

# **Raritan Valley Community College**



## **ALL IN CHALLENGE: 2020 Action Plan**

**Prepared by Dominick Zona, Class of 2020**

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## Executive Summary

The ALL IN Challenge Action Plan was developed by the Director of Service Learning and Community Outreach, the Director of Student Life, and Assistant Director of Student Life in conjunction with Student Government Association members. Initially, a campus-wide team was convened that also included Student Clubs, Academic Affairs, Library and other campus members. The plan formalizes RVCC's commitment to:

- Helping students develop civic literacy as well as self-awareness as citizens;
- Promoting intentional service activities for college students to become democratically engaged in political processes;
- Enhancing dialogues about issues affecting students, the community, and the world; and
- Providing opportunities for students to effect positive change in their communities through knowledge, advocacy, and action.

Working to increase awareness of the political process, especially voter registration and voting, is the primary goal of this action plan. Education of our student voters is of paramount importance; the ability to make informed decisions when voting is critical to the functioning of our democracy.

RVCC has a rich history in student democratic engagement practices. RVCC joined the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) in 2012, 2014 and 2016. This plan, effective February 1st, 2019 through December 31st, 2020, provides time for the students, faculty and staff to implement the goals as the nation participates in the midterm elections. The Director of Student Life and Director of Service Learning will collaborate with student clubs, faculty and staff to create and implement events and activities outlined in the plan.

## Leadership

RVCC's 2020 RVotes Matter campaign will be run by the Student Government Association (SGA), as was done in years prior, which is advised by Russel Barefoot and other members of the faculty. The SGA will then create committees responsible for the recruitment of student activists on the campus in order to help push the goal for increased voter turnout in local elections and the pursuit of civic duty. By the end of the SGA's one year term, a new body of students will be formally elected and will continue the activities and goals as outlined within this action plan. These new students will be trained by prior SGA members in the procedure of how the SGA tackles the RVotes Matter Campaign, along with giving these students opportunities to experiment and implement different strategies within the campaign. In this way, the new team of students will be a part of the SGA enabling them to effectively fulfill the goals as outlined within this plan, and also have their own level of creativity in the way they choose to design the plan in their respective term(s).

The SGA will work with a variety of different academic, special interest and civic minded clubs and organizations in order to help further the goals of the RVotes Matter Campaign, and will utilize these clubs and organizations to help sponsor events, work at promo tables, etc. Organized below are organizations and student led clubs that work with the RVotes Matter Campaign, on an external and internal level.

- I. Internal Organizations: Clubs and Organizations already on Campus and led by Faculty and Students
  - SGA (Student Government Association)
  - RVotes Campaign Committee (Hosted by the SGA)
  - Raritan Valley Community College Student Life Office (RVCC)
  - The Record (RVCC Student Newspaper)
  - RV Radio (RVCC Student Radio/Podcast Station)
  - Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship
  - Service Learning Program
- II. External Organizations: Organizations that, while not stationed on campus, help the RVotes Matter Campaign operate on campus.
  - CivicNation
  - New Jersey Students Vote Coalition hosted by Rutgers
  - PlatformWomen.Org
  - NJ Citizen Action
  - National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE)
  - Rutgers Eagleton School of Politics
  - American Association of University Women (AAUW)
  - League of Women Voters
  - Census 2020

What these two lists show here is the breakdown in the leadership of the RVotes Matter campaign and how it works with the various external and internal organizations that interact to make the goal of improved voter rates possible. For starters, RVotes Matter events and promo tables are often times manned by students a part of the SGA and are planned by the RVotes Campaign Committee, which then are publicized by the RVConnect app and fast cards created by the Student Life office. The RVConnect app is an application spearheaded by the Student Life Office, in which students currently on campus are able to quickly and easily access information pertaining to their enrollment and events going on campus. Also, this app allows for individuals to post onto the “Wall”, an area that allows for students to have conversations regarding student events, developments on campus, or other topics relevant to topics happening on campus. Furthermore, if a student club or organization wishes to host their own event independent of the RVotes Campaign that is civically minded, they can do so at their own discretion. What this allows for is a constant stream of civic information and opportunities for activism on campus and the continued participation of students without the holdbacks of having to acquire approval from parties within the RVotes Matter campaign.

At the time of writing this action plan, the following people make up the RVotes Matter Campaign, categorized by their role within the organization, is as followed:

**Faculty/Staff:**

Lori Moog, Director of Service Learning and Community Outreach  
Russell Barefoot, Director of Student Life  
Alaysha Walker, Assistant Director of Student Life

**Students involved within the RVotes Matter Campaign:**

Dominick Zona, Senator of the Student Government  
Samantha Carhuaricra, Vice President of Info and Media of the Student Government  
Amzie Clawson, President of the Record  
Victoria Elacqua, prior member of the RVotes Matter Campaign

One such major project that was undertaken by the RVotes Matter Campaign and members of the Student Government Association was the Census 2020 Project (See Strategy #4), in which students were tasked with creating materials that could educate on the importance of the Census and how it affects the average college student. Because of the ongoing nature of the project, this work will continue to further increase the number of students who have completed. The 2020 Census work being done in collaboration with this project was vital to influencing the direction this Action Plan has taken, and the way that the RVotes Matter Campaign has further evaluated

new strategies for implementation on campus. Below is a list of individuals that have contributed to the project, along with their roles within the project itself.

**The 2020 Census is a student led project and those involved with the RVotes Matter Campaign's Census 2020 Initiative include:**

**Student Leadership Team:**

Dominick Zona, Project Lead

Theodore Silva, Editor

Samantha Carhuarica, Editor

Tabatha Ortiz, Spanish Translator

Tiffany Garces, Social Media Marketing Strategy

Kira Edgar, Content Manager

Jacinda Nembhard, Social Media Marketing Strategy

John Mensa, Social Media Marketing Strategy

Jackie Braida, Multimedia/Film Videographer

**Administrative Support Team:**

Lori Moog, Director of Service Learning and Community Outreach

Russell Barefoot, Director of Student Life

Alaysha Walker, Assistant Director of Student Life

Jacki Belin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Outreach

Carolyn White, Executive Director of Enrollment Management

## Commitment

In understanding the institutional commitment Raritan Valley Community College has to furthering the civic interests of the students that attend classes on campus, one only has to look at the mission statement posted on the college website. It reads,

*“Raritan Valley Community College is an educational community that works to develop critical thinking, foster intellectual curiosity, promote leadership, encourage social responsibility, support personal growth, and sustain engaged citizenship within a diverse population of students and community members.”*

Along with all the other points Raritan Valley Community College attempts to help develop within their students on campus, one of the most important aspects listed here is the encouragement of social responsibility and sustaining engaged citizenship within a diverse population of students. Raritan Valley Community College hosts a wide variety of students from different backgrounds, thus ensuring that the campus vocalizes the opinions of a diverse audience and allowing for the institution to have a holistic approach in creating an environment that is equitable for all students, regardless of background.

Furthermore, the commitment to diversity statement Raritan Valley Community College upholds ensures that the administration is steadfast in maintaining an environment that is not only conducive to civic and political thought, but also an environment that is accepting of an individual regardless of their race, religion, age, sex, etc. The full statement, found on the Raritan Valley Community College main school website, reads as follows,

*“Raritan Valley Community College values all aspects of diversity including but not limited to race, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability, socioeconomic status, and political and philosophical perspectives. We rely on diversity to enrich the intellectual environment for students and employees. We support educational access and opportunity by recruiting and retaining a diverse college community. We foster diversity by developing and maintaining curricular and social programs that infuse the contributions of all people, and by preparing students to excel in a global society. Our commitment to diversity is reflected in the College’s Mission Statement and Strategic Goals, all of which support excellence in teaching, learning and professional development in a welcoming and respectful climate.”*

What both of these statements show is an institutional commitment for students, faculty and administration to uphold a standard that makes free political thought and the pursuit of civic activities possible for the student population of Raritan Valley Community College, without the exclusion of people based on the way that they live.

Another key point regarding the civic activity of students from the Raritan Valley Community College campus is the inclusion of the Student Engagement Transcript. The Student Engagement Transcript is an official college transcript that is an endorsement of service learning, student activities, community service hours, leadership positions, civic engagement events attended, study abroad, internships, research projects, and more. The transcript is given to students alongside the traditional academic transcript, which students provide to prospective employers, transfer colleges, or graduate schools. The transcript helps students demonstrate how they achieved excellence in their chosen field and learned the responsibilities of citizenship and service in the global community. Combined with the academic transcript, a well-rounded representation of education, both inside and outside of the classroom, is created, which enhances resumes, portfolios, and college applications. With this in mind, the Student Engagement Transcript incentivizes students to actively perform within their community for the betterment of the campus and the community as it gives due credit to the activities undertaken by the individual, regardless of their popular appeal.

Finally, within Raritan Valley Community College, all educators and faculty abide by this commitment to creating an equitable and fair learning environment for all perspective students. Educators, often times, work individually with students on a one-on-one basis in order to ensure the students ability to successfully perform within an academic environment. This includes catering to specific cultural, economic and social barriers that could inhibit a students' ability to succeed. In this way, the educators and faculty of Raritan Valley Community College demonstrate, on a micro and macro level, a commitment to ensuring the success of all individuals on campus.



## Landscape

Campus Climate: Through the continued work by the administration, student organizations and Service Learning Raritan Valley Community College has been able to foster an environment conducive to student civic activism and democratic engagement on campus and in the community. Furthermore, special interests clubs and cultural organizations, hosted by students and advised by faculty, have been able to host events that deal with political and social justice topics, which has allowed for a unique opportunity for a dialogue to be opened in regards to current contemporary civic ideas.

On campus, the following activities are conducted on a year-to-year basis that demonstrate Raritan Valley Community College's landscape being conducive to democratic expression, along with key variables that influence the broad scope of opportunities that include:

- I. Local Election Events:
  - Within RVCC's 2019 year, The RVotes Matter Campaign hosted independent club events, local candidates from a variety of different political and social backgrounds who answered questions regarding their campaigns and small "meet and greet" events that encouraged students to get involved in local elections to see changes reflected in their community that coincide with their club or organization.
- II. Service Learning Opportunities
  - Raritan Valley Community College's Service Learning Program offers a wide array of service learning opportunities that enable students to do community service and receive academic credit for their service which is documented on their Student Engagement Transcript. In addition to democratic engagement activities, students volunteer with more than 250 community non-profit agencies, public school and municipal offices. Examples include pre-K-12 schools, English as a Second Language centers, after-school programs, nursing homes, adult day care centers, court houses, probation departments, youth correctional facilities, environmental centers, farms, and homeless, domestic violence, and animal shelters. Students learn about important community issues while helping diverse populations that include minorities, low-income individuals, immigrants, at-risk children, families, single parents, and animals as well as the incarcerated, disabled, homeless, and elderly.
- III. International Students
  - Raritan Valley Community College hosts a wide variety of students that may be in the process of obtaining U.S. Citizenship or who might be undocumented immigrants of families currently working to become U.S. Citizens. In this way, Raritan Valley Community College has an environment that is diverse in ethnicities, along with diverse in civic backgrounds, while still maintaining the

dedication to provide this group with the necessary opportunities to still be as actively involved as someone that may already have U.S. Citizenship, or otherwise.

#### IV. College Forum & General Assembly

- Raritan Valley Community College also gives the unique ability to attend assemblies oriented towards students and faculty/administration in order to see social and civic justice properly maintained on campus.

Furthermore, between the years of 2014 to 2018, Raritan Valley Community College has experienced a massive growth in voter registration and activism on campus, as show below in the study conducted by NSLVE in the NSLVE Campus Report...

#### Voting and Registration Rates

	2014	2018	Change
Total Student Enrollment	6,820	7,480	+660
Total Eligible Voters	6,371	6,439	+68
Number of Students who Registered	3,479	4,470	+991
Number of students who voted	915	2,668	+1,753
Registration Rate	54.6%	69.4%	+14.8%
Voting rate of registered students	26.3%	59.7%	+33.4%
Voting Rate	14.4%	41.4%	27.1%
Difference from all institutions	-5.3%	+2.3%	

Source - NSLVE Campus Report for Raritan Valley Community College

What this information shows is a clear increase in voter turnout from students on campus after catering, with greater attention, to student civic activism and giving greater opportunities for students to get active in a democratic capacity. In between the four years between 2014 and 2018, Raritan Valley Community College was able to accomplish an impressive feat in respects to being above the average of total institutional student registered voters, as displayed in the table

below by in the Carnegie Classification in respects to the Midterm Elections...not sure of this wording.

**How Your Numbers Compare**

2014 Average in all Institutions	2014 Voting Rate at RVCC	Difference from All institutions	2018 average in ALL institutions	2018 Voting Rate Average at RVCC	Difference from All Institutions
19.7%	14.4%	-5.3%	39.1%	41.4%	+2.3%

Source - NSLVE Campus Report for Raritan Valley Community College

What these two tables of statistics provided from the NSLVE, and the previously mentioned elements found on the Raritan Valley Community College campus, show is a clear landscape that the college is dedicated and conducive to continued civic thought and expression by students on campus and a dedication by local community leaders to help these students receive legislation that they feel is in the best interests of the college and community around them.

**Goals**

With the success of the last action plan increasing the voter rate to a staggering 41.4%, as noted in the landscape, the RVotes Matter Campaign, in cooperation with all parties involved with the RVotes Matter Campaign, would like to see an increase of the voting rate category, at a minimum, by **10%** and increase the number of students registered to vote by **5%** on campus. These goals will accomplish two objectives, as listed below.

- I. **Keep RVCC Ahead of the Curve:** Raritan Valley Community College already achieved the ALL IN CHALLENGE Gold Award for its across the board increase in voting rates during the 2018 Midterms, The RVotes Matter Campaign would like to see this number stay consistent.
- II. **Room for innovation:** In maintaining the same strategy as our previous ALL IN action plan, the RVotes Matter Campaign can expect similar results, while also giving room to try new, experimental strategies that could benefit voter turnout rates.

Another note is that the RVotes Matter Campaign has reached is the upcoming importance of the 2020 Presidential election. When talking about civic activism, it is crucial to understand what

drives an individual to get out and physically represent what they want to see for the society around them. With the current political situation being as polarizing as it is, the RVotes Matter Campaign expects a substantial increase in student activism on campus that could see an increase in total student voting registration rates and voting attendance, regardless of the candidates the individual students choose to vote for. By taking advantage of the current wave as a result of the upcoming national election, the RVotes Campaign can see an increase that would fulfill the two objectives listed above.

Furthermore, students apart of the RVotes Matter Campaign or those that work closely with the campaign are actively encouraged to reach out to any members of the teaching staff or faculty that they feel would be able to aid in the goals of the Campaign as a whole. This is to help instill a value in students reaching out and networking with administrators, along with creating a campus and institutional opportunity for members of the campus so students can have a positive impact on the students they are teaching, or individuals that they are closely working with on a day to day basis. In essence, this would create a cascading effect where both students and administrators are working side by side to achieve the singular goal of bettering the the educational and civic commitment of students on campus, along with achieving the goals outlined above.

In short, by having our goals situated at a reasonable level, the organizations that are part of the RVotes Matter campaign can continuing to use time tested strategies, and expect a predicted increase over the time period between 2014-2018. It also will have a margin for experimentation with different strategies that could be as effective as ones already employed by the RVotes Matter Campaign. These goals are consistent with the S.M.A.R.T.I.E. technique of determining solutions, as they are specific, measurable through the strategies conducted by the Action Plan, attainable as demonstrated by our previous NSLVE report, relevant to the needs of students and time based, given the nature of the ALL IN Action Plans.

Below will include a breakdown the information provided about our goal and how it is applicable to the S.M.A.R.T.I.E. system.

**S. Specific:** The goals listed as a 10% voting rate increase and 5% voting registration increase provide the RVotes Matter Campaign a clear standard to uphold within the action plan.

**M. Measurable:** The RVotes Matter Campaign will employ several different strategies that help determine the rate as to which students on campus are registering to vote and the effectiveness of the campaign as a whole. See the “Strategy” page for more detail.

**A. Achievable:** Given the increase Raritan Valley Community College saw on its 2014-2018 NSLVE voter registration report, it would be easy to expect that the RVotes Matter Campaign would be able to achieve a 10% increase on campus by maintaining a similar strategy as the ones employed by prior campaign members.

**R. Realistic:** With the already present 20%+ increase the RVotes Matter Campaign experienced within their 2014-2018 NSLVE report, the current RVotes Matter Campaign opted to take advantage of the current wave within national politics but also maintain strategies used by prior RVotes Matter Campaign members in order to ensure the campus stays civically active.

**T. Timebound:** This action plan is time bound and covers a one year period, which gives the RVotes Matter Campaign a period that makes achieving this goal attainable but also one that could be built on by following generations of RVotes Matter Campaign members.

**I. Inclusive:** All clubs, programs, organizations and individuals within Raritan Valley Community College, including faculty, administration and third party programs, are able to join into civic and political opportunities brought by the RVotes Matter Campaign, and themselves afforded the opportunity to host events that could benefit the students as a whole.

**E. Equitable:** the RVotes Matter Campaign does not target a specific political affiliation, demographic or group, but rather gives students of all backgrounds, orientations and affiliations the opportunity to have a positive impact on their schooling environment in a civic context.

## Strategy

In accordance to our goal and Raritan Valley Community College's commitment to create an environment conducive to civic activism, the RVotes Matter Campaign, in conjunction with the Student Government Association, the Student life Office, Service Learning and the RVotes Committee, will implement the following strategies:

Strategy #1: Increase branding for events that promote civic activism and participation in local elections

- I. Use slogan: RV Votes Matter with branding material such as posters, fast cards, etc.
- II. Set-up promo tables around campus for voter registration.
- III. Link the RVCC's Library website to the Student Life homepage which includes voter registration information.
- IV. Post information about the SGA activities and important dates in Lion's Den.
- V. Create fast cards to brand the project. Suggested slogan: RVotes Matter next to the college logo. On the back the card can have website address, social media information and link to library's website and the RVConnect Phone App.
- VI. Make an announcement about project at All College Day to encourage greater participation.
- VII. Announce SGA voter engagement and registration campaign at first and second Forum meetings.
- VIII. Work with the Raritan Valley Community College Marketing Department to keep project on social media and in the press. Take pictures at events and during activities to post on social media.
- IX. Utilize the RVConnect Application in spreading awareness of events going on campus to the student body.

Strategy #2: Continue to further educate Raritan Valley Community College students on local candidates and the importance of civic activism

- I. Direct students to visit the RVCC's library's website dedicated to voter registration with information and resources on how to become an Educated Voter
- II. Pass out Constitutions and voter registration forms during Constitution Day. Continue having SGA wear Ben Franklin costume.
- III. Set-up tables at student picnic and involvement fair with voter registration information. Invite AAUW and League of Women Voters to set-up a table at the events.
- IV. Develop a Student Club competition to get the most people registered. The club with the highest amount of people registered will be awarded \$250.00 to use towards their own individual events. This will be announced at the SGA General Assembly and via email.

- V. Create electronic and paper displays with voter issues and place around the campus so that students can write what concerns them. These issues can be further discussed at the Leadership Series being planned.
- VI. Encourage faculty to inform their students about the importance of voting and to participate in SGA activities. One strategy is to get invited to the Academic Department meetings where the Department Chairs meet.
- VII. Offer a workshop led by Dr. Elizabeth Matto on *Getting Out the Vote: Engaging Young Adults in the 2020 Election & Beyond*

Strategy #3: Create identifiable measures to determine total turnout at elections from RVCC Students

- I. Offer a Leadership Series to include a faculty panel to talk about voter education, issues and registration and invite their students to attend for extra credit.
- II. Pledge to vote cards, having students write out how they are planning to reach a polling station, where they plan on going to vote and what time they plan on voting.
- III. Create a hashtag on the RVConnect app that encourages students to post of their commitment to vote and any other civic activity related activity that could measure turnout.
- IV. Placement of Absentee Ballots on campus that will be sent in during student-hosted events to encourage individuals to vote while not having to actually go to physical ballots.

Strategy #4: Follow current trends within the political environment of the United States of America

- I. Given the current year of the Action Plan, the RVotes Matter Campaign will spearhead, in conjunction with the 2020 Census, a campaign to get students actively informed and registered to complete the census in order to have an active influence on the redistricting within the state of New Jersey.
  - Resources will be created by members of the RVotes Matter Campaign and other participatory members that reflect the cultural environment of the student population, such as educating students in languages such as English, Spanish, etc.
  - Students that display interest in the work the RVotes Matter Campaign will be given an active role within the RVotes Matter Campaign's plan to increase the amount of students participating in the project.
  - Student Organizations will be offered a role within furthering the cause of the spreading awareness of Census 2020 related materials.
- II. Further forms of engagements will be sought after within the changing landscape of American politics, and will be addressed specifically to students as they arise.

Timeline:

### RVOTES MATTER CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Daily Voter Registration Tables located in the Library, Student Life and Welcome Stations.

Forms are in English and Spanish.

Because of the closure of campuses due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, the RVotes Matter Campaign has also adopted virtual online options as well.

<b>Day, Date</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event Type</b>
Thursday, 9/10/20	Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Courtyard	12:30-2:30 pm	Promo Table
Tuesday, 9/15/20	Constitution Day	Library & Student Life	ALL DAY	Constitutions & Voter Registration Forms
Thursday, 9/17/19	Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Cafeteria	12:30 - 2:30 pm	Promo Table
Tuesday, 9/24/20	<b>National Voter Registration Day</b>	Cafeteria, 2nd Floor, College Center	12:30 - 2:30 pm	Promo Table
Tuesday, 9/24/20	Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Conference Center	1:00 - 2:30 pm (College Hour)*	Promo Table
Wednesday, 9/30/20	(1) Puppies, Politics & Pizza (2) Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of	Sculpture Garden outside of school Library	1:00 - 2:30 pm	Open Discussion & Promo Table



	Women Voters			
Thursday, 10/1/20	(1) Getting Out the Vote: Engaging Young Adults in the 2020 Election & Beyond presented by Dr. Elizabeth Matto (2) Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Conference Center, Rooms A&B	1:00 - 2:20 pm (College Hour)	Keynote Speaker & Promo Table
Monday, 10/5/20	(1) Women Who Rock and Write Event led by Nalani and Sarina (2) Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Nash Theatre	1:00 - 2:20 pm	Free Musical Performance & Discussion & Promo Table
10/10/2020	(1) Bagels for Ballots	College Center Lounge	10am-12:00pm	Open Discussion & Promo Table
Tuesday, 10/13/20	(1) Puppies, Politics & Pizza featuring Aldo Martinez, Immigration Lawyer (2) Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Sculpture Garden outside of school Library	1:00 - 2:20 pm (College Hour)	Open Discussion & Promo Table
10/10/2020	(1) Bagels for Ballots	College Center Lounge	10am-12:00pm	Open Discussion & Promo Table

Thursday, 10/22/20	(1) Become an Informed Voter: A Voters Education Panel Discussion led by RVCC Faculty (2) Voter Registration Table hosted by the League of Women Voters	Conference Center, Rooms A&B	1:00 - 2:20 pm (College Hour)	Panel Discussion & Promo Table
<b>Tuesday, 11/3/20</b>	<b>VOTE TODAY</b>			
Tuesday, 11/3/20	Vote Together Party	Cafeteria	1:00 - 2:20 pm (College Hour)	FREE Cupcakes & Promo Tables

\*At RVCC, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:20 pm are called “College Hour”, a fixed time dedicated to students to participate at events and to take a break from Academic classes.

An important element to note of this timeline is that this is the timeline of events strictly for the Student Government and members of the RVotes Committee. Other student organizations are able to host their own politically minded and civic activism events entirely independent of the events hosted by these two bodies.

## Reporting

The RVotes *ALL IN Challenge Democratic Engagement Action Plan* will be reviewed annually by the Student Government Association, Student Life office, Service Learning Program and the RVotes Committee in order to assess the process as to which these organizations use this plan in determining events or activities designed to increase student civic activism and/or voter registration on campus. These parties will then, in accordance to the action plan, determine the implementation of these events and activities on campus. Events and activities that did not receive an outcome that aid in our goal will be subsequently revised in our next action plan.

All NSLVE Voter data will be referenced and linked to on our individual pages on the RVCommons Portal, as to allow for students to, independently, create projects or activities outside of the three main parties associated with the RVotes Matter campaign.

Furthermore, another means of assessing and reporting the success of the Action Plan will be analyzing the Action Plan in conjunction to newly released NSLVE data that can reflect shifts in voter registration rates on campus. In this way, the RVotes Matter Campaign can see a clear change over time, while also giving us the opportunity to analyze the effectiveness of strategies being implemented in order to further increase the amount of registered voters on campus.

## Evaluation

In terms of evaluating the success of the RVotes Matter Campaign and the *ALL IN Challenge Democratic Engagement Action Plan*, the RVotes Committee and Student Government Association will track the effectiveness through a variety of different methods, which includes:

- I. The number of fast cards passed around on campus;
- II. The attendance of politically charged events on campus, utilizing sign ins from the RVConnect App;
- III. The attendance and participation of students within the RVotes Committee, hosted by the student government;
- IV. The number of absentee ballots taken by students in order to cast votes anonymously and on their own time;
- V. The number of students that register to vote at the RVotes Voter Registration Drives that happen across campus;
- VI. The attendance of students at local freeholder meetings;
- VII. Other means that will be implemented on campus that become available as time goes on.

With these different means of evaluating the success of the RVotes Matter Campaign in conjunction to the goal as outlined within this action plan, the organizing bodies of the RVotes Matter Campaign will be able to effectively evaluate the success of the strategies for this year's campaign and will further expand on these strategies in the following years.

## Recognition

Throughout the years, Raritan Valley Community College has received much recognition for its Service Learning and community engagement through Student Clubs, Student Government, and Honor Societies. The curricular and co-curricular programs support the educational, civic and cultural needs of the campus and community. The programs also prepare students for leadership and social responsibility and offer enrichment activities to broaden the depth and breadth of the learning experience at RVCC.

Notably, service learning and civic engagement have become highly developed and institutionalized at RVCC clearly demonstrated by national honors received. The College was selected for the 2015 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, joining an elite group of 240 colleges and universities nationwide selected for this prestigious honor. RVCC was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching out of more than 4,500 public and private colleges and universities in the U.S. Eighty-three institutions received the classification for the first time, while 157 colleges and universities—including RVCC—were recognized for a second time. RVCC first received the Community Engagement Classification in 2008. Earning this prestigious classification is an important validation of RVCC's commitment to serving and supporting our community.

Further recognition of the College's leadership role in serving the local community is evidenced by RVCC being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll "With Distinction." RVCC was the only community college in the country to be recognized "With Distinction" in the Education category and was one of only two colleges in the state, and the only community college in NJ, to be recognized "With Distinction" in the General

Below is a short list of Accolades, and their corresponding years, that Raritan Valley Community College has been awarded recently. These awards will also include a corresponding category that is relevant to the success of students on campus within the context of Civic Activism.

**2020.** Raritan Valley Community College is one of six colleges and universities in the country to be recognized by Campus Compact for outstanding work in pursuit of the public purposes of higher education. RVCC is one of only two community colleges in the U.S.—and the only New Jersey college—to receive the first Eduardo J. Padrón Award for Institutional Transformation. RVCC was recognized at the Awards Celebration during Campus Compact's virtual Compact20 national conference on May 11, 2020.

**2019.** Raritan Valley Community College has earned a "gold seal" in the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards for its student voter engagement. The awards recognize colleges and universities across the country that are committed to increasing college student voting rates.

Institutions that earn a gold seal have achieved a student voting rate between 40-49 percent. The project was a collaboration with Service Learning, Student Life and Student Government Association.

**2018.** Received and coordinated a \$1,850 mini-grant from the Democracy Commitment to participate in Engage the Elections: 2018, a program that aims to advance non-partisan electoral engagement on community college campuses. RVCC is one of only 14 community colleges in the country—and the only New Jersey college—to be awarded the mini-grant. The project is a collaboration with Service Learning, Student Life and Student Government Association.

**2018 – New Jersey Governor’s Jefferson Award. Service Learning College Students @ RVCC** have been selected as Medalists for the **Youth Volunteer Group** category of the **2018 New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards**. This recognition is based on extraordinary volunteer/public service contributed by service learning students.

What this list shows, in combination with the previous landscape and commitment areas, is Raritan Valley Community College’s continued and exemplary upholding of the core values of giving a high quality education, different avenues for community outreach with the service learning department, and a steadfast willingness to increase the level of participation of students in community service and civic activism on, and off, campus.