

All In Democracy Challenge 2022 Action Plan Rappahannock Community College

College

One unique facet of Rappahannock Community College (RCC) is that enrollment is almost equally split between dual-enrollment students (high school students who are taking college classes) and traditional community college students. One opportunity this presents is because our dual enrollment students are primarily 11th and 12th graders, we can focus on outreach to them as they turn 18 so that they can make sure they understand how to register to vote.

Areas of Focus

After a review of the data on our students rates of registration and voting, the All In Democracy Challenge Committee at RCC has focused our planning on fostering student engagement in three key areas: 1) Registering to Vote, 2) Becoming and Informed Voter, and Making a Plan and Voting

Registering to Vote

As mentioned earlier, because nearly half of RCC students are dual enrollment students, and the majority of those students are 11th and 12th graders, a significant portion of our students will turn 18 years old while they are enrolled in the college. The committee has decided to create a campaign that will email a digital birthday card to students as they turn 18 and the text of the card will contain information on how to register to vote in the state of Virginia and also contain a link to the section of the college website that provides information on voting. The hope is that this will help create a culture where students are excited about turning 18 and see registering to vote as a rite of passage to be celebrated.

Becoming an Informed Voter

To help foster a culture where both voting and educating yourself as a voter is important, RCC will continue to host events where students can meet candidates and ask questions of them, both virtually and in person. This will build on virtual opportunities to meet and discuss issues with candidates that were started in the fall of 2021. The committee plans to start inviting candidates to participate as soon as they are registered as candidates. Also, the committee plans to hold watch party events in collaboration with the college student activities staff where food is served and small group discussions are held after the debates are watched. Instruction will be given

about decorum and faculty will be invited to participate to help link the curricular with the co-curricular and connect the lessons being learned in the classroom with current events as they unfold.

Making a Plan and Voting

One way RCC will foster a culture of voting is by creating an ad campaign that encourages students to make a plan and set a time to vote, so that they make it a priority. Information about early voting, as well as getting students to collaborate on car pooling to voting places will be part of this effort to make sure that the large number of students who register to vote have the information they need in order to prioritize voting in their busy schedules.