



Phoenix College Civic Action Group

Summer/Fall 2020

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

2020 DRAFT Action Plan



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1. Executive Summary

The Civic Action Group (CAG) is a nonpartisan, campus organization of students and faculty at Phoenix College which aims to promote participation, voter education and the empowerment of citizens to make informed and educated views and lead civically engaged lives. CAG performs tasks and strategies with the cooperation of students and the community towards creating habits of life-long learning and civic commitment.

Mission Statement

The Civic Action Group (CAG) is a nonpartisan, campus organization invested in education and increased participation and civic engagement. Through factual information sharing, it hopes to empower citizens to form their own opinions and lead civically engaged lives. Further, CAG believes that public service is at the center of living in an empowered, all-inclusive society. CAG aims to engage communities in a conversation and lead them in actions concerning public policy and laws that impacts the people, election and voting and why PARTICIPATION MATTERS!

Principles

- Promote education for informed citizenship
- Inspire the spirit of volunteerism and public service
- Promote critical thinking toward formation of informed opinion
- Contribute to a discussion of public policy
- Encourage and promote voting
- Promote nonpartisan civic participation
- Promote education through service-learning

2. Leadership

Phoenix College Civic Action Group consists of students and faculty in Political Science that meets at least once a week. Liberal Arts Faculty Dr. Albert Celozza¹ serves as CAG convenor which is comprised of following representatives:

Co-Chairs

- Esteban Espinoza (Political Science, Service Learning, and International Studies Student)
- Elizabeth Preayer (President, Black Students Union)

Members

- Katherine Strong (Political Science Student)

¹ Albert Celozza, Faculty, Liberal Arts Department; albert.celozza@phoenixcollege.edu

- George Childs (President, Male Empowerment Network and Political Science Student)
- David Berdeski (Political Science Student)
- Marie Gillen-Strauss (Sociology and Social Work Faculty and PC student)
- Malcolm Read (Political Science student)
- Lionel Lowe (Political Science student)
- David Ortiz Leon (President, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Success Specialist)

Additional CAG leadership and support is provided by the Office of Student Life and Leadership (Diana Martinez, Acting Director).

3. Commitment and Landscape

Landscape

Phoenix College is a member of The Democracy Commitment (TDC), a national initiative that provides a platform for the development and expansion of community college programs, projects, and curriculum designed to engage students in civic learning and democratic practice. The Liberal Arts Department sponsored a Voters Education Forum regarding Propositions 105 and 106 on August 20, 2019. The program included talks from former Attorney General Terry Goddard, Councilwoman Laura Pastor, State Senator Lela Alston, AFL-CIO Political Director Joseph Murphy, representatives from South Phoenix, students and members of the community. There was a registration of voters and signing of various petitions. On September 17, 2019, Phoenix College celebrated Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. The program focussed on Women and the Constitution in conjunction with the 99th year of the 19th Amendment. Arizona State Representative Athena Salman (LD26), Anissa Rasheta/ERA Task Force Arizona, Mary Steenhoek/Prescott Peacebuilders, Paula Cullison/Arizona Women's Partnership, League of Women Voters, and other community leaders, students and guests spoke on the role of women and the Constitution.

In this regard, Phoenix College activities are informed by social justice and community concerns such that convening events open to students and the community focus on various contemporary issues that support freedom of expression. Phoenix College's Social Justice Organizations in partnership with the Office of Student Life and Leadership have created experiential events such as the Fishbowl series, Living Libraries, and the Tunnel of Oppression, in an effort to open minds and expose participants to diverse viewpoints. The College also hosts candidates for political office to provide informed discussions of the various perspectives regarding issues presented before voters during city, state and national elections (e.g., Meet the Candidate Mayoral Debate).

Arriving via separate email is a letter from the Chair of the Liberal Arts Department in support of the Civic Action Group of Phoenix College.

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

Phoenix College participates in NSLVE and has 2018 data, arriving via separate email.

Enter Campus Name Here

Phoenix College



| Campus Name | Campus State | In NSLVE | Reauthorized? Yes |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------------------|
| Phoenix College | AZ | Yes | ✓ |

4. Goals and Strategies

(1) Facilitate training to help register students to vote.

- Recruit volunteers and train election volunteers with the Maricopa County Recorder's Office of Election
- Collaborate with student organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa, Black Students Union - NAACP, Mecha, Male Empowerment Network, and other student organizations

(2) Inform and assist in registering students and community members for elections, increasing voter engagement, and voter turn-out.

- Post Voter Education information in the Liberal Arts Facebook page and other venues
- Conduct interviews and discussion with public officials, volunteers, community organizations, neighborhood leaders and members of the community to promote civic engagement.
- Email and distribute Voter Education information and updates to the Phoenix College campus and the community

(3) Sponsor events specifically to help students to register, learn about the issues, and vote during elections.

- Sponsor the US Constitution and Citizenship Day 2020 (September 17) Program for Phoenix College and the community in cooperation with the Student Life and Leadership
- Host the Phoenix Inter-generational Model United Nations Conference to celebrate United Nations Day (October 24, 2020)
- Provide opportunities for credit and non-credit activities toward Service Learning in Political Science.
- Co-sponsor programs with Student Life and Leadership and the Honors Program
- Interview public officials for the discussion series from different political spectrum

Activity Budget

Provide scholarship of 10 (ten) credit hours of scholarship for selected candidates to defray the cost of at least 1 (one) credit hour service-learning classes. ([POS282 - Service Learning in Political Science](#)). (Total: \$85/per credit hour x ten credit hours = \$850)

At sponsored events, provide pocket copies of the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence,² and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³ to attendees. (Total: \$150)

5. Reporting

The Civic Action Group will provide a list of accomplishments and task completion information through a variety of institutional challenges and via institutional activities, including but not limited to:

- Student Life and Leadership, student government organizations, and student club events (on campus, open house activities hosted outside to support large foot traffic)
- Office of Academic Affairs, President's Executive Team, Department Chairs meeting, and other leadership teams
- Campus and District-level Grant Offices
- MCCCDC Governing Board
- The Maricopan, internal, multi-campus and District-wide newsletter)
- PC Marketing Office to promote via social media channels

6. Evaluation

The Civic Action Group will conduct an evaluation of the following:

- Number of participants in sponsored programs: Constitution and Citizenship Day and Intergenerational Model UN Conference and achievement of their learning and civic action objectives.
- End-of-the-semester survey of scholarship recipients in December 2020 with a report of their activities and task completion.
- Submission of list of activities and accomplishments based on the goals and strategies in this Action Plan.

² Amazon ordering information: [product page](#) (\$0.83 each in quantities of 25).

³ Printing costs for reproduction of a [public domain document](#). Source: <https://www.un.org/en/>