

### **2022 Day of Service**

NCC celebrated its 7th Annual Day of Service on Thursday, March 31, 2022. The Annual Day of Service, coordinated by the Center for Civic and Community Engagement (CCCE) is an

opportunity for NCC students, faculty and staff to give back to our communities and help raise awareness of needs in our communities, and the organizations that serve those needs.

- i. ***Camel's Hump Farm Nature Center:*** Helped plant trees at the Nature Center located in Bethlehem.
- ii. ***Gracedale Nursing Home:*** Hosted games “happy hour” with residents.
- iii. ***Family Promise of Monroe County:*** Helped with sorting and organizing birthday gift donations for guests.
- iv. ***By the People!:*** Transcribed historic documents for the Library of Congress to improve accessibility.
- v. ***The Gress Mountain Ranch (TGMR):*** Participated in the beautification of TGNR as well as caring for the animals.
- vi. ***Camelot for Children:*** Assisted with ground beautification projects.
- vii. ***Art Fundraiser for Ukraine:*** Created screen printed artwork that were sold at an Earth Day event to raise funds for Ukrainian relief.

### **Interactive Forums and Information Sessions**

Interactive Forums and Information Sessions focus on increasing understanding of contemporary social issues in local and global communities. Topics for the 2022 -2023 academic year include (a) Gender Inequality in Higher Education; (b) Voting Rights for Returning Citizens; (c) Race and Political Engagement; (d) The Problems with Stereotypes and the Path to Change; (e) Racism in Medicine.

### **2022 Constitution Day**

NCC hosted its annual Constitution Day activities with a new twist. Along with informational slides being broadcasted on screens around campus, there was an opportunity to take part of the naturalization quiz for prizes in an interactive forum. Constitutions were available and a voter registration activity ran most of the day.

### **National Voter Education Week and Vote Early Day**

NCC believes that all voters should have access to the tools and information they need to be confident voters. The office of Student Life and Leadership Development sponsored a social media campaign on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram during National Voter Education Week (October 3 – 7, 2022) promoting a different voter engagement activity each day including (a) Registering to vote, (b) Requesting a mail-in ballot, (c) Making a plan to vote, (d) Learning what’s on an individual’s ballot and (e) Encouraging others to partake in the previous steps. Student Life also held a special event for each day with voter registration available the entire week. These events included the Candidates’ Day in which all of those running for local office were invited to share information about their campaign on campus.

The campaign also promoted Vote Early Day on October 28, 2022, to further encourage voter participation and engagement. Tabling on October 28<sup>th</sup> and literature across campus helped

spread the word. Every post encourages students to contact the Student Life office if they have any questions about or need assistance with the voting process.

### **National Voter Registration Day at NCC**

NCC is committed to strengthening our democracy by encouraging faculty, staff, and students to register to vote and get #VoteReady. On 2022 National Voter Registration Day, the Student Life and Leadership Development team coordinated voter registration sessions at all three NCC campus locations. The event was marked successful as NCC encouraged approximately 177 students on that day.

## Goals

The following tables highlight the two Democratic Engagement goals and timeline for the implementation of the goals and strategies.

**Table 1: Democratic Engagement Goals**

Democratic Engagement Goal #1: Voter/Political Engagement			
<i>Increase the voting rates of students</i>			
Strategies	CDEC Lead Persons (Bethlehem Campus)	CDEC Lead Persons (Monroe Campus)	Status
Collaborate with Financial Aid Office to hire positions through Federal Work Study (FWS) to support voter/political engagement efforts and financially support work study/financial aid eligible NCC students participating in community services including voter engagement activities.	Doug Smith and Erin Lindenmuth	Doug Smith and Erin Lindenmuth	Currently Paused but will resume in SP2023
Sustain partnerships with Andrew Goodman Vote Everywhere Program, Campus Vote Project, and Students Learn Students Vote Coalition	Doug Smith and Dr. Sedgwick Harris	Doug Smith and Dr. Sedgwick Harris	Completed and Ongoing
Institutionalize voter registration by embedding voter registration information (Residence Halls, student programming and activities, etc.)	Dr. Gina Turner, Dr. Amy Porter, Brandon Andrews, Morgan Flagg-Detwiler, and Doug Smith	Fran Boshell, Dr. Precie Shroyer, Belinda Austin, and RoseAnn Ferrullo	Completed and Ongoing
Encourage participation in democratic/political engagement related events (Summits, National Voter Education Day, National Voter Registration Day, Constitution Day, Vote Early Day, Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign, etc.)	Dr. Gina Turner, Doug Smith, and Dr. Sedgwick Harris	Dr. Precie Shroyer and Fran Boshell	Completed and Ongoing
Explore grant opportunities to offset costs on democratic engagement related activities including voter registrations and promotions	Kristie Miers and Doug Smith	Kristie Miers and Doug Smith	Completed and Ongoing
Conduct registration drives at all campuses.	Doug Smith (with non-partisan outside organizations)	Fran Boshell, Dr. Precie Shroyer, and Belinda Austin (with non-partisan outside organizations)	Completed and Ongoing

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 CCCE – Center for Civic and Community Engagement  
 NSLVE – National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement

## Democratic Engagement Goal #2: Civic Education/Learning

*Promote learning on 'Engaged Citizenship' among NCC students, faculty and staff to increase their understanding and awareness of the Democratic Process, Voter Rights, Census, Our Electoral Process, Impeachment, Civic Duties, etc.*

Strategies	CDEC Lead Persons (Bethlehem Campus)	CDEC Lead Persons (Monroe Campus)	Status
Regular Participation in Campus Compact's Newman Civic Fellowship	Doug Smith and Dr. Sedgwick Harris	Doug Smith and Dr. Sedgwick Harris	Completed and Ongoing
Reevaluate the structure of the CCCE and its place in the institution to align the Center with the College mission and our community to provide top-quality civic engagement opportunities	Dr. Gina Turner, Dr. David Ruth, and Dr. Sedgwick Harris	Dr. Gina Turner, Dr. David Ruth, Dr. Sedgwick Harris, Dr. Precie Schroyer, and Belinda Austin	Ongoing
Increase social media and online engagement - frequent distribution of democracy fact sheets & election, myvoteeverywhereatNCC, video clips, certificates, and other resources via college's news outlets and social media platforms	Doug Smith and various NCC students and clubs	Fran Boshell and Dr. Precie Shroyer	Completed and Ongoing
Facilitate Info Sessions, Interactive Forums, etc. and encourage participation	Doug Smith and Dr. Gina Turner	Fran Boshell and Dr. Precie Shroyer	Completed and Ongoing
Review assessment data to update and improve programs and activities (NSLVE Report)	Dr. Gina Turner, Doug Smith, and Kristie Miers	Belinda Austin, Doug Smith, and Dr. Precie Schroyer	Upcoming
Collaborate with Academic Affairs division to implement a structure for faculty to incorporate democratic engagement components in their curriculum	Dr. Gina Turner, Doug Smith, and Sam Chen	Dr. Precie Schroyer	Completed and Ongoing
Facilitate specific programming on social justice through the lens of civic engagement	Doug Smith	Doug Smith	Upcoming

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**Table 2: Fall 2022 Timeline for Implementation of Goals/Strategies - Subject to Change**

	<b>Activity Type</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Status/Date</b>
<b>September</b>	Campus Resource Fair	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(9/6/2022)
	All-In Community of Practice Meeting	N/A	Completed(9/12/22)
	Office Open House	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(9/14/22)
	Constitution Day Quiz and Graphics Display	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(9/16/22)
	Voter Registration Sessions	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(9/15 & 16/22)
	Pennsylvania Youth Voting Summit	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(9/17/22)
	National Voter Registration Day	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(9/20/22)
<b>October</b>	National Voter Education Week	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(10/3 – 10/7/22)
	Candidates' Day	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(10/4/22)
	All-In Community of Practice Meeting	N/A	Completed(10/17/22)
	Vote Early Day at NCC	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(10/28/22)
	Get Out The Vote Halloween Party	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(10/25/21)
<b>November</b>	Election Hero Day	Students, Faculty and Staff	Completed(11/07/2022)
	All-In Community of Practice Meeting	N/A	Upcoming(11/14/22)
<b>December</b>	All-In Community of Practice Meeting	N/A	Upcoming(12/5/22)

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*Table 3: Spring 2023 Timeline for Implementation of Goals/Strategies – Subject to Change*

	Activity Type	Target Audience	Status/Date
<b>January</b>	Nominate 2023 Newman Civic Fellow	Students	Due before 2/1/23
	Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition Spring 2023 Meeting	Faculty and Staff	Due End of January
	Ask Every Student Competition	Students	TBD
<b>February</b>	Social Justice Discussion – Racism in Medicine	Students, Faculty and Staff	Upcoming(2/13/22)
	Ask Every Student Competition	Students	TBD
	Emerging Student Leaders Program	Students	Every Tuesday in February
<b>March</b>	Democracy 101: International Students role in U.S. Civic Engagement	Students, Faculty and Staff	Early March
	NCC Day of Service	Students, Faculty and Staff	Mid-March
	Voter Registration Sessions - #AskEveryStudent	Students, Faculty and Staff	Due in March
	Ask Every Student Competition	Students	TBD
<b>April</b>	Reflection Session: Student Service Project Presentation	Students, Faculty and Staff	Due in April
	Voter Registration Sessions - #AskEveryStudent	Students, Faculty and Staff	Due in April
	Voting Engagement Awareness	Students, Faculty and Staff	Due in April
	2023 Lobby Day	Students	Early April
	Ask Every Student Competition	Students	TBD
	Democracy 101: U.S. Foreign Policy	Students, Faculty and Staff	Due in April

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## **Reporting**

The Democratic Engagement Plan will first be shared among administrators and departments/offices that serve as stakeholders in promoting civic engagement. After review and approval of senior administration, efforts highlighted in this plan will be shared with NCC, posted on CCCE's website (which will likely be redesigned in Spring 2023) and shared with the All In campus Democracy Challenge and other external organizations. Furthermore, updates and information will be shared through social media channels and other college news outlets. The NSLVE report will be included on the CCCE website and shared with the CDEC to be disseminated on campus.

The reporting structure could change in the coming months. The Director of Student Life and Leadership Development will continue to lead the auxiliary CDEC in the interim, with reporting to the President of the College and the VP of Administrative Affairs. External partners will be kept abreast of all details of the program.

## **Evaluation**

Evaluation plays an enormous role in our efforts to effectively enhance student participation in voter/political engagement and civic education. The evaluation process includes the following steps:

### ***STEP 1 - Develop Problem Statement and Hypothesis***

The Student Life Director will collaborate with the other staff members of the Center to determine the areas that need to be evaluated (voting rate, civic-mindedness, program/activity impact, etc.). Based on the selected area(s), the relevance of the problem is highlighted. Further, the hypothesis provides a specific direction and a better understanding of the rationale for the evaluation.

### ***STEP 2 – Engage Stakeholders***

Civic Engagement partners with NCC’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness in the administration and analysis of National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement [NSLVE] and Civic Minded Survey. The Student Life Director collaborates with CDEC members to determine whether the evaluation should be conducted using all the datasets or specific dataset(s).

### ***STEP 3 – Identify Models for Evaluation***

CDEC members determine evaluation questions to ensure that all needs are met. For each evaluation process, two evaluation designs (Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal) are utilized and applied singly or simultaneously. The Cross-Sectional design examines the extent to which different types of students are civically engaged while the longitudinal design examines the changes in engagement over time (e.g. time of admission – time of graduation).

### ***STEP 4 – Collect and Analyze Data***

CCCE collaborates with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness on data collection and analysis efforts. After data collection, strategies to analyze data include conducting and exploring statistical differences and similarities for quantitative data and identifying themes for qualitative data.

### ***STEP 5 – Interpret and Disseminate Data Findings***

CDEC members synthesize results to identify the findings that support and/or contradict the hypothesis/rationale of the evaluation. However, it is important to note that the process for the collection, interpretation and dissemination of NSLVE may vary based on delivery time of the report in relation to academic semesters.

### ***STEP 6 – Integrate and Apply Evaluation Findings***

The findings may or may not reveal gaps that need to be bridged and conditions that need improvement or elimination. Based on the findings, CDEC members make informed decisions and adjust programs and services to improve the overall satisfaction and engagement of students at NCC.