

## SANTA ANA COLLEGE

### GET OUT THE VOTE: STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE REPORT & ACTION PLAN

**INTRODUCTION:** All postsecondary institutions are required to make a good-faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to all of their on-campus-degree-or certificate-seeking students prior to their state's voter registration deadline for all federal and gubernatorial elections (1998 Higher Education Act). The primary goal is to shape civic involvement with a nonpartisan approach aimed at exploring, learning and discussing issues while encouraging participation in the electoral process (see handbook: *Your Voice, Your Vote*: [www.naicu.edu](http://www.naicu.edu) ).

Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD), Santa Ana College (SAC) and Santiago Canyon College (SCC) have engaged in this process by providing student voter registration drives, promoting opportunities for students to train and work as solicitors of voter registration and poll workers, creating proximity and access to polling locations, registering students to vote, and educating students on how and why to vote.

This progress update will provide a brief overview of Santa Ana College's efforts beginning January of 2002 and continuing through current elections. In addition, a new "Action Plan" will be developed to revitalize and enhance past, current and future efforts.

- Spring, 2002 Collaboration with representatives to register students to vote—recruit and train students to promote voter registration among their peers.
- Summer, 2002 Position students, faculty and staff to repeat spring efforts.
- Fall, 2002 Enhance student voter registration efforts. Promote voting through voter education.  
A total of 4,000 students completed Voter Registration Cards (combined number for SAC, SCC, CEC and OEC).
- Spring, 2003 Establish a district-wide committee to promote student voter registration and education, participation in the electoral process, coordination and linkages with community partnerships.  
This committee met at least once per semester, maintained and created new ways and means to enhance efforts.
- Summer, 2004 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Proposal to Secretary of State. (Last notification indicated that there was a "hold" on funds).

- Fall, 2004

Request by the American Council on Education (ACE) to share innovative and ambitious efforts aimed at heightening voter awareness. In addition, the House Education and the Workforce Committee regarding colleges' compliance with federal voter requirements asked institutions to redouble voter education efforts.

Also worked with The Registrar of Voters to bring VoteMobile to colleges. Students and community members cast their votes.
- Spring, 2005

Orange County Register of Voters acknowledged RSCCD for outstanding civic participation at Board meeting in February, 2005.
- Fall, 2006

Implemented program to allow student participation in the California Community College Automatic Student Registration Project with E-Connections through district and college websites.

Initiated student voter registration program by recruiting and training student volunteers to conduct classroom presentations and encourage their peers to register.
- Spring, 2008

Ongoing online and campus voter registration efforts led by administration, students and community organizations.
- Fall, 2012

SAC promotes GOTV with all students on the main campus. Conducted presentations in approximately 300 classrooms, over 8,000 students heard one or more presentations on the importance of registering or re-registering to vote. Received 843 completed Voter Registration Cards. (Approximately 1,000 students did not have or preferred not to release their personal information and/or opted to take the VRC and mail it in themselves).
- Ongoing

SAC departments continually partner students, staff, and community groups and organizations to promote civic engagement. Events are held, such as a Constitution Day, led by Student Life, and Citizenship forums and events to educate and promote civic participation.

**Key partnerships formed with the following community organizations.**

- Orange County Registrar of Voters
- Rock the Vote
- Secretary of State
- League of Women Voters
- Southwest Voter Registration Project
- American Latino Voter Education Fund
- Delhi Community Center: GOTV Campaign

**Sample of additional volunteer activities undertaken during key periods:**

- Spring, 2004 -- Coordination of district-wide support of Propositions 57 & 58 through phone banking. Student leadership initiative.
- Fall, 2004 -- Created district website hotlink to the California Secretary of State's website: <http://www.rscdd.org/apps/pub.asp?Q=650> (not currently active)

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**NEW PARTNERSHIPS 2018:**

- All In Campus Democracy Challenge—promoting and honoring campuses for voter engagement. [www.allinchallenge.org](http://www.allinchallenge.org)
- Educate, Empower, Vote, Crew—promote non-partisan voter registration. <https://www.ocx2elections.org>
- AltaMed—promote non-partisan voter registration.

**NEW OPPORTUNITY 2018:**

- Civic Learning & Engagement Conference: 14 students; 6 faculty and staff will be attending in June, 2018.

**CURRENT CHALLENGE:** There is a need to refuel and expand upon past efforts with ongoing, new and future opportunities.

**PROPOSED:**

- Develop a working group to examine past, current, and future goals and objectives.
- Research what is ongoing, and required to maintain and/or implement measures that are effective.
- Review what lead offices plan to do to enhance student and community civic engagement.
- Create an action plan and calendar with projected plans and deliverables.
- Evaluate, learn, grow, develop, and implement civic engagement among students, staff, faculty, and community members.