

# Voter Friendly Campus Plan for 2022

This plan, created for the **Tarrant County College District (all 6 campuses)**, was prepared by Dr. Kristan Foust, Associate Professor of History. Any questions or clarifications can be sent to [Kristan.Foust@TCCD.edu](mailto:Kristan.Foust@TCCD.edu).

## Leadership Coalition

The Tarrant County College District has made a commitment to bolstering civic engagement and helping our community advance its knowledge about elections, elected officials, democracy, and political institutions. The district has created a Civic Engagement Work Team consisting of one member from each campus in order to coordinate the efforts of the six campuses. The Work Team was built to represent not only the campus affiliation but also diverse points of view in the college by including both academic affairs and student services professionals. This team serves in a variety of roles throughout the college.

### District Committee:

- Dr. Kristan Foust, Southeast Campus, Associate Professor of History
- Lourdes Davenport, Northwest Campus, Coordinator of Special Projects
- Edward Brassart, Trinity River Campus, Asst. Director of Student Services
- Misty Wilson-Mehrtens, Connect Campus, Asst. Professor of History, Department Chair
- Vanessa Steinkamp, Instructor of Government
- Deshun Jackson, Academic Advisor

This group leads the district in creating ideas and programs for civic engagement and democratic leadership. They are creating individual groups on their campus and working with their campus presidents and student activities. This group creates proposals and ideas that go up to the Principle Champion (a campus president or vice president) and those ideas are proposed to the Chancellor.

At the district level, Tarrant County College has built relationships with several community agencies and organizations that will aid in creating and maintaining a culture of civic engagement. Tarrant County College holds memberships in the All-In Challenge, Campus Compact, and The Democracy Commitment. Tarrant County

College has established relationships with the Mission Arlington Pantry, the League of Women's Voters, Tarrant County Voters Association, and several of the Independent School Districts.

At the district level, we have received a commitment from many of the student organizations to participate and promote civic engagement and education among their members. We anticipate sustained interaction with Phi Theta Kappa members, the Men of Color organization, and Student Government Associations.

At the campus level, each campus has made the commitment to support these efforts by forming at least one committee to facilitate civic engagement and social responsibility. Members of these committees have all committed to both student and faculty education and have developed plans of action for their own campuses.

## **Northeast Campus**

- Michelle Burris, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President
- Karen Wisely, Associate Professor of History
- Christopher Douglas, Assistant Professor of Government
- A'isha Malone, Instructor of Speech, Department Chair
- Shewanda Riley, Assistant Professor of English
- Vanessa Steinkamp, Instructor of Government
- Twyla Reese-Hornsby, Public Services Librarian

## **Northwest Campus**

- Lisa Benedetti, Dean of Humanities
- Lourdes Davenport, Northwest Campus, Coordinator of Special Projects
- Alexis Potemkin, Director of Library Services
- Lauren McClain, Instructor of Government
- Denise White, Coordinator of Graphic Services
- Nancy Gutierrez, Instructional Associate—World Language Lab
- Jennifer Mendez, Instructional Assistant—Center for English Language Learning
- Soad Boudjir, Instructional Assistant—Center for English Language Learning
- Zahra Rahbarzare, Instructional Assistant—Center for English Language Learning
- Debanie Valdez, Instructional Aide—Center for English Language Learning
- Jacqueline Palmer, Instructional Assistant—Center for English Language Learning

- Lucy McCelduff, Instructional Assistant—Center for English Language Learning

## **South Campus**

- Angela Morse, Public Services Librarian
- Jennifer McSpadden, Sociology Professor
- Kaylon Tolbert, Library Specialist
- Erika Zimmerman, Coordinator of Community Education
- Lindsay Clark, Geology Adjunct Instructor
- Deshun Jackson, Academic Advisor
- Gabrielle Raymond, Learning Lab Manager, Writing Center
- Shereah Taylor, Education Professor
- Jessie Galloway, Government Instructor
- Yolanda Parker, Math Professor
- Sammy Moore, Lab Assistant, Writing Center
- Samantha Donoso, Instructional Associate, Writing Center
- Monica Lea, Coordinator of Graphics Services
- Madelyn Bowman, Government Professor
- Gordon Dean, Student Development Specialist

## **Trinity River Campus**

- Eddie Brassart, Asst. Director of Student Services
- Kelsey Bratcher, Coordinator of Student Activities
- Rik Sehgal, Assoc. Professor of Government
- Corena White, Instructor of Government
- Chad Wooley, Department Chair of History, Government and Philosophy
- Tracy Soto, Public Services Librarian

## **Connect Campus**

- Misty Wilson-Mehrtens, Asst. Professor of History, Department Chair
- Rebekah Adderly- Assoc. Professor of Speech, Department Chair of Communications
- Sherri Mata, Instructor of Psychology, Faculty Association President
- Allegra Davis Hanna, Instructor of English, Department Chair of English and Humanities

- Kenya Wilson, Instructor of HR, Department Chair of Business and Technology
- Tanya Townsend, Instructor of Math, Department Chair of Accounting & Mathematics
- Angela Thurman, Instructor of Economics, Department Chair of Sciences & Economics
- David Pearse, Director of Weekend College
- Wanda Moore, Assistant Divisional Dean of Academic Affairs

## **Southeast Campus**

- Josue Munoz, Dean of Humanities
- Kristan Foust, Associate Professor of History
- Laurie Ertle, Assistant Professor of Biology
- Olivia Orona Llanes, Government Instructor
- Tiffany Smith, Professor of History
- Brian Tatum, Assistant Professor of English
- Bradley Borougerdi, Professor of History
- Colin Jenney, Associate Professor of Psychology
- Maria Delgado, Coordinator of Supplemental Instruction
- Frankie Ward, Student Development Associate and Student Government Advisor
- Tracey Robinson, Assistant Director of Library Services
- Anna Hithersay, Public Services Librarian
- Madison Durapau, Instructor of English
- Regina Petty, student fellow

## **Student Organizations Helping with these efforts at Southeast Campus:**

- Student Government Association -This organization is made up of representatives from all of the student orgs on campus. Each of our 6 campuses meet together in a district-wide student government.
- Muslim Student Association (MSA)
- Men of Color Collaborative (MCC)
- Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Organization of Latin Americans (OLA)

- Environmental Club
- Based on the leadership team from your campus plan, how did your coalition function throughout the fall semester?

We built the district committee over the summer of 2020 and jumped into a last minute-determination of online courses. With the virtual switch we built our campus teams and worked diligently and ceaselessly to promote diversity, voter education, voter turnout, and voter registration. We worked ceaselessly to create resources, education workshops, registration opportunities, and polling locations for our students. Ultimately we were successful, but we all worked extra hard to make that happen. In 2021-22 school year we had a lot of turnover. Several of our most integral civic engagement committee members retired. We are still pushing forward in our trajectory while training the next generation of faculty and staff.

- Did they follow through on the campus commitment to continue your democratic engagement work?

The team followed through and went above and beyond. We accomplished more than I dreamed was possible. With little to no funding and while transitioning back to face-to-face, which was more challenging than we realized.

- Why was your coalition effective or not effective?

Our team was effective because most members care about the cause of preserving democracy and encouraging students to engage with their community through political action. Our members are passionate about the cause so we pushed through sleepless nights to make things happen.

- How will it change for continued Democratic Engagement work, particularly focused on the mid-term elections?

Because we will not be starting the team from scratch months before a major election, we will have more resources and planning in place prior to the election. We will be able to streamline some of the events. For example, we created a website that collects all election training and resources instead of having to create resources from scratch. We already have the voter registration video created, we have the graphics template for election dates. We have networked with our county's chapter of League of Women

Voters to help with voter registration at all 6 of our campuses in addition to having our faculty and staff certified as voter deputies.

- What other partners did you work with internally or externally and what was their role?

We started working together with the library and student activities to host events. They are pros at this. We learned very quickly that we needed to include more staff in this effort. While faculty are knowledgeable on government and history and have direct online access to students, student activities is experienced in putting events together and has funding to buy items to handout at the events. We are working with our research department to get NSLVE data (we have been denied access for the last several years). We are working with several local community partners such as LWV, and requesting grant funds from Ask Every Student, and National Voter Education Week. VFC has helped with funding student fellows to increase student engagement in the election process and voter registration.

- What role did students play in writing your campus plan?
- Moving forward, how will you recruit students into the coalition? Who will be leading the coalition beyond 2022?

In our previous proposal we stated “As we are re-starting the campus’s Democracy Commitment student organization, students were only tangentially involved in planning. The student organizations listed above (coalition section) helped to host and plan events. In these events the students presented on diversity and discrimination and at the end of their events they shared information on voter registration, voter locations, and voter information and resources.” However, student involvement in extracurriculars post-pandemic closure has been down, so we switched strategies. We have now joined with the Student Government Association to pull students from the already-active students and student organizations to infuse CE into structures that already exist and are already successful instead of re-inventing the wheel.

## **Overview:**

Based on your campus plan's executive summary, what were the main goals your campus had for carrying out democratic engagement in 2022?

- to increasing voter registration and voter turnout
- developing all students into civically engaged, socially and personally responsible individuals and support civic engagement and social responsibility
- created a committee of faculty, staff, and students to facilitate civic and social engagement
- support civic engagement and social responsibility
- to promote opportunities for faculty members to incorporate these ideas into their courses and throughout the academic core.
- to cultivate a culture of civic engagement that will be sustainable beyond the upcoming year and will be a foundational part of the Tarrant County College student experience.

### **Did your campus meet these goals? Why or why not?**

Emphatically, yes!

#### 2020-2021:

- to increasing voter registration and voter turnout
  - We hosted virtual events with educational resources, registration tools and resources
  - We sent consistent reminders through social media, email, and faculty requests
  - We held faculty pledge drives asking for instructors to commit to sharing voter resources
  - We held a voter registration drive-thru
  - We decorated a trunk in the trunk-or-treat drive thru where we passed out voter educational resources along with the candy
- developing all students into civically engaged, socially and personally responsible individuals support civic engagement and social responsibility
  - We hosted a series of anti-discrimination and diversity events
  - We shared voter information with students
  - We held workshops and a conference for faculty on the Texas state SLOs for incorporating social and personal responsibility in the classroom.
- created a committee of faculty, staff, and students to facilitate civic and social engagement
  - We spoke at welcome back week encouraging faculty to join our committee
  - We created the SE campus committee(s) to sponsor and host the events
  - We worked with staff, student affairs, academic affairs, and student organizations to host several events related to civic and social engagement

- to promote opportunities for faculty members to incorporate these ideas into their courses and throughout the academic core.
  - We spoke at welcome back week about the expectation and incorporating these ideas in the classroom
  - We created a Blackboard organization for faculty with in-class ideas, videos, and resources
  - We hosted multiple workshops with ideas on how to incorporate the activities in the classroom
  - We emailed multiple resources to faculty and staff for incorporating civic engagement in the classroom
- to cultivate a culture of civic engagement that will be sustainable beyond the upcoming year and will be a foundational part of the Tarrant County College student experience.
  - We worked with multiple district level teams and committees to infuse these ideas in their programs and to collaborate
  - We worked with several campus presidents to prepare for institutionalizing Civic Engagement through certificates, awards, conferences, and student organizations
  - We have worked with the district assessment team regarding incorporating Civic Engagement in the process of assessment
  - We have worked with Student Activities and the Library staff to incorporate CE in their activities and been invited to host more events
- Here is our [presentation at CLDE](#) of what we were able to accomplish in 2020-2021.
- Here is a [presentation at CLDE](#) of what we were able to accomplish in 2021-2022.
- Additionally, In 2021-2022 academic year:
  - [TCC won a national award through Campus Compact](#), the Eduardo J. Padron Award for Institutional Transformation.
  - We were [recognized by the city of Arlington](#) for Civic Engagement
  - [Students presented their Service Learning projects](#) to the community in collaboration with a city-wide grant
  - Here is an incomplete [list of activities we have completed](#) -spreadsheet with sheets for each semester
  - Here is a [3-4 page report](#) on our civic engagement efforts along with [artifacts](#)
- Our current and future efforts can also be found on our newly created (unofficial, but published) [Civic Engagement website](#)



- How did you have to adapt your action plan due to COVID and other unexpected situations?

Going from Covid shutdown to face to face was an interesting transition. We discuss how we transitioned in the 2021 [presentation at CLDE](#) . Coming back face-to-face brought different challenges such as students being concerned about attending face-to-face events about civic engagement, elections, diversity, and community service. We hosted more events but had less attendees overall. We are reimagining how we will present in the future to reach this new generation that spent 50% of their high school years remote.

Some of the ideas we are floating this summer for the midterms are:

- short tick-tock-style video presentations and online scavenger hunts attached with prizes to account for new attention spans and content delivery.
- empower students to do their own research through hosting student poster conferences on election issues where students directly engage in civic action.
- create asynchronous short educational videos where questions are embedded in the content so students can accumulate some type of electronic token for BINGO style prizes.
- Use a social media hashtag campaign to encourage practicing in voter education activities, voter registration, and voting.

## Analysis of your work:

There are four pillars of work for a well-rounded democratic engagement plan. Please describe how each of these programs were actualized, if they were successful, and what you learned, based on the strategy you outlined in your campus plan.

- **Voter registration: How did your campus register students?  
How many students did you register?**

We are not sure how many of our students registered because most of our efforts were virtual and Texas requires hardcopies to be mailed in or hand delivered

- In addition to the voter registration drive thru, we hosted several virtual voter registration drives through the following methods:
- Voter registration video tutorial

- Voter registration libguide
- Voter registration email reminders with links
- Virtual fliers for voter registration
- Voter registration social media posts with links
- We conducted a faculty and staff pledge to share registration information with their students
- We hosted several face-to-face voter registration booths with our own faculty as voter deputies and 3 days with League of Women Voters.

- Voter education: How did you provide students nonpartisan voting information?

See website for voter education events: <https://sites.google.com/my.tccd.edu/civic-engagement-at-tcc-se/events>

- Voter turnout: How did you encourage your students to vote on or before Election Day?

We had posters around campus, we sent several emails to faculty, staff, and students, we sent reminders through social media and during events hosted throughout the semesters.

- Student voting rights: How do you make sure students have access to voting?

We created a voter registration video, hosted several voter registration drives on campus, we provided email and social media information on voting registration, required IDs. We presented in New Student Orientations and passed out mail-in voter registration cards during orientation. We have polling locations at several of our campuses.

- What successes or hurdles do student voters at your institution face?

Voting requires a state issued ID, registration in Texas requires a hardcopy of registration submitted by mail or in person (or through deputy) 30 days prior to the election. This causes disfranchisement for people who change name or address prior to an election or who do not have easy access to mail or printers.

- How close did you get to achieving full voter participation?

Our voter participation at all of our campus polling locations increased drastically (see last few minutes of [presentation at CLDE](#)). However, our institution receives NSLVE data but has refused to release it to our committee.

Our continued growth, the eagerness of SGA students to be a part of Civic Engagement, the growth of our committee, the recognition by our community partners, and our cities, the increased voter turnout, and the national awards we have been nominated for and received speak to the efficacy of our efforts. I believe we are on the right track. At this point we need funding and more man hours to increase our efforts.

Our final artifact that summarizes our efforts in the last 2 years can be found in our [Eduardo J Padron award video](#).