



Voter Engagement, Education and Mobilization

2020 – 2021 Campus Plan



OVERVIEW

Our College

Sinclair College is located in west central Ohio. Our mission is *we help individuals turn dreams into achievable goals through accessible, high quality, affordable learning opportunities.*¹ With 30,000+ students enrolled across five campus locations within the region and online, Sinclair graduates nearly 5,000 students who make significant contributions to the area workforce and economy.²

The Importance of Designation on Our Campus

The Voter Friendly Campus designation signifies our commitment to civic engagement and democracy education on our campus. The plan that we develop and implement each year creates new opportunities for programming, relationships, and connections that strengthen this commitment and increases awareness, action, and access for students to make contributions within our community. This has begun to create momentum in changing the culture to embrace civic engagement as the norm as we engage more students. Additionally, the Voter Friendly Campus designation helps us document co-curricular learning while assessing student development in our general education outcomes. Particularly for the cultural diversity and global citizenship outcome: *Global Citizenship refers to the ability to live, work, and thrive in an interdependent and culturally diverse world, through awareness and civic engagement while protecting and respecting the rights of self and others.*³

Our 2020-2021 Goals

- 1** Increase the number of students who are registered to vote and vote.
- 2** Connect students to resources that help them make informed decisions not only for the upcoming election, but also, for current issues and causes so they feel comfortable sharing their voice.
- 3** Gain momentum in shifting the culture where students are actively engaged citizens upon graduation.

CAMPUS COALITION

Leadership

Student and Community Engagement provides leadership for the Voter Friendly Campus designation on campus. *As the hub of student engagement and to intentionally provide services and resources that support learning focused on developing relationships, connecting to the community and fostering a desire for life-long learning⁴*, Student and Community Engagement is organized to provide co-curricular learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom.

Standing Committee

Team members from the following departments serve as standing committee members:

- Student and Community Engagement – 3 staff members (one also serves as an adjunct faculty)
- Physical Activities Center – 1 staff member
- Student representatives (2 – 3 students) from various campus departments provide leadership from the student perspective and serve as influencers on campus.

Ad Hoc Members and Partners

Various community organizations and other academic departments serve as ad hoc members and partners to increase visibility, as well as provide education and instruction. These members include:

- Deans from all Sinclair’s academic divisions: Science, Mathematics, and Engineering; Liberal Arts, Communication, and Social Sciences; Business and Public Services; and, Health Sciences
- Sinclair Diversity office
- Sinclair Athletics (student athletes and coaches)

-
- Sinclair Student Senate (student senators, student officers, and advisor)
 - Montgomery County, Ohio Board of Elections
 - Presidents Club of Dayton <http://www.presidentsclubdayton.org>
 - League of Women Voters <https://my.lwv.org/ohio>

Description of Your Work

Voter Registration

Given the current situation with the pandemic, information on how to register to vote remotely will be shared via various social media platforms.

Voter Education

Voter education will be provided in a variety of formats including on the web, online, and social media.

- Websites:
 - <https://www.sinclair.edu/about/consumer-info/vote/>
 - <https://www.sinclair.edu/student-life/sce/civic-engagement/>
- Online: Email reminders and announcements via the online portal about how to register, information on polling locations, and voting day information.
- Social Media: Coverage and promotion of events, as well as reminders to register and vote.

Additionally, the Campus Coalition will host programming to deliver voter education. Here is a preview of the types of programs scheduled for the 2020 fall term:

-
- Civic Engagement Discussion: Part of the Welcome Week festivities at the beginning of the fall term, the event brings together campus and community partners to showcase what it means to be a civically engaged citizen, as well as provides an introduction into democracy education.
 - Constitution Day and Week: Celebrates the adoption and ratification of the U.S. Constitution by providing awareness about the U.S. Constitution, as well as democracy education.

Lastly, the League of Women Voters (LoWV) voting guides will be available to the Sinclair community. These guides provide students with non-partisan ballot information for voters to make informed decisions.

Voter Turnout

For the Dayton Campus, as the Montgomery County, Ohio Board of Elections is located across the street from campus, several early voting rallies will be hosted for students to walk as a group and cast their votes. The dates of these will be determined in consultation with the Board of Elections. Additionally, early and remote voting information will be published on the website and on all campus locations for students to vote early in other counties and during non-rally times. Furthermore, the college's data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement report will be utilized to contextualize messaging and connect voter education to majors that have had low voter turnout in previous years.

Students as Voter Advocates

Many of the programs offered are facilitated by Sinclair Student Athletes, Student Ambassadors, and Sinclair Student Senate who volunteer to assist with the various events. Through this student leadership, the student voice is celebrated and provides the platform for students to advocate for other students. We have seen that this model increases engagement on campus and has a positive impact on desired outcomes.



Timeline

AUGUST 2020

- Welcome/Welcome Back Students to school
- Provide Introduction to Democracy Education and Civic Engagement
- Register Students to Vote

SEPTEMBER 2020

- Register Students to Vote
- Celebrate Patriot Day, National Voter Registration Day, and Constitution Week
- Provide Democracy Education at Various Campus Life Programs

OCTOBER 2020

- Celebrate Make a Difference Day (community involvement)
- Distribute Voter Guides on Campus
- Host a Sinclair Talks about the Importance of Democracy
- Host Information Tables to Answer Questions about the Upcoming Election

NOVEMBER 2020

- Provide Information on Polling Locations
- Encourage Students to Vote
- Celebrate the Vote!

SPRING 2021

- Continue to Offer Democracy Education and Civic Engagement Opportunities (e.g. Service Learning)

SUMMER 2021

- Assess Programming and Draft 2020-2021 Report
- From Report, Draft the 2021-2022 Plan

Footnotes:

¹ Sinclair College. (2018). *Mission*. Retrieved from www.sinclair.edu/mission

² Sinclair College. (2018). *About Sinclair*. Retrieved from www.sinclair.edu/about

³ Sinclair College. (2018). *About Sinclair*. Retrieved from www.sinclair.edu/about

⁴ Sinclair College. (2018). General education outcomes & assessment: cultural diversity and global citizenship. Retrieved from <https://www.sinclair.edu/about/offices/provost/assessment-of-student-learning/general-education-outcomes-assessment/>

Contact Us

Sinclair Community College

444 West Third Street

Dayton, Ohio 45402

www.sinclair.edu

Campus Voter Engagement Project Leaders

Matt Massie, Ph.D.

Manager for Student and Community Engagement

(937) 512-2922

matt.massie@sinclair.edu

AJ Owen, M.Ed.

Student Affairs Specialist

(937) 512-3055

andrew.owen@sinclair.edu