

OUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY

2018 EDITION



**Stony Brook
University**

Center for Civic Justice

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) from the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University:

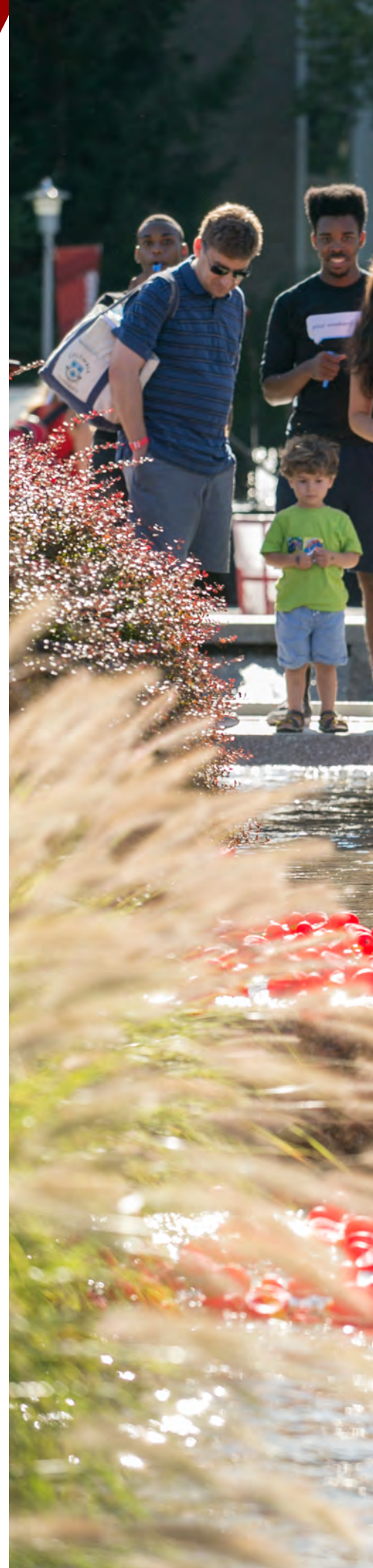
- Our students voted in the November 2012 Presidential Election at a rate of 43.2 percent, which was 3.7 points lower than all colleges and universities nationwide.
- Our students voted in the November 2014 Midterm Election at a rate of 12.7 percent, which was 6.1 points lower than all colleges and universities nationwide.

Since then, Stony Brook University has transformed its commitment to democratic engagement for all students. In 2015, we established our partnership with The Andrew Goodman Foundation and its Vote Everywhere program. This partnership has been nationally recognized for its impact on student democratic engagement. Highlights include:

- Registered over 15,000 students to vote since June 2015
- Increased student voter turnout by 23% from 2012 to 2016
- Achieved a voter turnout rate of 86% at our on-campus polling site in 2016, which was the highest of any polling site nationwide
- Institutionalized voter registration to ensure that all students can register to vote before their first day of classes
- Introduced over \$10,000 in scholarships for students committed to advancing student civic and democratic engagement work

Our Commitment to Democracy is an action plan developed by the Center for Civic Justice to outline the University's short and long term commitment to student democratic engagement. Our commitment is collaborative, and it will require support from the entire community as we move forward, together.

We look forward to working with students, faculty and staff members, administrators, and other community members to establish Stony Brook University as a leader of democratic engagement on Long Island, and a national leader in higher education.





BY THE NUMBERS

2012

43.2

percent of our students voted in the 2012 Presidential Election.

46.9

percent of students, on average, voted at all colleges and universities. Our student voter turnout vote was 3.7 points lower than the national average.

2,109

of our students voted at our on-campus polling site.

17,944

of our students were eligible to vote in the election.

7,758

of our students voted in total.





2016

53.2

percent of our students voted in the 2016 Presidential Election. Our student voter turnout rate increased by 10 points from 2012, which is an increase of 23 percent.

50.4

percent of students, on average, voted at all colleges and universities. Our student voter turnout rate was 2.8 points higher than the national average.

3,002

of our students voted at our on-campus polling site. The number of students who voted at our on-campus polling site increased by 893 from 2012, which is an increase of 42 percent.

20,859

of our students were eligible to vote in the election, which is an increase of 16.2 percent from 2012.

11,099

of our students voted in total, which is an increase of 43.1 percent from 2012. In addition, this increase is 2.66 times greater than the increase to eligible student voters, which is statistically significant.

86

percent of our students who were registered to vote at our on-campus polling site, actually voted! This was the highest voter turnout rate at any polling site in the nation for the 2016 Presidential Election, and it is indicative of the impact that accessible voting can have on student voter turnout rates.

2017 IN REVIEW



2008 NEW STUDENTS REGISTER TO VOTE IN JUST SIX WEEKS

From early July through mid August 2017, our Vote Everywhere team was hard at work to ensure that all new first-year students at Stony Brook University had an opportunity to register to vote before their first day of classes. In just 13 days over the course of six weeks, 2008 new first-year students were successfully registered to vote.

Why does this matter?

As a result of our team's previous work, the number of first-year students who voted increased by 6.4 points from 2012 to 2016, which is an increase of nearly 23 percent. For reference, 874 first-year students voted in 2016, compared to 577 in 2012.

VOTE EVERYWHERE TEAM PRESENTS AT CONFERENCES NATIONWIDE

Our three Vote Everywhere Ambassadors (Yark Beyan, Anthony Raymond, and Elif Onay) presented at the Long Island Council of Student Personnel Administrators (LICSPA) Annual Conference in November 2017.

Titled "Democratic engagement on college campuses: Time to raise the bar", they shared about Stony Brook University's transformed commitment to democratic engagement and how other campuses across Long Island can seek to do so as well.

Since then, our team has been invited to present at several national conferences, including the 100th NASPA Annual Conference in Philadelphia and the 2018 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting in Anaheim.

500 STUDENTS ATTEND FIRST TWO COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

To increase student awareness of issues affecting their community, we started our Community Dialogue series. A Community Dialogue provides an opportunity to discuss the different ways in which these issues can be addressed, and to prioritize the needs of our community as it relates to these issues.

In September 2017, with support from faculty and staff members as facilitators, over 150 students participated in our first Community Dialogue on Immigration in America. Students considered three different ways in which to address issues related to Immigration in America: 1) welcome new arrivals, 2) protect our borders, and 3) promote economic prosperity.

In November 2017, over 300 students participated in our second Community Dialogue on Safety and Justice. Students considered three different ways in which to address issues related to Safety and Justice: 1) enforce the law together, 2) apply the law fairly, and 3) de-escalate and prevent violence. Since then, we have hosted two additional Community Dialogues: How to Fix a Political System in February 2018 and Missing Shootings & Gun Violence in April 2018.



A photograph of three students sitting at a table in a classroom or meeting room. The student on the left is partially visible, wearing a grey t-shirt with a cartoon graphic. The student in the middle is a young man with glasses and a blue t-shirt, resting his chin on his hand. The student on the right is a young man with short dark hair, wearing a dark jacket over a white hoodie, looking towards the left. The background shows other students and a room with large windows and lights.

GOALS FOR 2018

INCREASE STUDENT VOTER TURNOUT RATE IN 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION

In the November 2014 Midterm Election, our students voted at a rate of 12.7 percent, which was 6.1 points lower than all colleges and universities nationwide. For the November 2018 Midterm Election, our goal is to increase our student voter turnout rate to 25 percent, which is nearly double the rate from four years ago.

We will succeed in this goal through increasing voter registration efforts, providing comprehensive voter education opportunities, and relieving barrier to the right to vote on Election Day for all students.

PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO VOTER EDUCATION

In addition to current offerings, we will provide increased and enhanced access to vote education opportunities so that our students can become well-informed voters in advance of this year's Primary and Midterm Election. To do so, we will:

- Expand our Community Dialogue series about issues affecting the community
- Enhance our student-led Knowledge Communities that will foster new and ongoing dialogue, as well as opportunities for action development
- Provide weekly on-campus and virtual experiences to educate students about the importance of their right to vote and to use it as their voice
- Host town-style forums for local, state, and federal candidates to have an open dialogue about issues affecting the community and how they will seek to address these issues if elected to public office

PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR OUR STUDENTS

We are proud to have one of the most globally diverse student populations in the nation, and with representation from 49 different states, several U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. Therefore, we must increase the accessibility of the right to vote for our students who want to have their voices heard no matter where they are from.

We will succeed in this goal through providing access to absentee ballots in all states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, informing students about upcoming deadlines and elections nationwide, and educating students about ballot measures that are being voted on nationwide.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY NATIONWIDE

Stony Brook University has been nationally recognized for its commitment to democracy. We want to share our story with other colleges and universities nationwide and work with them to transform their commitment as well. From conference presentations to luncheons at the University, we look forward to expanding our network.



LOOKING BEYOND

2019 & 2020

INCREASE STUDENT VOTER TURNOUT RATE IN 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In the November 2016 Presidential Election, our students voted at a rate of 53.2 percent, which was 2.8 points higher than all colleges and universities nationwide.

For the November 2012 Presidential Election, our goal is to increase our student voter turnout rate to 75 percent.

ESTABLISH LONG ISLAND AS A NATIONAL MODEL FOR HIGHER ED.

With gratitude to The Andrew Goodman Foundation and the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition for additional funding opportunities, we will work with colleges and universities across Long Island to establish an unprecedented regional democratic engagement network.

The Long Island regional democratic engagement network will seek to register over 100,000 students in the next two years, and increase overall student voter turnout. Based on a successful pilot, our goal is to work nationally to build regional democratic engagement networks that are able to maximize student voter participation.

RESEARCH STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN 2019 PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS

It is widely understood that voter turnout in non-Presidential and Midterm Elections is significantly lower than their counterparts, and student voter turnout is no different. Our goal is to better understand student motivations to vote in Presidential and Midterm Elections, and not in other elections, which arguably are of equal or more importance.

In doing so, we will seek to increase student voter turnout in 2019 local primaries and elections, and collect comprehensive student turnout data for subsequent analysis.



ASK US ABOUT
INTERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
for the Center for Civic Justice
@CIVICJUSTICESBU



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

JUNE

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

12	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
14	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
15	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
19	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
21	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
22	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
26	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
26	Federal Primary
TBD	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new student-athletes Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new EOP-AIM students

Events and dates are tentative, subject to change, and pending confirmation from partners
Additional events and dates will be provided once available

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

5	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
10	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
12	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
13	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
17	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
19	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
20	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
24	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
26	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
27	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
31	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

AUGUST

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
3	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
7	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new transfer students
14	Voter registration at New Student Orientation for new first-year students
19	Last day to register to vote for the State and Local Primary
27-30	Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
29	Fall 2018 Campus Job and Internship Fair

Events and dates are tentative, subject to change, and pending confirmation from partners
Additional events and dates will be provided once available

SEPTEMBER

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

4-6	Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
10-13	State and Local Primary engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
10	Knowledge Community on Immigration in America
11	Knowledge Community on Safety and Justice
13	State and Local Primary
17-20	Constitution Week with engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
17	Community Dialogue (issue TBD)
24-27	Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
25	National Voter Registration Day
26	Knowledge Community on How to Fix a Political System
27	Knowledge Community on Mass Shootings and Gun Violence

Events and dates are tentative, subject to change, and pending confirmation from partners
Additional events and dates will be provided once available

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

OCTOBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1-4	Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
10-11	'Last chance to register to vote' engagement initiatives for the General Election
12	Last day to register to vote for the General Election
15-18	General Election engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
15	Knowledge Community on Immigration in America
16	Knowledge Community on Safety and Justice
22-25	Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
24	Community Dialogue (issue TBD)
29-31	General Election engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
31	Knowledge Community on How to Fix a Political System

Events and dates are tentative, subject to change, and pending confirmation from partners
Additional events and dates will be provided once available

NOVEMBER

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 1** General Election engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
- 1** Knowledge Community on Mass Shootings and Gun Violence
- 5-6** General Election engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
- 6** General Election
- 7-8** Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
- 12-15** Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
- 12** Knowledge Community on Immigration in America
- 13** Knowledge Community on Safety and Justice
- 19-20** Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
- 26-29** Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center
- 29** Community Dialogue (issue TBD)

Events and dates are tentative, subject to change, and pending confirmation from partners
Additional events and dates will be provided once available

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

DECEMBER

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

3-6

Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center

5

Knowledge Community on How to Fix a Political System

6

Knowledge Community on Mass Shootings and Gun Violence

10

Weekly voter education and engagement initiatives in Student Activities Center

11

Launch of #SeawolvesEngage Winter Campaign



OUR PARTNERS

ON CAMPUS

Campus Residences
Career Center
Center for Prevention and Outreach
Commuter Student Services and Off Campus Living
Counseling and Psychological Services
Dean of Students
Division of Undergraduate Education
Educational Opportunity Program / Advancement on Individual Merit
Honors College
Interfaith Center
LGBTQ* Services
Multicultural Affairs
Office of the President

Recreation & Wellness
Southampton
Stony Brook University Athletic Bands
Stony Brook University Athletics
Stony Brook University Scholars Program
Student Activities Center Facilities Operations
Student Engagement and Activities
Student Health Service
Student Life
Student Orientation and Family Programs
Undergraduate Colleges
Veterans Affairs
Women in Science and Engineering Honors Program
... and MANY MORE!

OFF CAMPUS



voteeverywhere

THE **ANDREW GOODMAN** FOUNDATION

NSLVE NATIONAL STUDY OF
LEARNING, VOTING,
AND ENGAGEMENT



YOUNG YI
INVINCIBLES



LEADERSHIP TEAM



STEVEN ADELSON

Co-Director, Center for Civic Justice

Residence Hall Director, Department of Residential Programs

Steven Adelson is a Residence Hall Director in the Department of Residential Programs at Stony Brook University, and now also serves as Co-Director of the Center for Civic Justice. Since arriving in 2012, Steven has contributed to the university's transformed commitment to civic and democratic engagement for several years, and he is thrilled about the opportunity to position civic justice as a cornerstone of the student experience. Steven is a two-time alumnus of Stony Brook University: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (2015) and Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration (2017). In addition, Steven is pursuing his Doctorate in Education at Northeastern University. Steven's research interests include undocumented immigrant identity development and its effect on access to higher education, and college student democratic engagement.



ELLEN DRISCOLL

Co-Director, Center for Civic Justice

Interim Associate Dean of Students, Office of the Dean of Students

Ellen Driscoll is the Interim Associate Dean of Students at Stony Brook University, and now also serves as Co-Director of the Center for Civic Justice. In 1995, Ellen began working at Stony Brook University as the Substance Abuse Counselor, and since 2011 has been in the Office of the Dean of Students overseeing the coordination and planning of student recognition awards, events and community outreach. Ellen is responsible for responding to student issues and assisting in the development of outreach and response plans. Ellen has a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Cortland and a Master's of Social Work from Adelphi University. Ellen has been involved in many student initiatives over the years, mostly recently partnering with the Andrew Goodman Foundation to transform voter engagement on campus. Watching students take the lead in both their own personal development and the betterment of the community is one of Ellen's great privileges.



YARK BEYAN

Student Team Leader

Yark Beyan is a senior at Stony Brook University studying Political Science with a concentration in International Affairs and a minor in Sustainability Studies. Originally from Staten Island, New York, Yark serves as the Team Leader for Vote Everywhere at Stony Brook University in partnership with the Andrew Goodman Foundation. In addition, Yark is a recipient of the JFEW-SUNY Scholars Program in International Relations and Global Affairs, Leadership and Service Undergraduate Colleges Fellow, and Admissions Tour Guide. Yark is passionate about global affairs and hopes to travel the world while developing programs and policies that will help lift communities from poverty. Yark is a strong believer in democracy and wants to help her peers to gain the confidence to serve as catalysts for change in their communities.

STAY ENGAGED

SOCIALIZE



@civicjusticesbu
#SeawolvesEngage
#SeawolvesVote

VISIT US

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Stony Brook
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