



PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Prince George's Community College
2019 – 2020**

All In Campus Challenge Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Point of Contact for Designation Process

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Overview:

Prince George's Community College serves a diverse population of more than 40,000 students representing 103 countries throughout the world. The College offers more than 200 academic and workforce development and continuing education programs of study, and transfer and scholarship opportunities to four-year colleges and universities. Students can earn associate degrees, certificates, letters of recognition, and licensures.

The coordinated efforts for civic engagement and preparing students for lives of engaged citizenship is supportive of the College's goals of student success, regional impact, and organizational excellence. In compliance with the Federal Higher Education Act, Prince George's Community College has been promoting voter registration in various ways: the public-facing website and MyPGCC Student Portal site, Social Media, and On-Campus Voter Registration Drives. During the 2016 election cycle, Prince George's Community College became a participant in the NSLVE study. Based on the College's 2018 National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) report, the College earned a Gold Seal for the 2018 midterm election. The College also created a Civic Action Committee in 2018.

Campus Leadership Team:

Our All-in Democracy Challenge Civic Action team chaired by the Program Director of Student Engagement & Leadership consists of representatives from the College's Civic Action Committee, the Office of Student Engagement & Leadership, the Student Governance Association and Student Publications. The team has also established a partnership with the local Prince George's County League of Women and with representatives from 4You2Vote organization.

The primary charge of this team is to develop informed voters, remove barriers to student voting, and support student activism and leadership.

Planned Voter Engagement Activities:

Voter Registration

To ensure that students, faculty and staff have all of the information they need to be able to vote in the Primary and General election and beyond, the following voter registration programs were planned:

New Student Convocation & Resource Fair: During the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 New Student Convocation, voter registration forms were made available for students and guests to register to vote.

Week of Welcome Activities: During the first two weeks of classes in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, voter registration forms were made available for students to register to vote.

Constitution Day: On September 17, 2019, voter registration forms were made available throughout the day at two of the College's degree and extension centers.

National Voter Registration Day Drive: On Tuesday, September 24, 2019 during our Voter Slam events that were held on the main campus and our degree and extension centers, voter registration forms and Election Judge applications were made available for students and employees to register to vote.

Student Involvement Club Fair: During the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Club Fairs, the Student Governance Association (SGA) and representatives from 4You2Vote had voter registration forms available.

Voting Pledge Drive: SGA organized a #PGCCCommitToVote Pledge Drive to increase student voter registration and voting rates.

Shuttle to the Polls: For the first time, the SGA allocated funding to transport students to the Wayne K. Curry Sports & Learning Center polls during the early voting periods of the primary and general elections to vote.

Voter Education

To promote civic learning and political engagement, the following co-curricular activities are planned:

Constitution Day: On September 19, 2019, students attended the award-winning play, 'What the Constitution Means to Me' at the Kennedy Center that explored numerous constitutional issues such as women's right to vote and the Electoral College.

Voter Registration Volunteers Certification: The SGA organized and transported 33 students to the Board of Elections to participate in training to become certified voter registration volunteers. In addition, trainers from the Board of Elections were invited to conduct Certified Voter Registration Volunteers training at the college for students and employees and for renewal of expired certification. These students and employees conducted voter registration drives and tabling events on campus throughout the academic year.

President's Weekly Message: Throughout the academic year, information about various voter education and registration initiatives were highlighted by the College president in her news brief to the college community.

Civic Engagement Conference and Webinars: Representatives from our All in Democracy Challenge Civic Action team, including four student leaders attended the National Conference on Citizenship on October 29 – 30, 2019. In addition, they also participated in webinars to learn strategies for enhancing voter engagement and civic action on campus.

Film Screening & Discussion: On October 30, 2019, the Student Publication hosted the screening of “Black, White & Blue” that explored issues of race, police brutality, and activism. This was followed by a Q&A with Asia Norris the film director, and a voter registration drive.

Panel Discussions: On November 6, 2019, the Student Publication and the Office of Student Engagement & Leadership hosted a panel discussion titled, “Why this Election Matters: Is America Under Attack?” This panel was moderated by Guy Lambert, the news director of WPGCC 95.5. The learning outcomes was to raise the political IQ of students and promote critical thinking about the electoral process.

Civic Dialogue Series: Our All in Democracy Challenge Civic Action team organized one of the dialogues in the series titled, “Why the 2020 Primary Election Matters”, which explored the following topics:

- Guidelines for voting in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.
- The impact of college student voters
- The increasing political power and influence of people of color and women in election outcomes

Guest Speakers: Local and national speakers that will present to the college community on issues of voter suppression, voter engagement, and issues impacting the political races locally and nationally.

Election and Social Media Campaigns: Links to the Board of Elections, and the League of Women Voter Education guide, as well as instructional videos about the do's and don'ts of voting by mail will be provided on the College's website, social media platforms and mass emails to connect students to information about voting, and the candidates.

#YourVoteYourVoice Social Media Campaign: Students will be asked to create 30 seconds PSA videos about the importance of voting and they will be posted on the SGA's social media platforms.

To promote civic learning and political engagement, the following curricular initiatives are offered:

Voter education, political literacy and critical thinking about democracy are taught in Political Science classes. Specifically, POS 1010 (American National Government) and POS 1000 (Introduction to Politics) heavily focus on civic engagement and political literacy. POS 1020, State and Local Politics, does so as well, focusing on state and local politics.