

## SANTA ANA COLLEGE

### GET OUT THE VOTE: STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION DRAFT- UPDATE REPORT & ACTION PLAN: 2020-2021

**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 partner with 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
- Secretary of State
- Latino Leadership Council
- League of Women Voters
- Southwest Voter Registration Project
- Rock the Vote
- Educate, Empower, Vote, Crew
- AltaMed
- American Latino Voter Education Fund
- Delhi Community Center: GOTV Campaign
- ALL In Campus Democracy Challenge—Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement
- National Study of Learning, Voting & Engagement

**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 in 2018 that have been developed in 2019:**

- 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 OPPORTUNITIES 2018-2019:**

•Civic Learning & Engagement Conference: 13 students; 6 faculty and staff attended in June, 2018. One staff member attended in 2019 (SAC Commencement at the same time).

•SAC Office of Student Life has held meetings with ASG Judicial Branch, SCC ASG leaders, staff, and community partners to discuss voter registration, town halls, and getting out the vote. Key events, such as Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day are examples of working to educate and register students on the campuses.

•SAC has partnered with the City of Santa Ana, Santa Ana Unified School District, and other stake holders on major campaigns to register community members to vote and get out the vote.

**CURRENT CHALLENGES:** There is a need to continue expanding efforts with ongoing, new and future opportunities on the campuses.

The changes in Orange County Voting Centers and moving from close to 1,000 Centers to under 200 Centers is a challenge with upcoming elections. We are on the Advisory Committee for the Registrar of Voters and supporting efforts to maximize multilingual media and outreach to assist in educating students, staff and community members of the upcoming major changes.

## **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.
- Organized campus events with a representative at each event.
- All in challenge campus events.
- Create a civic engagement website to inform students of activities, community partners, and upcoming projects.
- Continue to develop the core working group to determine future goals and objectives.
- Inform the student body about the 2020 Census and encourage voter registration by attending proposed events on campus.
- Use the models that local schools have implemented to see what worked and what has not to create a similar model on our campus.
- Grow community and college representation and relations.
- Review what lead offices plan to do to enhance student and community civic engagement.

## **National Study of Learning, Voting & Engagement (NSLVE Report)**

<https://idhe.tufts.edu>

According to the NSLVE Report, SAC has increased the student voting rate by **33.7%** between 2014 and 2018. SAC is set to receive a seal of recognition at the Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 12, 2019. The organizers will send press information as seal announcements are embargoed until after the Awards Ceremony.

## **U.S. Census**

•Build bridges with efforts to ensure everyone is counted for the 2020 Census. SAC is represented in local city and county Complete Count Committees and partnering with all civic, business, education and community-based organizations. Recently SAC co-led a gathering of Orange County education leaders, together with the County of Orange and Department of Education to examine challenges, resources and opportunities. In particular, the voice of students reflected how we can work together to increase knowledge, involvement and participation on our campuses. View the following for additional details.

Meeting Agenda –

<http://www.ocgov.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=103858>

Ideas and Strategies for Census Outreach –

<http://www.ocgov.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=103859>

Pictures from the Meeting –

<http://www.ocgov.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=103860>

(UPDATED: December, 2019)