



UPDATED
5/16/2018

CAMPUS DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN (CDEP)

ALL IN CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE

THE CAMPUS DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT COALITION (CDEC)
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
1500 N PATTERSON STREET

CAMPUS DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN (CDEP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Valdosta State University, also referred to as VSU, or Valdosta State, is an American public university and is one of the four comprehensive universities in the University System of Georgia. Valdosta State is located on a campus at the heart of the city of Valdosta. VSU serves over 11,000 undergraduate and graduate students representing 157 Georgia counties, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Washington, D.C. and hosts over 300 international students from 76 countries. VSU also offers classes at Moody Air Force Base north of Valdosta in Lowndes County.

Beginning a new academic year and starting in the fall of 2018, the Democratic Engagement Goals carried out by the newly created Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) will be strategically implemented to carry out the University's student mission: to provide a diverse student population with an inspired education, a safe learning environment, a nurturing community, and a wealth of experience that assists students in molding their futures in a creative, conscious, and caring fashion while preparing them to be lifelong learners who will meet the needs of a changing global society.

COALITION

The Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) is the first student-led, democracy-driven, campus wide coalition designed to enhance democratic engagement within the VSU community and responsible for the creation of the Campus Democracy Engagement Plan (CDEP).

The CDEC strategically engages in a wide diversity of students, faculty, staff and administrators, along with external partners within the community and abroad to ensure support and educational promotion. We plan on expanding CDEC's members to include a larger number of internal and external stakeholders within the next year.

VSU's 2018-2019 CDEC includes:

- Dr. James LaPlant, ex officio member
 - *Graduate School Dean and (as of 7/1/2018) Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences*
- Dr. Bernard Tamas, ex officio member
 - *Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department; concentrations include American government, electoral systems and research methodology*
- Student Government Association Senators
- College Republican Chairman
- College Democrats President
- Obediah Hall, MPA
- Sylandi Brown, Co-Chair of the CDEC
 - Department of Student Leadership & Volunteer Services Campus Service Coordinator
- Tyler Tucker, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Liaison & Co-Chair of the CDEC
 - Department of Student Leadership & Volunteer Services Community Service Coordinator

The CDEC works to increase democratic engagement by identifying programs and services that will increase student involvement with legislative processes, working to increase efforts to improve the

social, economic, political and educational opportunities for students experiencing material needs, and/or assisting services to improve the lives of citizens in the communities served by the University.

COMMITMENT

Valdosta State University instills in every student the pride of the Blazer Creed. The Creed consists of civility, integrity and citizenship as core values of every Blazer. Valdosta State University could not do these three values things effectively without fostering a culture of proper ethics. VSU is a large part of the Valdosta community, in which it builds trust and positive relationships with those in and around the area.

Excerpt from VSU's Strategic Plan:

"Valdosta State University will increase student participation in expanded transformational and experiential opportunities through implementing high impact and best practices focused on evolving student needs."

In addition to the University's commitment, the Department of Student Leadership & Volunteer Services, within the Division of Student Affairs, provides a variety of programs and services to assist students in developing their leadership potential and prepares students for lives of active community engagement within a complex and changing world. The Department promotes and facilitates civic engagement through service opportunities, community partnerships and outreach.

LANDSCAPE

The CDEC is currently viewing the University landscape regarding democratic engagement. Updates will be given upon research results.

Institutional:

- Department of Student Leadership & Volunteer Services
 - Participation in a Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11th
 - Celebration of the U.S. Constitution on September 17th
 - Honoring through service Martin Luther King, Jr. Day each January
 - Food pantry for needy students, faculty and staff
- NSLVE University

Academic:

- Discussions on service learning courses

Co-Curricular:

- Student organizations are required to incorporate a service project into their list of activities in order to obtain registered organization status

GOALS

The 2018-2019 CDEC Democratic Engagement Goals:

- Request NSLVE
- Establish an on-campus early voting/election day polling site for future elections

- Partner with the Dean of Students office on establishing Blazer Creed Week where students, faculty and staff come together to uphold our Blazer Creed (civility, integrity and citizenship)
- Establish temporarily a Democracy Wall for students to engage in our country's democracy
- Develop a systematic method for engaging students with voter registration
- Continue researching, organizing, and implementing on-campus democracy engagement projects

SMART Goals:

- Voter Registration
 - Register 80 VSU students who are not registered to vote
- Voter Education
 - Host two events targeting 200 students total

Updates will be given upon research results.

STRATEGY

The CDEC is currently setting our meeting calendar to address our specific strategies in accomplishing our goals. Updates will be given when available.

REPORTING

VSU and the CDEC is committed to full transparency to encourage maximum participation. Links will be available as time permits.

EVALUATION

Upon receiving the University's NSLVE report, the primary evaluation document, the CDEC will meet to discuss our evaluation methods.

COALITION & LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMITMENT

The undersigned accepted this Democratic Engagement Action Plan.

Print First and Last Name	Title	Signature	Date.
Print First and Last Name	Title	Signature	Date.
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