



2022 Democratic Engagement Plan

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Riley Hupfer; Director Center for Community Engagement & Experiential Learning



SVSU 2022 Democratic Engagement Plan

Executive Summary

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) at Saginaw Valley State University was established in August of 2017 to further support the university mission to “transform lives through educational excellence and dynamic partnerships, unleashing possibilities for impact in our community and worldwide”. More specifically, the CCE supports this mission by seeking to foster collaborations among our students, faculty, staff and community partners through civic and democratic engagement.

In February 2018 the CCE signed on to be a part of the Voter Friendly Campus (VFC) program, through the Campus Vote Project, as well as the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP). In conjunction with these partnerships, the CCE sought to further enhance university democratic engagement efforts by coordinating the application of three students to become student Fellows through the VFC and CEEP programs. In continuing to expand upon university commitment to democratic engagement, the CCE signed on to be a part of the American Democracy Project’s ALL IN Challenge in April 2018. Our goal is to continue to build upon these partnerships, now, and into the future. In 2021 the Center for Community Engagement became the Center for Community Engagement & Experiential Learning (CEEL), and a student Cardinals Vote Coordinator was hired. Currently, the CEEL office also maintains student fellowship opportunities through the VFC Program, CEEP Program.

In participating in the VFC program, ALL IN Challenge and writing this Democratic Engagement Plan, Saginaw Valley State University commits to further institutionalizing civic and democratic engagement, and continuing to engage students, faculty, staff and community members in collaborative partnerships that enhance opportunities for voter registration, education and turnout; ultimately leading to the development of SVSU students as informed and engaged citizens.



Riley Hupfer
Director

Center for Community Engagement & Experiential Learning

Democratic Engagement Coalition

The Democratic Engagement Coalition at SVSU represents a diverse group of faculty, staff, students and community partners who are committed to enhancing civic and democratic engagement at SVSU and in our communities.

Riley Hupfer - Chair, Director, Center for Community Engagement; SVSU

Nikolas Baker - Co-Chair, Coordinator/Democracy Fellow; SVSU

Trenton Basner, CVP Democracy Fellow; SVSU

Caitlin Houde, CEEP Fellow; SVSU

Kevin Lorentz, Assistant Professor of Political Science; SVSU

Stephen Prince, Assistant Director Community-University Relations; SVSU

Diva Patel, President - College Democrats; SVSU

Abigail Sefcik, President - College Republicans; SVSU

Kevin Machata, Clerk; Kochville Township

Jamie Uptmor, Deputy Clerk; Kochville Township

Kyle Bostwick, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Saginaw County

Voter Registration Initiatives

Voter Registration Training

The Cardinals Vote team plans to partner with the Kochville Township clerk to hold a voter registration training event. This will provide a group of student volunteers with the necessary information to help students understand the registration process.

Voter Registration Efforts

The Cardinals Vote team plans to be present at various events on campus to encourage and aid students to register to vote. The team also plans to table once a week at least one month before election day, in various locations on campus in order to register students to vote and inform them of the upcoming election.

National Voter Registration Day

The Cardinals Vote team will work in partnership with internal and external stakeholders to offer day-long activities that both celebrate voter registration and civic engagement, as well as offer resources for students who are looking to register to vote.

Residential Life

The Cardinals Vote team plans to partner with residential student leaders to ensure that the promotion of civic engagement is included in residential community events.

CCE Website - Social Media

The Cardinals Vote team will utilize all Center for Community Engagement website and social media platforms for promoting events, programming, and important information. This social media will be further shared by SVSU main accounts.

University Communications

The SVSU CVP team will work in partnership with the Office of University Communications throughout 2022 to extend campus-wide communications to all university staff, students and faculty.

Voter Education Initiatives

Mock Polling Event

The Cardinals Vote team plans to partner with the Kochville Township clerk to hold a mock polling event complete with (mock) ID checks, voting booths, and sample ballots. This will give students the opportunity to experience the voting process before election day.

Candidate Information Handouts

The Cardinals Vote team will support SVSU Student Association (Government) in the development of candidate information, as well as promote any CEEP or CVP candidate promotions.

On-Campus Candidate Events

The Cardinals Vote team plans to invite candidates running for various offices to campus. The team will also assist political student organizations on campus with organizing candidate events ranging from meet and greets, townhalls, etc.

Michigan Redistricting

The Cardinals Vote team plans to engage students in various ways to ensure that they are aware of the possible changes to the districts in which they are voting. This could include placing codes to interactive redistricting maps in heavily trafficked areas on campus along with interpersonal engagement with students.

National Voter Education Week

The Cardinals Vote team plans to engage with voters during the National Voter Education Week with a focus on the importance of voting and civic participation. The team will also work with students to ensure that they are fully informed on the process of voting.

The Valley Vanguard

The Cardinals Vote team plans to partner with staff from the SVSU student newspaper - The Valley Vanguard - to inform students about the upcoming election along with other important information related to the initiative.

CCE Website - Social Media

Cardinals Vote will utilize all CEEL website and social media platforms for promoting events, programming and information.

University Communications

The SVSU CVP team will work in partnership with the Office of University Communications throughout 2022 to extend campus-wide communications to all university staff, students and faculty.

Ballot Access Initiatives

Absentee Ballot Information

The Cardinals Vote team will work in partnership with the Kochville Township Clerk and the Saginaw Clerk to plan an absentee voting party in October 2022, to educate, inform, and provide students with resources to ensure they understand their ability to register and vote using absentee ballots.

Absentee Voting Materials

The Cardinals Vote teams plans to ensure that students voting absentee in the 2022 election will have access to the necessary materials to send their ballots. We plan to provide items such as stamps, envelopes, etc.

Election Day Programming

The SVSU CVP team will look to plan a large-scale election day event on November 8, 2022. Services that the team hope to include are an information desk, food and beverages, Cards Vote shirt giveaways, and hope to coordinate rides to the polls.

We plan for three locations - College of Education, Rotunda by the Office of Student Life and in front of the Zahn Library.

CCE Website - Social Media

Cardinals Vote will utilize all CEEL website and social media platforms for promoting events, programming and information.

University Communications

The SVSU CVP team will work in partnership with the Office of University Communications throughout 2022 to extend campus-wide communications to all university staff, students and faculty.

Goals & Commitment

Short Term

- 92% registration rate of eligible voters at Saginaw Valley State University by Fall 2022
- 55% voting rate of registered student voters at Saginaw Valley State University by Fall 2021.
- Increase campus attendance at civic and democratic engagement events and initiatives.
- Develop print, web-based and social media communication platforms that are specific to civic and democratic engagement.
- Target hard to reach/overlooked communities on campus to engage them civically

Long Term

- Integrate voter registration into SVSU Orientation programs by Summer 2023
- Institutionalize the practice of the president sending an online communication to all students during the Fall semester of each year, emphasizing the importance of democratic and civic engagement.
- Increase engagement and awareness of the Cardinals Vote initiative with staff and faculty
- Establish a campus wide provision that allows for unmarked absences on election day
- Establish a student leadership team to help develop an initiative that coordinates collaboration between SVSU students, faculty and staff and local High School students from the Great Lakes Bay Region – promoting voter registration, education and turnout; by Fall 2024

NSLVE Overall Measures	2016	2018	2020
Registration Rate	76.7%	73.7%	90.3%
Voting Rate of Registered Students	64.4%	49.0%	74.2%
Voting Rate of Eligible Students	49.4%	36.1%	67.0%



August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Red Pride Picnic	29 Classes Begin	30	31	1	2	3



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 CARDS PARTY	15	16	17
18	19	20 National Voter Registration Day	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3 National Voter Education Week →	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Mock Polling Tentative	25 Mock Polling Tentative	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31 Tabling	1 Tabling	2 Tabling	3 Tabling	4 Tabling	5
6	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

Assessment & Evaluation

- For events that are specific to the Cardinals Vote calendar, the CEEL will survey participants to evaluate initiatives and programs to determine future improvements.
- Through events and online communications Cardinals Vote has been collecting a database of SVSU students specifically interested in voter education. This presents an active audience for assessment and evaluation. It also provides opportunities for learning outcomes, tied to Cardinals Vote programs.
- The CEEL will participate in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), to track key metrics specific to voter registration and turnout at Saginaw Valley State University.

In the News

<https://www.svsu.edu/newsroom/news/2019/march/svsuearnsvoter-friendlycampusdesignation/svsuearnsvoter-friendlycampusdesignation.html>

https://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/University-nbsp-pushes-students-to-get-involved-14474973.php?fbclid=IwAR3rb1JZraNBirFVgzUd49WWm4qhUr-vV3i4Cnau0QZF2rBR7FK_7dwctew

<https://www.svsu.edu/newsroom/news/2019/september/svsupushesstudentstog etinvolved/26-ucomm-svsupushesstudentstogetinvolved.html>

<https://thevalleyvanguard.com/2019/10/07/voter-engagement-high-for-students/>