

University at Buffalo Community & Civic Engagement Summary for 2020-2021

Fall 202 Programming:

- Ongoing: UB maintains a [website](#) with voter registration information and UBLinked features a “Get Ready to Vote” tab which takes users to this [site](#). Paper registration forms are always available in 150 Student Union building.
- Ongoing: [Freedom of Assembly Support Team](#) will support student activism at UB. UB is committed to preparing students to live and lead in a global world while deepening their engagement in the local community. Members of the Freedom of Assembly Support Team (FAST) serve as a resource to students before, during and after their events as they learn how to become agents of positive social change.
- 8/23-8/26: [Ready...Set...Buffalo!](#) program introduced 20 new students to UB and the Buffalo community through service and educationally meaningful reflection.
- 9/1/20: A [student-wide email](#) with voter registration and absentee ballot links was sent out.
- 9/14-11/4/20: UB Votes offered [zoom drop-in hours](#) staffed Student Engagement staff members open to students who have questions about filling out their voter registration forms. These drop in hours took place Mondays from 3-4:30, Wednesdays from 10-11:30 and 1:30-3pm, Thursdays from 9:30-11am and Fridays from 1-2:30pm.
- 9/17, 9/22 and 9/24/20: [In-person voter registration](#) tabling took place in the Student Union which resulted in 135 voters getting registered. Voter registration forms were hand delivered to the Erie County BOE.
- 9/17-9/22/20: Student volunteers participated in on-campus [chalking](#) to remind students of early voting, absentee and in-person voting deadlines.
- 9/17/20: UB students were invited to participate in a virtual SUNY System-Wide [Constitution Day program](#) about the history, problems, and future of voting in the US.
- 9/17/20: Student Engagement hosted a program called "[The Zoom Where It Happened](#)", a virtual Hamilton themed trivia game with mini education sessions focused on civic engagement, voter registration and student activism.
- 9/28/20: Student Engagement produced a short "[How to Register](#)" video which was shared on Facebook.
- 10/19-11/4/20: [UB Votes Texting Service](#) was made available to students.
- 10/26-10/28/20: A [Mock Presidential Election](#) took place on UBLinked and included candidate and issue education modules.
- 10/22/20: UB Votes hosted a zoom [Presidential Debate Watch Party](#) with Jake Neiheisel, Professor of Political Science at UB serving as an educational resource throughout the event.
- 11/2/20: Residence Hall Association shared a 3 episode [Election Speaker Series](#).
 - [Episode 1: Understanding The System](#): Jake Neiheisel, Professor of Political Science at UB, kicks off the RHA Election Speaker Series by giving an outline of our democracy, how our government works and how the foundation of our political system was formed.
 - [Episode 2: Why Is 2020 So Important?](#): Shawn Donohue, Assistant Professor of Political Science at UB, explains why the 2020 election is so important to our democracy. Discussing predominant issues, such as gerrymandering, division in Congress, as well as shifts in the political spectrum, Professor Donohue clarifies many of the issues we face today.
 - [Episode 3: Go Out and Vote](#): In collaboration with the UB Votes Committee and the Honors Student Council, RHA wants to encourage you all to make your voice heard and take part in our democracy!
- 11/3/20: An [Election Day Shuttle](#) was arranged to help transport students to the polls. The shuttle ran from 9am-8pm and stopped at Governors, the Student Union, the Ellicott Tunnel and at Sweet Home High School on loop all day. (213 passengers rode the UB votes shuttle)
- 11/4/20: [Department of Communication](#) Yotam Ophir offered a Post-Election Public Sphere.
- 11/4/20: [Daniel Ackers Scholars](#) Danielle Johnson hosted an open forum for students to share their thoughts and feelings about the election.
- 11/4-11/20/20: [Counseling Services](#) offered listening sessions to provide an opportunity for students to share how they have been emotionally and psychologically impacted by the election.

- 11/5/20: RHA & The Spectrum began their Dialogic Journalism Series: In collaboration with the University at Buffalo's newspaper, The Spectrum, this program will allow all students to have open conversations about a diverse set of perspectives and experiences. By attending this program, RHA and The Spectrum hope that students leave more educated on opposing views as well as more educated on their own.
- 11/10/20: Intercultural and Diversity Center offered Tough Topics: Let's Discuss Election Results.
- 11/18/20: Student Engagement partnered with UB Bees to deliver care packages to all students in COVID quarantine.
- 11/19/20: Office of Inclusive Excellence sponsored "Is Being an Ally Enough?" a campus discussion of what is needed to combat racial inequities.

Spring 2021 Programming:

- 1/18/21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service occurred virtually with 35 participants.
- 1/24-1/29: Virtual Alternative Break took place with 37 student participants and 36 community partners.
- 1/20/21: Virtual Presidential Trivia event to occur the week of the inauguration hosted by Student Engagement
- 4/9/21: Managing Controversy with Civility Workshop: This workshop enhanced participants skillset around having respectful and productive conversations.
- 4/19/21: Sustainability Scavenger Hunt: Spend some time outdoors for Earth Day by participating in this Sustainability Scavenger Hunt on UB's North Campus.
- 4/21/21 at 7pm: Ready for Change?: Tips for a winning campaign with local elected officials. Join us for a panel featuring young politicians and learn how they began their career! Get insider tips and tricks for networking and leadership opportunities you can get involved with during college to set you up for success in the political arena.
- 4/28/21: Coffee and Conversation with Local Elected Officials: In this session you will learn how citizens can best advocate for causes and be heard by their representatives. Our aim with this event is to educate University at Buffalo students on how they can best communicate with elected officials and contribute civically within their communities. We will provide panelists with a list of questions they can expect to receive during the first half of the event and will then open it up to attendees to be able to ask questions as well. Join this event on Zoom.
- 5/1/21: UB Pride & Service Day will take place in person offering dozens of students to chance to give back to the local community through volunteer service.
- TBD: Regional meeting in partnership with the League of Women Voters and other representatives from colleges and universities involved in voter and civic engagement.

News Articles:

Freedom of Assembly Support Team:

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/09/trauma-informed-policing.html>

Welcome Week Mask Tie Dye Project:

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/ub-seen/slide-shows/2020/09/Tie-dye-masks.html>

UB Votes:

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/10/ub-votes.html>

<https://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2020/11/as-the-election-nears-ub-encourages-students-to-vote>

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/11/election-day.html>

<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/11/post-election.html>