



2020-2021 Civic Engagement Action Plan

Executive Summary

St. Clair County Community College's mission is to maximize student success. We strive to create an academic and cultural environment that empowers students to succeed. In 2017-2018 SC4, through the work of the Academic Review Committee, changed its General Education Competencies in order to better identify the characteristics any student graduating from SC4 should possess. The new competencies and their outcomes are:

Quantitative Reasoning: Quantitative Reasoning is the ability to understand and manipulate numerical representations of data.

Outcomes:

1. Interpret quantitative information such as using graphs.
2. Perform basic calculations in the context of the subject matter.
3. Apply number sense to evaluate conclusions.

Communication: Communication is the ability to exchange information and ideas using various methods of delivery, such as writing and speaking.

Outcomes:

1. Select, develop, arrange, revise, and present ideas effectively.
2. Employ and document credible sources of information.
3. Use diction, grammar, and sentence structure appropriate to audience and occasion.

Civic Responsibility: Civic Responsibility is the ability to understand political processes, economic and social issues, and the responsibilities of educated citizens.

Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate civic knowledge at the local, national, and global scale.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of personal responsibility in one's civic life.

Information Literacy: Information literacy is the ability to find and use information and evaluate its reliability.

Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate technological competence to obtain information from data.
2. Demonstrate how and where to search for reliable information.
3. Demonstrate how to form conclusions based on reliable information.

The changes encapsulated the idea that the broad learning competencies are included in every course to some degree, preparing our students to be good citizens, employees, and lifelong learners.

As the result of the new competencies, specifically the Civic Responsibility competency, a subcommittee (The Civic & Democratic Learning Committee) formed in the Spring of 2019 to address, among other things, how to engage our students more fully in the democratic process. The Civic & Democratic Learning Committee was tasked with managing the college's Constitution Day efforts and with looking into more ways to enhance the student's, staff's, faculty's and community's civic engagement at individual, institutional, and community levels.

The Civic & Democratic Learning Committee met for the first time in fall 2019 and began planning events for Constitution Day. A voter registration drive, September 16-19, resulted in 101 students registering to vote. Students participated in a Constitution Trivia Game throughout the week. The Committee helped facilitate other events including workshops and speakers on sexual assault, human trafficking, and opioid abuse. However, due to the campus closing as a result of the Covid-19 virus, no further work took place. The Civic & Democratic Learning Committee is now ready to re-engage in its efforts to promote civic engagement among our students and our community in the coming school year. In addition to the actions listed below, the Civic & Democratic Learning Committee is also planning on expanding its membership to representatives of student groups on campus.

Landscape

SC4 is located on a busy international border in Port Huron, with a 29-acre campus in the heart of the city's downtown neighborhood just steps away from the St. Clair River and beautiful shores of Lake Huron. Classes at SC4 are taught by experienced professors and instructors who care about their students' success now and in the future. And with a 19 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio, students work directly with instructors to receive a more personalized education when compared a four-year institution.

SC4 recently added student housing options. SC4's student residence hall is just steps away from classes and campus life in downtown Port Huron. Referred to as The Dock, housing units are fully-furnished and provide up to 80 students with easy access to the

campus, dining and entertainment options, recreation and outdoor activities, and potential employment opportunities with local businesses.

Our students:

- Enrollment: 3,457 (Winter 2019)
- Average student age: 23
- Student age range: 14 to 81 years old
- Average class size: 19 students
- Male-female ratio: 61% female, 39% male
- 1,093 dual enrolled students in 19/FA.
- Percentage of student who were awarded any type of financial aid = 45% (Fall 2018 students)
- Percentage of student who were awarded Pell = 31% (Fall 2018 students)

Leadership

Sherry Artman, Coordinator of Student Activities and Services

Hayley Bommarito, Interim Director of Library Services

Miles Boucher, Adjunct Instructor of Theatre

Bonnie DiNardo, Director of Community and Alumni Relations

Scott Fernandez, Professor of Education and History

Ethan Flick, Co-Chief Academic Officer – Arts and Sciences

Brent Forsgren, Professor of Political Science

Paul Golian, Adjunct Instructor of Business Information Technology

Bob Hunckler, Professor of Geography

Jim Jones, Professor of Criminal Justice

Cori Krohn, Campus Patrol & Training Manager

Jane Lewandoski, Information & Education Services Librarian

Rebecca Lubbers, Chair of CDLC, Professor of Political Science

Stewart Reed, Vice Chair of CDLC, Adjunct Instructor of Speech

Goals and Strategy

Moving forward, SC4 is exploring and planning the following:

1. Classroom announcement about the availability of a new online voter registration opportunity available in Michigan with a direct QR code link.

2. Hold a Voter Education and Registration Event in the Fall of 2020.
3. Hold a “What’s On the Ballot” talk in the fall 2020 semester in which political science faculty present on one race or initiative students will be asked to vote on in the 2020 election.
4. Beginning planning for a deliberative dialogue event in the winter 2021 semester in which students will be invited to engage in an issue of concern. We are planning on working on the National Issues Forums model of deliberative dialogues.
5. Create an “Election Central” station at which students can access voting guides, sample ballots, website resources, etc. This event will be held the week before the November 2020 election.
6. Create an Absentee Ballot Voting Station on Oct. 12, 13, 21, and 22.
7. Create a library display featuring information about the election as well as resources to get more informed such as the following library research guide <https://eresearch.sc4.edu/voting>.
8. Put yard signs at every main campus entrance reminding students of voter registration drives and deadlines, as well as upcoming the date for the upcoming election. The signs will include websites students can access for more information. They will be up during the fall 2020 voter registration drive, as well as two weeks in advance of the election.
9. Promote a “SC4 Votes!” message through a marketing campaign that emphasizes voting as a mark of a SC4 student. These messages will underscore the power students are giving up with they do not participate and the power they have to shape their shared future if they do.
10. Create a “I Vote Because...” display featuring the voices of SC4 students and why they participate in elections. These cards will be exhibited in a prominent window in an effort to gives students the opportunity to consider that others their age recognize the importance of participating and maybe they should, too.
11. Hold a “Meet the Candidates” event in the fall 2020 semester in advance of the election. During this event, candidates for local and state races will be invited to campus to talk with students in the College Center. The goal of this event is for students to feel personally invited to participate in the November election, creating a sense of belonging and shared voice in shaping the community.

12. Hold a Get-Out-The-Vote party the day before and day of the November General Election to invite students to participate and cultivate their identity as voters.
13. Invite speakers to campus to talk on civic issues of concern to the students and the community.
14. Join the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) in order to help us assess our efforts

Collaboration

This iteration of Civic Engagement by SC4 is still in its infancy. We hope to be able to join the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) in order to help us evaluate our progress. Additionally, we are planning to contact groups such as the League of Women Voters, National Voter Registration Day and other nonpartisan activist groups in our area and nationally to join us in our efforts.

Evaluation

The Assessment portion of our efforts is still a work in progress. We hope to get data from NSLVE in order to assist us in our efforts. Participation in events, attendance for guest speakers and student assessments are all being considered for the purposes of evaluating our drive to increase student civic engagement.