



Democrataic Engagement Plan 2018/19
Piedmont Virginia Community College
Charlottesville, VA

OVERVIEW

Since the August 12, 2018 Unite the Right Rally and accompanying violence in our city we have been reconsidering and adjusting our civic engagement efforts. Faculty have hosted teach-ins, developed writing assignments that address the events, and participated in trainings designed to facilitate difficult discussions. This emphasis will continue in the 2018/19 academic year.

PVCC's new Strategic Plan includes civic engagement and the next college Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is civic engagement. Planning for the QEP begins during summer 2018. All of this affects our plans for 2018/19. PVCC is committed to educating our college community for citizenship and encouraging active participation in the democratic process.

The lead PVCC employee for this plan is Connie Jorgensen, Assistant Professor of Political Science/Civic Engagement Coordinator. The QEP planning team will provide advice for this effort. After the fall semester starts staff and students will be added to the plan's support team.

The goals for the 2018/19 academic year continue to be:

1. Encourage students to be civically and politically engaged;
2. train students to become civic and political leaders on campus and in their communities;
3. encourage faculty, staff, and students to participate in the political process;
4. expose faculty, staff, and students to the political processes and issues relevant to their daily lives; and
5. help faculty, staff, and students make informed political choices.

Our partners include (but are not limited to):

- [The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression](#)
- [The Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution at Montpelier](#)
- [Virginia21](#)
- [The Charlottesville Newsplex \(CBS, ABC, FOX\)](#)
- [The Democracy Commitment](#)
- [Campus Vote Project](#)
- [Students Learn, Students Vote](#)

We are looking into partnerships with

- [Up to Us](#)
- [#Votetogether](#)
- The Voter Registrar in Charlottesville and Albemarle County

PVCC VOTES!

In November 2018 Virginia elects all members of the U.S. house and one U.S. senator.

According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) report in 2016 PVCC's voter registration rate was 76.9%. Our goal is to raise that by 5%. We plan to do that by:

- Thanks to Campus Vote Project, PVCC has funds for two Democracy Fellows to devote 10 hours a week to voter engagement.
- PVCC will focus our registration efforts on and around National Register to Vote Day in late September. In fact, it will be PVCC Register to Vote Week. Different clubs will take a day and register voters.
- A registration link will be put on the PVCC website under Student Life and Workforce Services.
- There will be a registration link on Blackboard.
- Faculty will be asked register students in class.
- A Civic Engagement webpage is under development and all voter registration information and civic engagement events will be posted there.
- The registration team will encourage absentee ballots to increase student voting.
- Civic Engagement will work with the Art Department to design registration and GOTV posters to hang posters around campus.

For the 2014 midterms PVCC's Voting rate was 25%. Our goal is to raise that rate to 30% in 2018. We will do that by:

- Students in Journalism and Political Science classes will collaborate on a non-partisan Voter Guide that focuses on student issues for the elections for the House and Senate.
 - Copies will be available in the Bolick Center, Workforce Services, on the PVCC website, and via an all campus email.
 - The PVCC library will conduct a mini-institute on voter guides for the students involved in the project.
- Students will plan and manage an Election Fair.
 - Participants may include:
 - Candidates looking for volunteers
 - Localities looking for poll workers
 - Register to vote table with absentee ballot information
 - Club tables with information on campaign issues (e.g. Gender Equality, BSU, environment)
 - [Virginia21](#) table with information and sign up
 - Political book table hosted by the PVCC Library
- Students will design and promote an ***I Pledge to Vote*** Campaign
- We will have an information desk in the Bolick Center and Workforce Services with information about poll locations and ID requirements.
- We are planning a GOTV party in the Student Center the day before Election Day to whip up some enthusiasm and provide information about where and how to vote.

VOTER and ISSUE EDUCATION

- As the election gets closer, we will have an information desk in the Bolick Center and Workforce Services with information about poll locations and ID requirements.
- PVCC Celebrates Constitution Day (September 17)
 - The speakers are pending.

- PVCC's Civic Engagement team and the PVCC college library are planning a [Human Library](#) event for Banned Books Week (September 24-30). This project will involve students, faculty, and the community. This is also a response to the events of August 2018. We want to open dialogue about difficult issues and help students learn about people who have different backgrounds and/or challenges than they do.
- A team of students will assist in the planning of a televised debate for candidates running for Congress in the 5th District of Virginia, currently scheduled for October 8. We are partnering with the Charlottesville Newsplex (CBS19)
- Free Speech Week, October 16-22.
 - PVCC will host the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression's Mobile Free Speech Monument.
 - We will host a Free Speech event with a speaker and discussion
 - PVCC will be an official Partner with <http://www.freespeechweek.org/> (we were last year as well.)

AFTER THE ELECTION

- PVCC plans to host at least one, hopefully more Deliberative Dialogues for the campus community.
- The annual student lobbying trip to the Virginia General Assembly, arranged through the PVCC President's Office. January/February 2019. Approximately 30 students are expected to attend
- A team of PLS211 students will plan the fourth annual Civic Leadership Conference on a Friday night and Saturday in February.
 - The theme has not been decided.
- PVCC will participate in the [All in Campus Challenge](#)
 - The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge recognizes campuses for their commitment to improving democratic engagement, increasing student voter participation rates, and graduating students with a lifelong commitment to being informed and active citizens.
- We will continue to seek funding for a Center for Civic Engagement.

- In February 2018 PVCC hosted a viewing of *I'm Not a Racist, Am I?* followed by a panel discussion. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be hosting follow up events in 2019.

OTHER PLANS

PVCC's Annual International Week April 2019.

In 2018 we hosted the following events for International Week Round Table Discussion with International Students, International Foods Festival, and a panel titled The Refugee Experience, How much do you know? 2019 events will be similar.

PVCC will once again participate in the German Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals. As has been done multiple times in the past, we will welcome a German student to our campus and our community for two semesters beginning this August. The student will take classes at the college in the fall and will work as a paid intern in the field of study in the spring.

Service Learning

Service learning has three major goals for the 2018/19 academic year. These goals include: 1) publishing the service learning workbook, 2) drafting a grant for external funding, and 3) compiling online resources for service learning.

The Horticulture Club will host an Eco-Fair in Spring 2019.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee are planning the following events for 2019,

1. Diversity book club
 - a. Select, read, and discuss book
 - b. Books provided to participants at no cost
 - c. Meet four times (one a month for four months)
 - d. Provide a light lunch
2. Diversity discussion group
 - a. Select, read, and discuss a short article
 - b. Discussions occur every two weeks (each discussion is independent; participants may attend one or as many as they like)
 - c. Provide a light lunch
3. More programming centered around months that celebrate diversity such as:
 - African American History Month

- Women's History Month
- Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Native American Heritage Month
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- LGBTQ Pride Month

NEH Grant proposal

One of PVCC's History Faculty is submitting a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to do "Charlottesville's Monuments and The Common Good: Reframing History in the Public Square —A proposed three-year collaboration between PVCC, Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, UVA Special Collections, and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities."

Statewide Summit

- PVCC is collaborating with Abe Goldberg from James Madison University, Campus Vote Project, and Virginia21 to do a Statewide Campus Democracy Summit for September 2018. PVCC will offer students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to attend.

DATA COLLECTION/MEASUREMENT

- For the third year, PVCC will participate in The Democracy Commitment's Civic Engagement Survey.
- PVCC has requested our National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement ([NSLVE](#)) report.
 - The NSLVE offers colleges and universities an opportunity to learn their student voting rates.
- As part of QEP planning we will research other best practices for civic engagement assessment