



**CAMPUS
DEMOCRACY
CHALLENGE**

University of North Georgia 2020 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Carly Redding

Executive Summary:

The University of North Georgia commits to the following actions to ensure that every enrolled student on all five campuses is provided with voter education/rights, are asked to register to vote and asked to vote.

Democracy Fellowships:

Graduate Students (1 per team) will be asked to lead teams of undergraduate students (2 per team); all being designated as Democracy Fellows, on all five UNG campuses. Fellows will receive a stipend for their role in the project. Responsibilities of each fellow include:

- Each group will be assigned a UNG campus and will be responsible for contacting students at that campus and inform them about voter rights and registration. A QR link for voter registration will be provided by email, fliers, and informational cards on all campuses.
- Each fellow will be provided with a group of students organizations, including partnering with the Office of Multicultural Studies, with which they communicate regularly to build and sustain a campus coalition of organizations to support outreach efforts. Sustainability is exceptionally important to our working group as we plan to continue these efforts every semester.
- Each fellow will participate in weekly meetings with the director of academic engagement, including bi-weekly one-on-one meetings, to discuss progress, successes, challenges and strategies.
- Fellows will head up all events and rallies on all five campuses.
- Fellows will provide both on-campus and virtual events throughout each semester, including question and answer sessions with students, staff and faculty.
- Fellows have worked with local organizations, as well as the Student Government Association, in order to have voter absentee ballot boxes set up in multiple locations on each campus.

Educational Programs:

Numerous events are planned throughout the semester on all five campuses. Fellows will organize and lead each event, both on campus and virtual. Our events will include outreach for National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day where students will have voter registration tables set up throughout all campuses, which will allow students to register to vote immediately. In addition, students will host workshops and candidate forums/debates. Expenses for these events include: food, advertising, PPE equipment and stipends for guest speakers.

Promotion items will also be given away or raffled, depending on the event. All promotional materials will be centered around Voting, items include: mask, key chains, lanyards, notebook with pen, drawstring bags, water bottles, hats, reminder voting cards/stickers with the slogan

“because I said I would,” and umbrellas. Additionally, we will host a student art competition centered on voter registration. Students will submit t-shirt designs with the theme centered around ‘UNG Votes’. The winner/s of this competition will be given monetary awards, and their voting logo will be printed on t-shirts that will be given away to students when they register to vote, deliver their absentee ballots, and/or show an “I Voted” sticker on Election Day.

Voting Packets:

We intend to provide every first year student with a voting packet. This voting packet will include voter registration QR link, which will allow students to register immediately; an absentee ballot link; a sample ballot; and a link regarding voter rights in Georgia.

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Carly Redding, Director of Academic Engagement; Sarah Young, Assistant Director of Academic Engagement, Mark Ginter, Graduate Student; Dominique Allen, Graduate Assistant; Pam Kenney, Community partner; Morgan Brooks, Graduate Assistant

Commitment:

Our campus has signed the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

Our campus has used the following methods to communicate with students about the election:

By email, By posting on institutional social media channels, Educational Forums

Landscape:

Our campus demographic and voting data:

5 campuses with a total of 20,000 students. In 2018 the voting rate was 45%. 2014 2018
Enrolled Voted Rate Enrolled Voted Rate Change Asian 0 0 n/a 667 137 20.5% n/a American
Indian/ Alaska Native 0 0 n/a 39 18 46.2% n/a Black 0 0 n/a 778 370 47.6% n/a Hispanic 0 0 n/a
2,467 1,088 44.1% n/a Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander 0 0 n/a 30 * n/a n/a White 0 0 n/a
13,427 6,174 46.0% n/a 2 or More Races 0 0 n/a 608 243 40.0% n/a

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

Short term goals are to increase voting registration, voting and voter education. Long term we have created a group on campus that hopes to sustain this by holding year around events regarding voting rights and education.

Strategy:

Our campus has used the following strategies and organized the following events:

In-person voter registration drives, In-person voter education events (e.g. film screenings, debates, lecture series, etc.), Classroom voter registration presentations (in-person or virtual), Virtual voter education events (e.g. film screening, debates, lectures series, etc.), Pledge to Vote drive

September 8 Creation of Voter Initiative Student Organization
September 10 Fellowship Recruitment and Training
September 10 Voter Registration Information Tables
September 14 Virtual Meeting; Training for faculty and volunteers.
September 17 Constitution Day Events and Voter Registration
September 20 Campus QR Card Handout
Vote Early Event

September 22 Voter Registration Tables for National Voter Registration Day. Sample ballots available.

September 25 Fellowship Roundtable
September 25 Voter Registration Tables
September 30 What is the Electoral College Forum
October 01 Art Project Contest
October T-shirts printed
October 5 Voter Registration Deadline. Multiple tables throughout each campus.
October 10 Voter Information Educational Event
October 11 Installation of ballot drop boxes on campuses
October 16 Poll worker signup
October 16 Political Science Question and Answer Session
October 16 Pizza/Prize Event centered around early vote
October 19 Forum: How does international politics effect Georgia?
November 1 Voting Informational Session
November 1 Forum on Voter Suppression issues
November 2 Forum on Current Political Environment
November 3 Provide needed travel to polls
November 4 Forum: Want to talk about the election?
November Fellows meeting regarding local elections
November UNG Voter Website overhaul

NSLVE:

University of North Georgia has authorized NSLVE.

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

We are evaluating by number of participates, number of times our QR voter registration link is used and the NSLVE data.

Reporting:

We will report our campus action plan and NSLVE reports in the following ways:

Our action plan will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.

Our campus NSLVE reports will be posted on our campus website and shared with the campus community.