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

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Prairie State College in Illinois for the 2022 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2022 midterm election. The goals for Prairie State College for the 2022 election are: increase student voter registration and voter turnout and authorize NSLVE.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Helen Manley - Manager of Student Life & Leadership Development
Dr. Michael Anthony - President
Jamie Miller - Interim Vice President of Student Affairs
Cook County Clerks’ Office

Commitment:

Prairie State College has been a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents’ Commitment to Full 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 data:

Prairie State College has 3,202 students.
In District: 2,336
International: 42
Lake County: 92
Out of District: 677
Out of State: 36
Gender
Female: 1,887
Male: 1,225
Unknown: 60

Race
Asian: 43
Black or African American: 1,679
Hispanic/Latino: 371
Other: 595
White: 514

Age
Blank: 5
18-19: 716
20-21: 563
22-24: 430
25-29: 373
30-34: 270
35-39: 162
40-49: 261
50-64: 146
65 and over: 63
Under 18: 213

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 democratic engagement goals are:

Authorize NSLVE to receive campus voting data
Increase registered voters
Engage more students into participating by working the polls
Assemble a taskforce to increase civic engagement
We have also set three goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years:
Train more students to become voter registrars
Bring in speakers about civic learning and democratic engagement
Have clubs/organizations take on a bigger role concerning democratic engagement

Strategy:

Prairie State College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.
The plan is to reach out to all students and staff about registering to vote, voting and working on election day. Want to recruit young people to start working on election days to fill in for people who have now retired and are no longer working on that day as they have for so long. We want young people who are voting to see younger people like them working and participating in a bigger way.

Here is what we have done or are doing:
* Have a partnership with the Cook County Clerk’s Office for over 20 years
* Had many voter registration events throughout the years
* Some students have trained to be voter registrars
* Send information about upcoming elections deadlines to register and vote early
* Offer early voting at our campus
* Sent out the Vote challenge form for students to fill out to pledge their commitment to voting
* Have information on registering to vote and opportunities to work on election day on the website
* Have students who have graduated continue to work on election day
* Have a member from the Cook County Clerk's Office attend our Involvement Fest at the beginning of each year to offer new and returning students the opportunity to register to vote and learn about various positions available to work on election day
* Our students participate in Student Advocacy Day
* Celebrate Civic Holidays like National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Reviewing our NSLVE data and looking for improvements year over year

Seeking out feedback throughout the action planning process from people outside of our action planning team

Revisiting our goals, identifying goals achieved and not achieved, and adjusting our short and long-term goals accordingly

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page 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.

Include with whom your campus action plan and NSLVE reports will be shared on your campus community and where, in addition to ALL IN, the action plan and NSLVE reports will be posted online for people to access.