



All IN Campus Democracy Challenge Rhode Island College

Institutional Profile

Rhode Island College is a regional comprehensive public college that serves approximately 7,531 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students through its five schools: The Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, the School of Business, the School of Nursing and the School of Social Work. Established in 1854, we are Rhode Island's first public institution of higher education. The college is located on a beautiful 180-acre suburban campus in the vibrant city of Providence, and has satellite locations at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center in Providence's Innovation District and the Rhode Island College Workforce Development Hub in Central Falls, RI. Rhode Island College is known throughout the Northeast for its high-quality academic programs, small class sizes, personalized, hands-on learning experiences, nationally recognized faculty, and highly competitive tuition among public four-year institutions. We are overwhelmingly a commuter-student campus (85%) with the majority of students coming primarily from every part of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. We offer degrees supported with high-touch, hands-on, practical learning programs including laboratories, performing and visual arts and nursing, education and social work programs with clinical experiences in under-served populations, such as work with older adults and communities of color. Approximately 15% of our students live in a congregate setting in our residential community, which consists of six residence halls. An additional 8% percent of students are student-athletes participating in over 21 different sport programs.

Mission Statement

As a leading regional public college, Rhode Island College personalizes higher education of the finest quality for undergraduate and graduate students. We offer vibrant programs in arts and sciences, business and professional disciplines within a supportive, respectful and diverse community. Dedicated faculty engage students in learning, research, and career attainment, Rhode Island College COVID-19 Reopening Plan and our innovative curricula and co-curricula foster intellectual curiosity and prepare an educated citizenry for responsible leadership.

Vision Statement

Rhode Island College will be recognized as an outstanding institution of higher education that is valued for high-impact programs and educational practices that prepare Rhode Island's diverse population; for meaningful learning experiences that foster student retention and completion and support professional development; and for its partnerships

that strengthen undergraduate, graduate and co-curricular programs. The college will be known for the expertise and leadership of its faculty, students and alumni; for its adaptability to the changing social and economic environment; and for its collective impact on Rhode Island's economy and culture.

Executive Summary

Rhode Island College students are actively engaged in democratic activities through student clubs and organizations, departmental programming, experiential learning, coursework and research, community service, community engagement and many more. RIC students have frequently and consistently participated in democratic activities through the American Democracy Project (ADP) at Rhode Island College. The ADP is a multi-campus initiative focused on public higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens. ADP started in 2003 as an initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), in partnership with The New York Times.

The Political Science Club supported the Office of Student Life and other departments in hosting voter registration tables during the month of September and October. The members of the Political Science Club, along with their faculty advisors, have been active in promoting democratic activities and would host programming and events (i.e., debate parties) that help to build student interest in civic responsibility and important events like the election.

Rhode Island College students are engaged in robust conversations in their classes and often work on projects or research related with civic engagement and democratic activities. Through the work of Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, faculty are provided with resources and tools to guide conversations around the election as well as post-election.

The action plan is developed for Rhode Island College and is led by Ducha Hang, Interim Vice President for Student Success. The plan is supported by various constituents across the campus who have contributed to the programming and engagement of students in the activities. The goals of the action plan are to provide students several opportunities to register to vote and receive voter information leading up to Election Day. Providing spaces for students to register to vote, be prepared for Election Day and reflect on the outcome of the election is important and necessary in the development of engaged democratic citizens. In addition, we hope to provide faculty with guidance and resources to lead their conversations with students around the election in their classrooms. Lastly, our goal is identify a percentage baseline of student voter engagement to better inform additional and new ways to prepare our students to be informed, engaged citizens.

Team

The Rhode Island College All In Campus Democracy Challenge Team consists of a variety of individuals from across the institution. The team consists of Ducha Hang (Interim VP for Student Success), Kim Dumpson (VP for College Advancement and External Relations), Erik

Christiansen, (Professor, Department of History), Christine Marco (Director of Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and Professor of Psychology), and Kristen Salemi (Director of Student Union). Many students have participated in the development and implementation of the strategies to help RIC meet the goals. Students include members of the Political Science Club, Environmental Club and Student Community Government. Other departments have been supportive with the programming and strategies, and these departments include but are not limited to the Office of Student Life, College Communications and Marketing, Residence Life and Housing, Donovan Dining Center, Counseling Center, Adams Library, Unity Center, Health & Physical Education, Unity Center and Interfaith Center.

Goals

The goals of the action plan are to provide students several opportunities to register to vote and receive voter information leading up to Election Day. Providing spaces for students to register to vote, be prepared for Election Day and reflect on the outcome of the election is important and necessary in the development of engaged democratic citizens. In addition, we hope to provide faculty with guidance and resources to lead their conversations with students around the election. We also hope to identify our percent baseline of student voter engagement to better inform additional and new ways to prepare our students to be informed, engaged citizens.

Short-term goals

- Provide students with opportunities to register to vote
- Promote voter registration and democratic engagement
- Provide students with opportunities to learn more about voter registration and voting overall
- Provide tools and resources for faculty to engage students in election and post-election conversations in the classroom.
- Develop a benchmark of percent student voters

Long-term goals (2022 and beyond):

- Increase voter registration and voter information programming and strategies by 50%.
- Based on RIC's benchmark of percent student voters, increase student votership by 5%.

Strategy

To support this plan, we have established a few strategies to help us meet our short-term goals.

We have held voter registration and information events through in-person, drive-in and virtual couch parties. The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning has provided tools for instructors to use to engage students in conversations on the election/post-election and will also be hosting a session to discuss additional ideas. In addition, we started a #RICVotes campaign which encouraged students to register to vote and participate in the

election. Through this campaign, we provided students with the opportunity to celebrate their democratic participation with selfies on social media or use of customized #RICVotes Zoom Backdrops that can be used in their online and virtual classes, meetings, etc. Lastly, we hope to have a Post-Election Walk 'n Talk session where students can engage in socially distanced reflection with staff and faculty on the results of the election and ways to productively and civically move forward and act on the outcome. The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning may also be working to identify faculty members who may provide additional guidance and expertise around post-election conversations.

Goal	Strategy	Measurement
Provide students with opportunities to register to vote	Outdoor Voter Registration Drives	Number of students in attendance to register to vote
Promote voter registration and democratic engagement	#RICVotes Campaign (#RICvotes and vote.ri.gov Social Media, Print & Direct Email to students with information on how to register to vote. Information included in newsletter to students.) Post-Election Walk 'n Talk	Numbers of Social Media impressions Number of students in attendance
Provide students with opportunities to learn more about voter registration and voting overall	RI College Online Voter Information Couch Party with Special Guest Rob Rock, RI Director of Elections	Number of students in attendance
Provide tools and resources for faculty to engage students in election and post-election conversations in the classroom.	Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Resources to all faculty Faculty Friday Coffee Hour Discussion on Election	Number of faculty using resources Number of Faculty in attendance
Develop a benchmark of percent student voters	Participate in the NSLVE inventory	Results from NSLVE

Additional Details

Outdoor Voter Registration Drive

An Outdoor Voter Registration Drive will be on the RI College campus on Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday, September 30 to offer RI College students and members of

the campus community an accessible and convenient location to acquire election information and forms and necessary for new voter registration prior to the October 4th voter registration deadline...and be sure to wear a mask!

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
10:00am – 2:00pm
Rhode Island College
Student Union - Media Center Patio

Wednesday, September 30, 2020
10:00am-2:00pm
Rhode Island College
Student Union Media Center
AND Patio & College Road Lot A

Everything you need for voter registration and the upcoming election is also available at <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/>
Sponsored by RI College Political Science Club, Student Community Government, Residential Life & Housing and Office of Student Life

RI College Online Voter Information Couch Party with Special Guest Rob Rock, RI Director of Elections

Democracy depends on everyday people being part of the process! This quick and comfortable Online Voter Information session will provide all the info you need to find out how to (1) register to vote before the October 4th deadline (2) find your voting location (3) choose your best voting option (in-person, mail-in, absentee) (4) review voting ballots in advance of Election Day (November 3) – and answer any questions you may have!

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
7:00pm
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ricVOTES>
Sponsored by RI College Political Science Club & Office of Student Life

#RICvotes and vote.ri.gov Social Media, Print & Direct Email Campaign

- Social media posts have been made continuously to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter in accordance with the Social Media Calendar schedule (attached)
- Social media "Re-Post" contest offering two \$25 Amazon gift card prizes to generate peer interest is in progress (ending 10/23)
- Visual/Print Messaging
 - Voting related Images were uploaded to SA Marketing and Student Success digital TV's around campus
 - 2 Voting related posters are hanging on Donovan Dining Center bridge (one on each side)
 - 2 Voting related posters are hanging in glass enclosed poster cases in Student Union

- A meeting was convened with College Communications & Marketing to discuss ways to collaborate on #RICvotes messaging, which was used for National Voter Registration Day, RIC's Voter Registration Drive.
- A request was made to SCG President to announce importance of student participation in the upcoming elections to student body

Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning: Election/Post-Election

There is only one week to the November 3rd election. This week may be particularly difficult both in-and-out of the classroom for students, faculty, and staff, and you may be wondering how to address the election with your students. Below are some resources for ways to address the election and post-election, even if you don't typically address election matters in your course content:

- [Preparing to teach about the 2020 election and after](#)
- [Structuring classroom discussions about 2020 election](#)
- [Leading the Classroom in tumultuous times](#)
- [Avoiding post-election student unrest](#) resources that can be used in the classroom
- The New York Times series, [Teach and Learn with the 2020 Election](#) offers writing & reading resources for teachers; the focus is more for upper secondary-level students but some would be adaptable for use in higher education classrooms
- [Trauma-informed teaching](#) provides an understanding of how students may exhibit trauma in their behavior, and how faculty can address it.

Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning: Election-Related Discussion Opportunities

We don't know the outcome of the election next week, nor its potential aftermath. The FCTL is offering two opportunities for faculty to gather and discuss the upcoming election. First, this week, the Friday Faculty Coffee Hour (9:30-10:30 am) will be dedicated to discussing the upcoming election and what we as faculty can do. Second, we will offer a gathering on the day after the election, Wed, Nov 4th from 4-5:00 pm. We may not know the election results at that point and there is no formal agenda; rather, we are providing an opportunity for faculty to come together and talk, as if we were on-campus. Details for both are provided below.

Post-Election Walk 'n Talk

Not sure how to process what will become of the election results? Neither do we. Sometimes things are too much to hold all on your own. Bring a friend, and join us at a **Post-Election Walk 'n Talk** on **Wednesday, November 4** on the **Quad** from **12noon – 2pm** for some fresh air and deep breaths, as we try to figure out how we move forward regardless of the outcome. We'll have wellness tables set up along a circular pathway to help prompt conversation and space for you to reflect and decompress after months of anticipation. Bring your mobile device to follow along a video that will accompany the resources you will discover along the walk. Masks required. Rain location Adams Library 3rd floor. This event is a collaborative effort that includes RI College Office of Student Life, Counseling Center, Adams Library, Unity Center, Political Science Club, Health & Physical Education, Environmental Club, Unity Center, Interfaith Center & Residence Life & Housing.

Evaluation

To meet our short-term goals, all participating individuals and campus units will be requested to share attendance numbers. we hope to use the following measurements to assess our plan:

- Attendance at voter registration and information events
- social media campaign impressions
- faculty participation in FCTL sessions
- number of RIC students participating in election
- number of students attending post-election event

For our final data, we will look forward to the NSLVE report to see our benchmark student votership percentage. Having this data will be supportive of our ability to plan for the next challenge as well as develop new and innovative ways to prepare our students to be engaged and democratic citizens.