
Solano Community College Civic Engagement Plan

2024-2025

ABOUT SOLANO COLLEGE

Solano College (SCC) is part of California's public community college system with a main campus in Fairfield, California. The College's service area encompasses the communities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville, Vallejo, Winters, and Travis Air Force Base. Many graduates of the area's fifteen public high schools and three private schools take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by Solano Community College. This institution serves approximately 9,500 students, and it provides 120 degrees & 15 certificates. Solano College was previously registered as an official polling place, and it is our goal to reinstate SCC as a polling place for the 2025-2028 terms.

MISSION STATEMENT: Solano Community College's mission is to educate a culturally and academically diverse student population from our local communities and beyond. We are committed to helping our students achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals.

VISION: Solano Community College students will be empowered to make decisions that support the growth and vitality of a democratic society. Our faculty and staff will actively work to support civic engagement through curriculum and community events. We will work to uplift the voices of underrepresented constituents and engage students in productive dialogue to incite meaningful change in our community.

CORE VALUES:

- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Demonstrate accountability for student civic empowerment and overall progress toward social and professional goals
- **EQUITY:** Plan inclusive events that support existing constituent groups who advocate for underrepresented student demographics on campus
- **LONGEVITY:** Implement initiatives that will support a sustained increase in voter participation among Solano residents
- **EXCELLENCE:** Maintaining a quality of work ethic and integrity
- **COMMUNITY:** Creating brave spaces for civil and civic discourse that aligns with the college's commitment to equity and inclusion. Spaces for connections that facilitate dialogue between students and local organizations through opportunities for future civic leaders.

Executive Summary

Solano Community College's Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan was developed through collaboration between faculty and students. Student ambassador and ASSC Legislative Advocate, AJ Matthews, wrote the draft with guidance from the Interim Director of Student Development and Engagement, Denise Martinez. The Associated Students of Solano College (ASSC), Academic Senate, and the Falcon Taskforce provided critical feedback which advanced the plan. The purpose of this CVEAP is to provide a reliable strategy for dispersing civic educational material in a way that is accessible, safe, and engaging.

We will enact this CVEAP on the Fairfield Campus where our student population is most concentrated. With student engagement data, we will update our strategy and extend support to the Vacaville and Vallejo campuses. We will achieve our goals of voter empowerment through our partnership with the League of Women Voters through the framework of Civic Holidays.

Our college is granting Student Equity funds as well as ASSC funds for civic engagement programming. Over the next two years, we will seek more local and statewide partnerships such as Students Learn Students Vote and Ask Every Student, Pizza to the Polls to offer more opportunities for students to become civically engaged.

BACKGROUND

This Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan is the first to be drafted and implemented at the college. Since COVID, student participation has seen a significant decline. This plan is the foundational document outlining our strategy to boost student participation focused on civic awareness. The school has several established, productive programs such as Rising Scholars, PUENTE, the Accessibility Services Center, and EOPS that reach several students and connect them to tools for success. These groups work to unify students and encourage positive mental and professional development. The Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan (CVEAP) will utilize these established programs to help contribute to a cohesive community where all students feel accepted and empowered.

Collaboration

Falcon Task Force

The Falcon Taskforce will be a team of professors, program coordinators, and club advisors. We will meet once a month to adjust our event strategies and optimize students' civic engagement. During the months leading up to the election, we will advance our strategy for voter registration, promoting community volunteer work, and planning events. When there is no active election, the workgroup continues curating programming centered around civic

education to continue advocating for voter empowerment. The Falcon Taskforce will also facilitate civic activities on the Vacaville and Vallejo campuses.

We will be collaborating with these on-campus groups:

- Accessibility Services Center
- Asian American, Native American & Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANAHP), Student Achievement Program
- Academic Senate
- African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND)
- Academic Success and Tutoring Center (ASTC)
- CalWORKs
- Undocumented Resource Center
- Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)
- Math, Engineering, Science and Achievement (MESA)
- Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (PTK)
- PUENTE
- Reproductive Health Club
- Students Overcoming Adversity and Recidivism (SOAR)
- Veterans Resource Center
- Curriculum Committee
- Minority Coalition

Strategy

Community outreach: Solano College has partnered with the Solano League of Women Voters chapter. We have hosted collaborative events with the League and encouraged students to join. This partnership will lead to more voluntary community service and student engagement.

Inter-Campus Collaboration: We are working to bridge the divide between our sister campuses by sending ASSC representatives to Vacaville and Vallejo for Open House events. We will offer student government positions, voter registration materials, ballot guides, and information about upcoming events. We will work to utilize these spaces so that the information and opportunities are equally offered to all Solano Community College students.

Publicity: Lana Tayag, ASSC Public Relations Officer, and Christina Lee, the Solano Community College Director of Marketing and Communications, have created brochures, monitor slides, social media posts, and posters to spread awareness about the 2024 election and civic engagement events. We are initiating contact with Greg Poff who directs the Journalism students working in the broadcast room on campus. We plan on filming a civic education PSA for a local channel advertising our event and advocating for youth action. We are also working to support the school paper which has recently been revived.

Leadership

The Student Development Office, Associated Students of Solano College, and Academic Senate communicate regularly through the Falcon Taskforce to discuss civic engagement programming and adjust strategies to maximize student retention.

- Denise Martinez, Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator & Falcon Taskforce Chair
- Jedidiah Goliat, ASTC tutor & ASSC President
- Alex Vidal-Baquero, ASTC desk operator & ASSC Vice President
- AJ Matthews, Student Ambassador, ASSC Legislative Advocate, & Falcon Taskforce member
- Lorelai Collins, Library Student Worker & ASSC Treasurer
- Sriya Srinivasan, ASSC Student Trustee & Reproductive Health Club President
- Angelika Gallego Ducalan, ASSC Associate Secretary
- Lana Tayag, ASTC tutor & ASSC Public Relations Officer

- Winnie Mae Dayrit, Library Student Worker & ASSC Diversity Affairs Senator
- Jennifer Petsko, ASSC Applied Tech and Business Senator & Computer Science Club President
- Abril Tellez-Tamayo, ASSC Liberal Arts Senator
- Josiah Tolbert, ASSC Math and Science Senator
- Rachel Purdie, History Professor, Academic Senate Vice President, & Falcon Taskforce member
- Maria Isip-Bautista, Social Justice Professor, Academic Senate, AANAHPi Coordinator, & Falcon Taskforce member
- Joshua Scott, English Professor, Academic Senate President, Falcon Taskforce member
- Amanda Morrison, Ethnic Studies Professor, & Falcon Taskforce Member
- Lauren Taylor-Hill, Anthropology Professor, Academic Senate, & Falcon Taskforce Member
- Isabel Anderson, Journalism Professor, & Falcon Taskforce Member
- Kristieen Rodriguez, Counseling Professor, Academic Senate, & Falcon Taskforce Member
- Heather Watson-Perez, English Professor, & Falcon Taskforce Member
- LaNae Jaimez, Psychology Professor, Academic Senate, & Falcon Taskforce Member
- Erwyn Ramirez-Perez, PUENTE secretary, Falcon Taskforce member
- Ryan Curcuro, student & Falcon Taskforce member

S.M.A.R.T. Goals

GOAL	SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ATTAINABLE	RELEVANT	TIME
Student voter registration	We want to register ≥ 100 students to vote.	We will use NSLVE data to monitor how many students enrolled at SCC have registered to vote.	We will achieve our goal through hosting inclusive events and consistently advertising these events as well as the election.	We want to develop educated, civically engaged students to support the growth of Solano County and the United States.	We will begin planning June 2024 and complete our plan in May 2025

<p>Register Solano College main Fairfield campus and centers located in Vacaville and Vallejo as official voting centers.</p>	<p>We will communicate with the Secretary of State, Solano College admin, and city officials to begin the process of registering the college as a voting center.</p>	<p>We will begin communications with Solano’s administrative leaders during the 2024 Fall semester. We will also meet with city officials during this time. We will contact the Secretary of State in Spring 2025 once we have received approval from the city.</p>	<p>The process for becoming a certified vote center is described in great detail online. In addition to online research, we will reach out to more experienced Solano employees to investigate the reasons why Solano College is no longer a voting center and how this was accomplished in the past.</p>	<p>With Solano College campus being reinstated as a voting center, there will be less obstacles between students and casting a ballot on election day.</p>	<p>This goal is intended to be completed before the 2025 Senate and House elections (state and federal) as well as the governors election.</p>
<p>Foster a connection between Solano College and other colleges Region 2 community colleges</p>	<p>We will generate innovative ideas for how students can begin to initiate change through political advocacy and policy.</p>	<p>We will begin communicating with region 2 schools in August 2024 and begin collaborating in Fall 2024 and continue until the end of the term.</p>	<p>Through SSCCC, Solano has initiated communication with surrounding schools. We can expand these connections using social media and events as attractive forces.</p>	<p>Partnership with Region 2 colleges increases our ability to advocate for the community. Collaboration demonstrates positive civic values such as cooperation, compassion, and strategy.</p>	<p>August 2024 – May 2025</p>
<p>Connect students to off campus resources that will continue to enrich their quality of life after they have left SCC</p>	<p>Create a civic education/empowerment workgroup to unify our effort to create an informed, empowered student base.</p>	<p>We will create open, stable partnerships with community groups. This will allow us to invite them to college events where they can spread information about beneficial resources and programs as well as</p>	<p>Solano College will strengthen existing partnerships and find opportunities to create new ones. We will demonstrate how the school’s location and resources make it a valuable</p>	<p>Community partnerships demonstrate what civic engagement looks like, and they provide students with the opportunity to make connections</p>	<p>We will begin communicating with community groups August 2024 and continue hosting events with the same partners until May 2025 (arbitrary date – collaboration should be an</p>

		recruit students for volunteer opportunities.	partner for these organizations.	that will benefit their future endeavors.	ongoing process with an indefinite end).
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Goals

1. Student Registration

a. We have partnered with Civic Holidays and the League of Women Voters to host civic engagement programming on the Fairfield campus. These events have been effective and attracted students to educational material. We will continue our scheduled programming into the Spring 2025 semester

2. Reinstate Solano Community College Fairfield Campus as a registered ballot drop-off location

a. Previously, there have been communication issues between the college administration and the Solano County Registrar of Voters. We have sent a proposal to Vice President of Student Services, Lisa Neely, to advocate for the school to accommodate those who would use this location for voting.

b. Once we meet the CROV guidelines, we can become a drop-off location for future elections

c. We hope to gain student participation as volunteer poll workers so they can experience the civic process firsthand. Becoming a ballot drop-off location would increase accessibility and convenience for students.

3. Integrate Civic Learning into Curriculum

- a. We hope that collaboration with the Academic Senate and Curriculum Committee will lead to a changed English curriculum that teaches students how to analyze media and identify propaganda.