

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

Prairie State College 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan Developed by: Helen Manley

Executive Summary:

Prairie State College submitted its first action plan in 2022. This is the submission for 2024 for the upcoming election. The goal is to continue to increase student engagement when it comes to voting, voter registration, education, working at the polls on elections days and helping to spread the word to get greater voter turnout.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Helen Manley – Manager of Student Life & Leadership Development

Dr. Michael Anthony – President

Dr. Bernard Little – Vice President of Student Affairs & Diversity

Jamie Miller – Dean of Students

Cook County Clerk's Office

Commitment:

Prairie State College has been a signatory to the Higher Education President's Commitment to Student Voter Participation since 2022.

Landscape:

Prairie State College is a public Community college and joined the ALL In Campus Democracy Challenge in 2022. Our institution is the following: Minority Serving Institution.

Our campus demographic and voting date:

Prairie State College has 3,521 students.

In District: 2,597

International: 52

Lake County: 98

Out of District: 722

Out of State: 36

Gender

Female: 2040

Male: 1368

Unknown: 115

Race

Asian: 50

Black or African American: 1,841

Hispanic/Latino: 339

Other: 716

White: 577

Age:

Blank: 6

18-19: 658

20-21: 602

22-24: 529

25-29: 421

30-34: 263

35-39: 196

40-49: 269

50-64: 168

65 and over: 52

Under 18: 359

Prairie State College has not yet authorized the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) so does not yet have campus voter registration and voter turnout data.

Goals:

Our campus demographic goals are:

Continue to increase registered voters

Make students more aware of opportunities to work the polls and become election judges

Assemble a taskforce to increase civic engagement

Have students become voter registrars

Work with faculty to spread the word, and collaborate with those who can be added to the taskforce.

Do more civic minded events and connect with speakers who could also talk about the importance and what you can do to make improvements regarding democratic engagement

Involve clubs more with ways to bring attention to this.

Strategy:

Prairie State College will work to implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation by doing more activities to bring awareness and collaborate with others to further increase awareness and initiatives.

Need to continue to recruit young people to start working on election days to fill in for people who are retired or will be retiring. This will also have people seeing younger people doing this and hopefully have an impact on the increase of younger voters wanting to also work on Election Day.

Here is what we have been doing or have done. We will continue doing what works and look for new ways to accomplish the increase in voters, workers and people registering. We need more civic involvement from all.

- Continue our over 20 year partnership with the Cook County Clerk's Office
- Increase the number of voter registration drives
- Train students to become voter registrars as we have done in the past
- Continue to post election information regarding deadlines, upcoming elections and early voting times and locations
- Continue to offer early voting on our campus
- Have students fill out the Vote Challenge to pledge their commitment to voting
- Have information on registering to vote and opportunities to work on election days on the website
- Have alumni continue to work and vote on election day, and let current students know
- Continue to have the Cook County Clerk's Office as well as other organizations on campus to register students and community
- Signed up students to register to vote on National Voter Registration Day this fall
- Bring awareness to civic holidays like National Voter Education week and Vote Early Day

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Review our NSLVE data once we receive it

Seek feedback throughout the action planning process from people outside our taskforce

Revisit our goals, identify goals achieved and not achieved, and adjust them. What are our short term goals, what are our long term goals?

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on the campus webpage on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/prairie-state-college/>.

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.