

CIVIC ACTION PLAN



Researched and Designed by

Nicholas Seto, '24

Honors Capstone Project

setonhill.edu

Table of Contents

University Mission Statement, USCCB Statements, and Objective	Pg. 3
Statement by University Chaplin Monsignor Roger A Stantick	Pg. 4
Offices related to Seton Hill's Civic Action Plan	Pg. 5
Diversity Statistics	Pg. 6
Online Voter Registration Portal	Pg. 7
Fall Civic Action Plan Schedule	Pg. 8
Purpose/Data	Pg. 9
Data: Questions	Pg. 10
Data: Results (Raw)	Pg. 11
Data: Results (Analyzed)	Pg. 12



Seton Hill Mission Statement:

Seton Hill is a Catholic university rooted in Judeo-Christian values. In the tradition of Elizabeth Ann Seton, we educate students to think and act critically, creatively, and ethically as productive members of society committed to transforming the world.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Catholic Social Teaching Statement:

Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind" (Lk 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Mt 25:45). Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the eucharist.

USCCB Statement on Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

In human society one man's natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other men; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other. (St. John XXIII, Peace *on Earth* [Pacem in Terris], no. 30)

Objective:

It is the duty of all citizens to be active and participate in their communities. According to Catholic Social Teaching, one cannot accept rights whilst disregarding duties. As a Catholic School rooted in Judeo-Christian values, it is morally essential that all students are educated and participate in civic processes. To ensure the efficiency of events working towards this goal, *The Seton Hill Civic Action Plan*, lays out a concrete timeline of events planned to ensure thoughtful and educated participation in our civic processes.



Monsignor Roger A. Statnick University Chaplin

Father Statnick is a retired Roman Catholic Priest from the Diocese of Greensburg and the current University Chaplin for Seton Hill University. He also holds a Ph.D. from The University of Notre Dame.

Statement on Civic and Community Participation

In Vatican II's *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, the Church and the civic community are called to cooperate for the common good, because there is a close link between the earthly concerns of human beings and their transcendent character. Living the Christian life witnesses to this connection by involving itself in civic engagement. We are not bystanders in the communities in which we live, but active citizens, shaping them by voting, volunteering and involving ourselves with common concerns that together create the common good.

Related Offices

Office of Service Experience

Amanda DeWitt Director of Service Outreach <u>adewitt@setonhill.edu</u> (724) 830-2598

Office of Campus Ministry

Tony Krzmarzick Director of Campus Ministry <u>tkrzmazick@setonhill.edu</u> (724) 380-1052

National Model United Nations

Dr. Roni Kay O'Dell Professor Political Science rodell@setonhill.edu

National Political Science Honor Society

Dr. Roni Kay O'Dell Professor Political Science rodell@setonhill.edu

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services

Keisha C. Jimmerson Dean of Students and Diversity Officer <u>jimmerson@setonhill.edu</u>

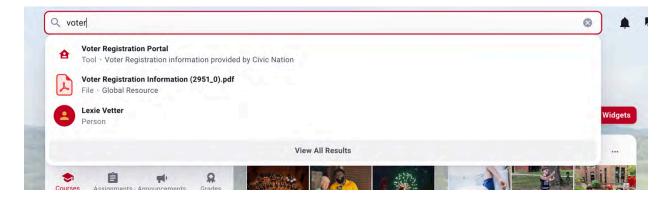
Diversity Statistics

Total SHU Diversity Statistics As of Fall 2022

Deee/Ethnielty	To	otal
Race/Ethnicity	N	X
Am. Indian or AK Native	2	0.1%
Asian	49	2.5%
Black or African American	136	6.9%
Hispanics of any race	79	4.0%
Unknown	60	3.0%
Two or more races	41	2.1%
White	1608	81.4%
Total	1975	100.0%

Base/Ethnisibe	UG			GR	Total		
Race/Ethnicity -	N	X	N	X	N	X	
Am. Indian or AK Native	1	0.1%	1	0.3%	2	0.1%	
Asian	37	2.3%	12	3.3%	49	2.5%	
Black or African American	121	7.5%	15	4.2%	136	6.9%	
Hispanics of any race	65	4.0%	14	3.9%	79	4.0%	
Unknown	48	3.0%	12	3.3%	60	3.0%	
Two or more races	31	1.9%	10	2.8%	41	2.1%	
White	1313	81.3%	295	82.2%	1608	81.4%	
Total	1616	100.0%	359	100.0%	1975	100.0%	

Online Voter Registration Portal Information



UNIV	EI	₹ S I		v		
				•	®	
1000						
GET REGI	STER	ED TO	ov o	TE		
	explaining blocks	one, we will down)	yrin fir yrrin me	nung ar inde	manage parameters	н.
			1	senio		
First Name*		eit Name*				
Storet Address **			Apartment			
() · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
City-	5		ZIP code*			
<u></u>			<u> </u>	_		
Month *	P		Year*			
	•					
Email address*		ell phone numbe	r	1		
				_		
I agree to the <u>Privary P</u>	and Term	a cliseroos "				
accessional test metaaget and i	units from Davis I	Nation via an autor	natic telephone			
yeu may unsubscribe at any tin	ni, Hessagi and	t siata rates may au	only. Company is	net a .		
condition of registering for this mate who	service. Ted ST	OP to out of the	orts, Tard HELP	for		
	_		-			
	Subm	n,				
Convertient of a followy? Visit 3	Nucliary Your Val	in he alchermine yes	e'vişkiliy m	nie.		
Oversias and million	y within would a	will Overseau Volu	Isunsition			
	Industry that avery source and ever regulator to outer and source in ever source process collections and source in ever source process collections to grant Coly" Coly" Coly" Coly" Coly" Coly & Coly & Coly Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly & Coly Coly & Coly & Col	Indiana laderas."	before that every water and water and water and states, we have the the terms of terms to the terms of terms o	biters that every water and every sets motion, we have that every digits regions to are and visce in every electronic, then the rest field data with the rest or grant are and water in every electronic, then the rest field data with the rest or grant are and water in every electronic, the data water in the rest or grant are and water in every electronic, the data water in the rest or grant are and water in every electronic, the data water in the rest or grant are and water in every electronic data water in the rest or grant are and water in every electronic data water First kanne* Crip* Data or grant Crip* Crip* Cri		In the series while a veries while an everies while the series of the

Fall Civic Action Plan Schedule: Year __2023__

https://www.vote.pa.gov/About-Elections/Pages/Upcoming-Elections.aspx

Date	Event	Office	Description
SEP 9	Labor of Love Campuswide event	Service Experience	A campus wide day of service where students have the ability to sign up to various community service events.
IN CONNECTIONS	Voter Registration and Election Participation Survey	Service Experience	A survey sent to all student to see the numbers of how many students are registered to vote and how many students intend to vote.
SEP 19	National Voter Registration Day, Registration Drive	Service Experience	A drive to get students who are not registered to register to vote. Promotion of the Online Voter Registration Portal in collaboration with IT.
OCT 16-19	Voter Registration Drive	Service Experience and MUN	A drive to get students who are not registered to register to vote.
OCT 23	Registration Event Last Day To Register (PA)	Instagram Mission & Identity	Information regarding voter registration deadlines was provided to students.
OCT 31	Mail-in Ballot Request Event Last Day To Submit Mail In Ballot Request (PA)	Instagram Mission & Identity	Information regarding the last day to submit mail in ballots requests was provided to students.
NOV 6	Educate! Your Right to Vote	ODIISS, SGA, & Men's Basketball	The PSAC 's Social Justice Strategic Plan involves getting student athletes to vote. The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services assisted the Men's Basketball team with an educational event related to civic engagement to improve voter participation.
NOV 7	Election Day	Instagram Mission & Identity	The Office of Mission and Identity provided support for students who want to vote, with information such as where they can vote and how to get there.

Purpose: Data

Purpose: According to the United States Census only 68.4 percent of citizens ages 18-24 were registered to vote in the 2020 presidential election. Only 51.4 percent of the total citizen population age 18-24 voted in the 2020 presidential election. Although this is rather high, compared to other age ranges such as 75 and older, which has a registration rate of 77.8 percent and a voter rate of 72.3 percent, the registration rate and voter participation rate of 18–24-year old's is rather low.¹ To focus in more closely on our community, examination of voter registration status in The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is important. According to the Department of State of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there are 8.873,144 total registered voters in the state of Pennsylvania.² With a total population of over 13 million according to the US Census Bureau only roughly 67 percent of Pennsylvanians are registered to vote.³ Taking into account those who are not able to vote, such as citizens currently incarcerated, non-citizens, and those under the age of eighteen years of age, this is quite a sizeable registered population. The age-range least likely to be registered to vote or vote in an election is that of 18-24 years. For this reason, it is important to promote voter participation on college campuses. Registration assistance is not where appropriate civic participation assistance should end however, many universities and colleges across the country have implemented civic action and voter participation plans in order to promote voter participation and improve civic understanding across younger age citizens. Through these plans voter turnout and student registration rates have improved drastically. According to Democracy Counts 2020: Record-Breaking Turnout and Student Resiliency by the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE), the 2020 nation student voting rate was 66% with the registration rate being 83%.⁴ In order to join these other universities and colleges in raising their registration and voter participation rate, Seton Hill University has adopted The Seton Hill University: Civic Action Plan. This plan aims to record the registration and voter participation rate of its students and help tailor events, lectures, and registration drives, as well as election day events, to help increased voter registration and participation rates at Seton Hill University.

Capstone Research: Nicholas K. Seto '24

¹ Bureau, U. S. C. (2022, July 7). *Voting and registration*. Census.gov. Retrieved January 24, 2023, from https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html

²PA Department of State. (2022, November). *Election Directives and Guidance*. Pennsylvania Department of State. Retrieved January 24, 2023, from

https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/Pages/Election-Directive-and-Guidance.aspx

³ U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts: United States. (n.d.). Retrieved January 24, 2023, from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221

⁴ *IDHE Democracy Counts 2020.* Box. (2021). Retrieved January 24, 2023, from https://tufts.app.box.com/v/democracy-counts-2020

Data: Election Survey Questions

This will be provided to all Connection students results can be compared to exit surveys in future Setonian Seminar

- 1. General Information (Optional)
 - a. Gender
 - b. Age
- c. Race
- 2. Background
 - a. How much civic engagement (including service) where you exposed to before attending SHU?
 - o None
 - o Very Little
 - o Some
 - o Very Much
- 3. Voter Participation a. Are you a registered
 - Are you a registered voter?
 - o Yes in PA o Yes outside I
 - Yes outside PA [type where]
 - o No
 - o N/A
 - b. If no, do you plan on registering while attending SHU?
 - o Yes
 - o No
 - o Already registered
 - o N/A
 - Do you plan on voting while attending SHU
 - o Yes o No
 - o No o N/A
- 4. Civic Engagement

c.

a

- Where do you get your news mostly?
 - o TV [type which]
 - o News sites [type which]
 - o Social media [type which]
 - o Newspaper [type which]
 - o Friends
- b. What political issue would you rate as your priority
 - o Climate change
 - o Economics
 - o Defense
 - o Health care
 - o Freedom
 - o Equality
 - o Education
 - o Other [write in]
- c. How knowledgeable on politics and policy do you believe you are on a scale from 1-5? (one being the least knowledgeable)
 i. [-1-2-3-4-5--]
- 5. Service/Volunteerism

b.

c.

- a. How frequent do you volunteer? (not including course requirements)
 - o Daily
 - o Weekly
 - o Monthly
 - o A few times a year
 - o Yearly
 - o Never
 - What is your service priority?
 - o Equitable treatment for the poor
 - o Climate and environmental based service
 - o Human rights-based service
 - o Other [write in]
 - How would you like to serve? (i.e., schools, communities, food banks, etc.)
 - o [Type answer]

randomize order

randomize order

randomize order

Data: Election Survey Results (Raw)

Age	Ethnicity	Gender Identity	How much service/volunteerism were you exposed to before attending Seton Hill?		Are you a Registered Voter?
373	357	207	4	3.116500432	136
^ 18	^ White	^ Man	4	2	^ Yes, in PA
55	32	243	28	160	63
^19	^ Black or African Ame	^ Woman	72	139	^ Yes, in another state
18	10	6	111	101	243
^17	^ Asian or Pac Islander	^ Perfer Not To Say	131	39	^ No
	19	1	108	11	
	^ Multiple Ethnicies	^ Non-Binary			
	21		Above numbers go as following	1	
	^ Hispanic		Average		
	6		Median		
	^ Prefer Not To Say		If equals 1		
	3	27.7.	If equals 2	1.1	
	^ American Indian or Ala	aska Native	If equals 3		
			If equlas 4		
			If equals 5		
					_
	TOTAL ENTRIES	467			

Outliers for (age), 1= 20 1=21 1=Other

220 302			believe yourself to be?	class requirements)
	12	AVERAGE	3.633006499	55
Yes Yes	fes	MEDIAN	3	^ Yearly
52 46	; · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	If equals 1	48	221
Already Registered ^ N	No	If equals 2	155	^ Few Time a Year
5 88		If equals 3	174	93
No ^N	Maybe	If equias 4	58	^ Monthly
		If equals 5	15	16
				^ Weekly
				42
				^ Never
				20
				^ Prefer Not to Say

Data: Election Survey Results (Analyzed)

The data reveals that nearly 84% of students who took part in the survey, which was given out as an assignment in Seton Hill Connections courses, are 18 years old. Just over 12% of the students are 19 years old, with few outliers above this age. This means that 96% of Seton Hill Connections students are voting age. This, however, does not necessarily mean they are able to vote. Students such as international students, although being over the age required to vote, would not be allowed to vote as they do not reach the citizenship requirement. Those surveyed were also a majority white/Caucasian.

Of those surveyed 55% are not registered to vote at all. 31% are registered to vote in Pennsylvania and 14% are registered to vote in another state. According to the data listed above in the purpose section of this plan, which comes from the US Census Bureau, Pennsylvania Department of State, amongst others, the students surveyed are below the average voter registration rate for students in higher education, 82% and of those in the age range of 18-24, 42%. Although these comparisons are not perfect because the surveyed group was mainly 17-19 not 18-24 and the survey does not include questions of citizenship, the value of having a larger survey size is important. According to this data the incoming students are below the national and collegiate average for voter registration.

Volunteer Frequency was polled with 'A Few Times A Year' coming in at nearly 50%. This leaves nearly 24% reporting that they volunteer monthly or weekly which is good, however, nearly 21% reported that they volunteer yearly or never, with 4.5% declining to respond selecting "Prefer Not To Say." To add to this data the average reported exposure to service or volunteerism was four out of five with one being the least exposure.

A very valuable section of the survey asked the voter registration plans of students and knowledge of civic engagement. The average reported exposure to civic engagement was three out of five with one being the least exposure. To add to this students reported an average 3.8 out of five knowledge of politics and policy. Online sources and social media were also reported as a large center for news and knowledge related to politics and policy from the students surveyed. The most concerning self-report from the survey is that 10.6% plan to not register to vote. On the bright side 36.5% reported being already registered to vote and 52.9% reported a plan to register to vote at Seton Hill. This, therefore, presents the fact that nearly 63.5% are not registered to vote and 10.6 do not plan on registering. Hopefully this Civic Action Plan can promote voter registration on campus and bring the percentage of students registered to at or above the collegiate average.

Exit questions may include:

- Did you attend a Seton Hill event relating to voter registration or civic engagement?
- Did Seton Hill events influence your will to register to vote?
- Did you vote in an election whilst attending Seton Hill?
- Did Seton Hill influence your frequency of service/volunteerism?

Seton Hill University: Civic Action Plan

This page is left intentionally blank



"The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill remain actively engaged in the life of this special University. We remain a University where students are well-educated and well-equipped to ask the right questions, to make moral choices and ultimately to do their part to transform the world."

- Mary C. Finger, Ed.D. Seton Hill President

setonhill.edu

Appendix A: *All In* Reviewer Feedback Updates 2024 Amanda DeWitt: Director of Service Experience

<u>Leadership</u>

The positions that will continue the work of voter registration and engagement include:

- The Director of Service Experience
- The Dean of Students and Diversity Officer
- Professor of Political Science
- Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services
- Director of Student Leadership and Involvement

These positions/offices will continue this work no matter who is hired for those roles.

Commitment

As a Catholic Institution, we affirm that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society and that this can only be achieved if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met (<u>USCCB</u>). We invite the campus community to joini n this moral vision for society through the right and responsibility of being a civically engaged citizen through voting.

We will send the following email to the campus community on National Voter Registration Day (Tuesday September 17, 2024):

National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday September 17th!

As a Catholic Institution, we affirm that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society and that this can only be achieved if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met (<u>USCCB</u>).

In this election year, we invite you to join in this moral vision for society through the right and responsibility of being a civically engaged citizen: **REGISTER to VOTE** at the Seton Hill **Voter Registration Portal**

Upcoming Voter Engagement Programs:

- October 14-17: Voter Registration Drive
- October 15: ODIISS- Cultural Exchange Coffee Hour: VOTING
- October 21: Last day to register to VOTE
- November 5: Election Day (carpooling to the polls!)

Learn more about U.S. History of the right and responsibility to vote at the short video <u>HERE</u>.

Attached, find Seton Hill's *National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement* (NSLVE) Report from the last 4 election cycles.

We have had a **voter registration drive** the second week of October in 2022, 2023, and planned for 2024 in partnership with Model UN

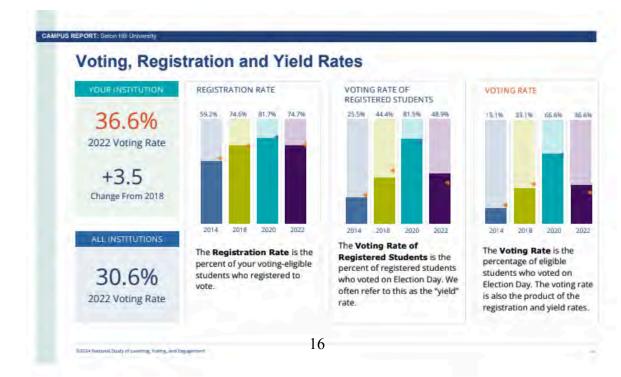
Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services and Seton Hill Men's Basketball held an event on November 6, 2023: **"Educate! Your Right to VOTE"**

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services, Office of Service Experience, and Seton Hill Football held an educational event on our annual MLK Day of Service on February 15, 2024: **"The History of Voting and Martin Luther King Jr."**

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services and Office of Service Experience held an educational event at Seton Hill's inaugural Founder's Day on March 19, 2024: **"Voting with Mission in Mind."**

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and International Student Services is hosting a History of **Voting Coffee Talk** in October 2024.

The Student Athletic Advisory Council is planning to **carpool students to the polls** on election day, November 6, 2024!



Landscape

<u>Goals</u>

- With a recently received two-year grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education ("Service-Learning for Vocational Discernment"), the Director of Service Experience will work with Faculty to integrate civic engagement for calling and the common good into their course curriculum and programs.
- Increase voter engagement campus programming by 50%
- Increase voter registrations by 50%
- Increase voter participation by 50%

Looking Closer							
Voting and Registration Rates							
	2014	2018	2020	2022	2018-20 Chan		This page provides the numbers we used calculate your voting, registration, and
Tatal Student Enrollment	1,921	2,030	2,027	1,959	4	-71	yield rates. The sub-categories under total student enroliment are the adjustments that we
Age under 18/Unknown		3	3				make to account for students who are ineligible to vote due to age or citizenship status. We also
PEDS estimated non-resident allens	51	39		28	+	-11	exclude, when correctly flagged, students who are not pursuing degrees.
Datasource	IPEDS	NSC	IPEDS	NSC		-	When we have removed non-resident aliens
FERPA records blocked	-						(international students), it is based on your institution's enrollment submission to the NSC. Th
Non-Degree Secking Students	38	29	-	-		-	is indicated by NSC for non-resident aliens da source. We use IPEDS-derived estimates of N
Tatal eligible voters	1,825	1,952	2,014	1,931	+	-21	when institutions do not submit non-resident alien status data to NSC, or we cannot verify the accura
Number of students who registered	1,081	1,456	1,647	1,443		-13	of the reported counts. This is indicated by IPI the data source.
Number of students who voted	276	646	1,342	706	+	60	In the following pages with tables, Enrolled
Registration Rate N	59	74	81	74	+	0	represents the eligible voters when we have used NSC as the data source. When we have used IPED
Voting Rate of Registered Students %	25	-44	81	-48	+	4	as the data source, Enrolled includes non-reside aliens who are ineligible to vote, and for whom we
Voting Rate N.	15	33	66	36	+	3	are unable to account due to the lack of data from your institution.

<u>NSLVE</u>

Strategy

Community and Civic Engagement are implicitly woven throughout the newly revised Liberal Arts Curriculum at Seton Hill:

First Year Seminar Learning Objective:

• Demonstrate knowledge of our **Mission** and Identity as a liberal arts institution rooted in **<u>catholic social teaching</u>**.

• Participate in programs and activities that promote and **enhance personal responsibility** and successful adjustment to university life.

Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice Requirement of the Liberal Arts Curriculum Learning Objective:

- Analyze the perspectives of others—especially those perspectives that are different from their own—in an effort to **foster authentic, mutually respectful dialogue** on important human questions **related to freedom and oppression**.
- Describe disparities among human beings that are rooted in historic and ongoing inequality.
- Reflect on strategies for relating to other human beings in ways that ease suffering, inequity, and alienation while promoting the common good.

U.S. Cultures Requirement of the Liberal Arts Curriculum Learning Objective:

- Explain the impact and importance of diverse perspectives when critically assessing a particular issue or event in the United States experience.
- Analyze the roles of race, class, ethnicity, gender, and religion in current and past U.S. cultures.
- Collaborate in and reflect on a project related to **past or present struggles for freedom and equality.**

Global Cultures Requirement of the Liberal Arts Curriculum Learning Objective:

- Assess cultural, political, economic, or physical geographies in one or more regions of the world.
- Identify and **critique inequities**, **injustices**, **sustainability**, **and privilege** to safeguard dignity of life and advance human well-being.

Faith, Religion, and Society Requirement of the Liberal Arts Curriculum Learning Objective:

- Articulate a framework of justice that structures and illuminates human flourishing
- Utilize the principles of Catholic social teaching and other religious and philosophic traditions to **examine contemporary social issues.**

Senior Seminar Requirement of the Liberal Arts Curriculum Learning Objective:

• In collaboration with the Office of Service Experience, implement a social justice project that is based in sustainable partnerships with local and/or global organizations and informed by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Reporting

The above Civic Action Plan was an Honors Capstone Project by graduating Senior, Nicholas Seto. Nick intentionally designed it with Seton Hill's Catholic Mission in mind and designed it to be modified and adjusted after he graduated. Nick gave the Director of Service experience the ownership of the document and it has been uploaded into a Shared Google Drive for other departments and offices to access. Nick presented his Civic Engagement Plan to his peers and faculty/staff at the Honors Capstone Symposium in December 2023.

As a part of his capstone, he created a survey for the First Year Seminar course to gauge civic engagement. This survey will continued to be used in FYS and we will be able to collect and utilize that data for years to come.

In the email that we will send out to the campus community, we will include Seton Hill's NSLVE report so that all campus community members have access.

Evaluation

We collect data through First Year Seminar and through our participation in the All In Civic Nation institution-specific voter registration portal.

The Director of Service Experience, with the help of our Director of Assessment & Institutional Research, will analyze and report the data.