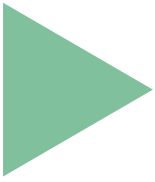# SUNY DELHI ACTION PLAN

Submitted October 2022 by Elizabeth Hoyt
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life &
Chief Diversity Officer

ACTION PLAN

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of this Action Plan is to document current efforts and recognize the opportunities for growth in fostering a sense of Civic Engagement throughout the campus, by infusing educational efforts and increasing voter registration and turnout.

The Voter Engagement Committee (VEC) is the organizing group encourages those interested in holding events and activities, and is progressing to establish a culture of commitment to voter engagement throughout the year. The VEC was established to increase voter engagement for all students. This includes residential, commuting and online students.

II. LEADERSHIP - THE VOTER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Elizabeth Hoyt, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life & Chief Diversity Officer
- Kali Barnhart, Assistant Director, Center for Student Leadership & Engagement
- Dan Gashler, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Sarah Meisch-Lacombe, Senior Assistant Librarian
- Michael Tweed, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Christina Viafore, Director of Human Resources & Marketing, CADI
- Abigail Wooden, Digital & Social Media Manager

Discussions about partnering with local officials and community groups have begun this academic year, with outreach efforts being a focus going forward. The campus welcomes all and any assistance with educational and non-partisan events, activities, and seminars by any member of the campus community on or off campus.

Administrative buy-in and a system of accountability overall will also be a focus going forward to better elevate all areas of campus.

III. COMMITMENT

Through reporting and data gathering , SUNY Delhi continues to progress towards a culture of Civic Engagement which includes action.

Established outreach of the VEC:
- Tabling and visibility at high traffic campus events, advertising the existence of the VEC with their interest in support, and holding space to gather contact information of those willing to contribute (Ex: Local Alumni and Student Clubs)
- Electronic email, engagement platform bulletins, physical flyers in academic and residential builds with QR code to the SUNY Delhi Voter Engagement webpage.

New initiatives that began Fall 2022:

- Established #DelhiBroncosVote Instagram page to further educational efforts about voter registration and deadlines. Also utilized in sharing upcoming events, activities and new courses being offered that focus on Civic Engagement
  - Ex: Campaigns & Elections Independent Study GOVT537
- Broadening collaborative efforts to utilize pockets of campus community members to spread educational messaging.
  - Ex: Athletic Contest announcement on importance of voting, and deadlines
- Constitution Day Writing Contest, this year's topic: "How would you change the Constitution?" If you had to propose an amendment to the constitution, what would it be?
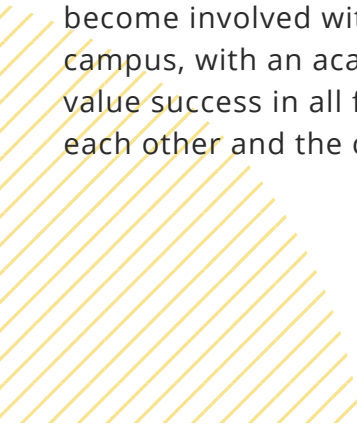
The campus further demonstrates it's commitment by the establishment of a widely used rubric for a previous Institutional Learning Outcome (ILO): Civic Engagement. Several curriculum courses assess civic engagement throughout the academic year (Hospitality, Physical Science, Vet Sci, Carpentry, etc.). Student Life departments also hold Civic Engagement in high regard as they engage, educate and increase community building (Residence Life, Community Engagement, The Educational Opportunity Program, etc.). Within the next few years, the campus will be updating to better align the new General Education Requirement: U.S. History and Civic Engagement.

As the campus shifts to updated ILO's the intent is to include the knowledge, skills, and competencies intentionally embedded at several moments throughout the student's lifecycle at SUNY Delhi, to inspire and enhance each student's transferable learning skills. Civic Engagement was included under "Responsibility" and "Applied Knowledge" both within classroom and non-classroom areas.
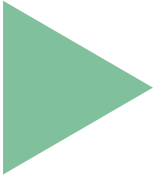
- "Student Delhi Broncos are RAD: **Responsible**, can **Apply knowledge** in and out of the classroom, and are **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive**-Minded citizens!

IV. LANDSCAPE

SUNY Delhi educates approximately 3,000 students per academic year on campus and online, with a 14:1 student:faculty ratio. The 625-acre campus holds 6 Residence Halls and 1 Apartment Complex that can all house about 1,700. Academic degrees range from Certificate to Master's Degrees throughout 5 Academic Schools.

The 2022-23 academic year shows a great deal of promise as students seem to be eager to become involved with developing new ways to engage with each other. SUNY Delhi is a tight-knit campus, with an academic and student life focus on applied learning and knowledge. Together we value success in all forms, and create a sense of belonging not only on the physical campus, but to each other and the community beyond.

When it comes to the history of voter engagement, according to the NSLVE report, our Registration Rate increased from 2018 but it still below the national average. The Voting Rate also has a gap between the National Average and the campus. The VEC continues to look at innovative and reliable ways to assist students with the action of voting either during the Early Voting Period or on Election Day.

V. GOALS

Before the Mid-Term Elections:
- Hold 3 in person opportunities to assist students registering to vote
- Have 3 opportunities to assist students with transportation to local polling location
- Sponsor 3 events on campus surrounding the Election

Before Fall 2023
- Gather more data from Student Life Division regarding their current forms of Civic Engagement
- Gather Assessment data from Academic Programs utilizing common rubrics
- VEC member attending at least 2 virtual Civic & Voter Engagement trainings
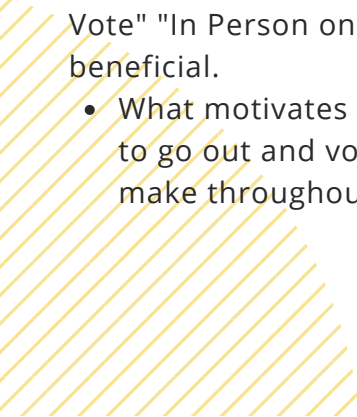
Before the next NSLVE Report:
- Increase Voting Registration Rate by 8% (To 80%)
- Increase Voting Rate of Registered Students by 10% (To 56%)
- Recruit and consistently have 2 Student Leaders serve on the VEC
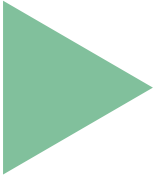- Increase Voter Turnout by Field of Study at least 2% across the board

VI. NSLVE

As previously mentioned the campus does utilize the findings in the NSLVE Campus Report. This information is shared with the broader campus, and is helpful in acknowledging where we are compared to the national average, and what student populations could be a focus on in the future.
- Field of Study low numbers: Which faculty or Academic School Deans would partner with VEC to host events and activities in their area? Or how else can we better serve this population of students?

The data collected on Voting Method has also been beneficial to see the spread between "Early Vote" "In Person on Election Day" and "Not-In-Person" voting. Additional assessment would be beneficial.
- What motivates a student to vote with a certain method? How can the campus support students to go out and vote? What barriers are currently in place for students? What connections can we make throughout campus or in the community to increase voter turnout?

Information that we are not privy to in this report, is where students are registered. With a number of our students being online and off-site, we need to also focus on utilizing virtual campaigns and online efforts to connect with those students not residing locally. If the percentage of students registered is largely off-campus or online, then we my choose to refocus on residential students.

- Where is the specific data to show where students are registered (in Delhi, or from their home address)?

VII. STRADEGY

Continue expanding. Our efforts, our reach, and our innovation in connecting with the campus community through all Academic Schools, community connections, local alumni, and our student leaders. Building a foundational committee with faculty and staff is only one step. Starting to infuse the Civic & Voter Engagement culture throughout the students atmosphere can create more momentum.
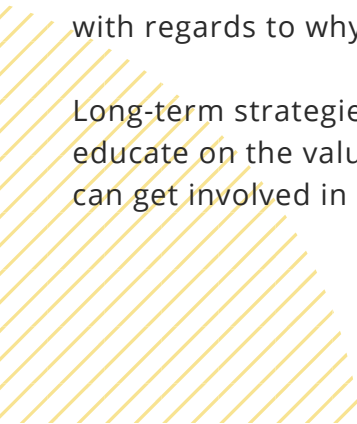
Groups of students to connect, communicate and collaborate with in the next two years:
- Student Senate
- Student Programming Board
- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Community Service
- Student Athletes
- Resident Assistants

The Voter Engagement Committee and their efforts is only the beginning as we hope to lead the campus in a systematic and intentional path towards greater civic engagement. With our smaller goals listed above, we will move closer to that overarching vision.

Our strategy is to better connect with campus administration to create a broader sense of buy-in as well as reaching outward beyond the physical campus to establishing strategic partnerships with local organizations and individuals for assistance. Connections create more opportunities.

VEC will continue to encourage the campus to engage with students throughout the year in regards to voter engagement. Collaboration has already seen results and we look forward to doing more in the future. Conversations with students have determined that more education is needed with regards to why their votes matter, and a focus on dispelling myths about registering to vote.

Long-term strategies include the development of a digital course for all incoming students to educate on the values of democratic engagement, options for voter registrations, how students can get involved in creating a culture of civic engagement and where they can find resources.

VIII. REPORTING

The final SUNY Delhi Action plan will be shared on the campus Engagement Platform BroncoConnect as part of an article series put out by the VEC. These articles are available to review by the public. A prompt will be placed in the campus newspaper Campus Voice letting people know about the post.

This action plan and NSLVE data will also be shared through a prompt on the Instagram page #DelhiBroncosVote. The NSLVE report is traditionally shared through the campus email system to both the faculty and staff DelhiToday and to the students BroncoBulletin.

Action Plan & NSLVE information will also be shared with campus Administration to create buy-in for establishing an actionable culture of civic engagement and to drive momentum forward.

IX. EVALUATION

Numerical data collection for Voter Engagement (Ex: Number of registrations collected) will be the first focus for the VEC. Informal and formal surveys take places during tabling to determine students current registration status, how they prefer to vote, and what, if any, are reasons they do not vote. Student inquiry questions gives a better understanding of why students are not voting, and how can better assist them in getting to the poles and casting their ballots.

Assessment and evaluation of Civic Engagement Courses continue to be measured through Academic Schools. Data is collected within courses determining the outcome of student learning.

SUNY Delhi will continue to pursue it's goal of establishing a positive culture of Civic Engagement. The Voter Engagement Committee is a proud collaborator of these efforts, and strives to keep engaging, connecting and enhancing the community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions related to this report or the Voter Engagement Committee can be directed to Elizabeth Hoyt, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life & Chief Diversity Officer, 607-746-4440 or outsenee@delhi.edu

Public Website: https://www.delhi.edu/campus-life/voter-registration/index.php
Campus Page: https://delhi.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/vote