

## Weber State University All In Campus Plan

### Executive Summary

The Weber State University action plan seeks to take the political engagement on our campus to the next level. This year, in March, the ADP-IDHE research team visited our campus to assess our campus climate for political learning. We are submitting an abridged plan by the deadline because we want to adjust our plans as the findings from the research come in. We are also submitting an abridged plan because we are taking our American Democracy Project student leadership team to the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement the second week in June and want to allow them the latitude to plan events they believe will resonate with students. Some of the pieces of this plan will be fleshed out when we have the research from the ADP-IDHE and when we return from CLDE.

### Leadership Team

- Leah Murray, Political Science Professor and American Democracy Project co-coordinator
- Sheldon Cheshire, Student Involvement and Leadership and American Democracy Project co-coordinator
- American Democracy Project Leadership Team
  - Tanne Murdock
  - Aimee Urbina
  - Madilyn Howard
- Shelly Jackson, Davis County Elections Manager
- Teresa Martinez, Center for Community Engaged Learning Engaged Learning Series Coordinator
- Robert Hunter, Walker Institute of Politics and Policy Director
- Melissa Hall, Center for Community Engaged Learning Director
- Myla Andersen, Student Chapter of the League of Women Voters at Weber State University President
- Terri McCulloch, Weber County League of Women Voters

Leah Murray is the chair of the All In campus plan and will coordinate the efforts. The team will create ideas and help implement the plan. We will meet via email throughout the summer and then meet weekly throughout the election season in the fall semester.

### Goals

Our long-term goals include making civic learning and democratic engagement a pervasive part of the curriculum and enhanced in our co-curriculum, which at present is further along in the adoption. Our short-term goals include increasing our voter turnout. In 2016, our numbers hovered right at 50% with areas of strength and areas of weakness across campus. Our goal is to increase those numbers, which is very difficult given the political context of Weber State University in a non-competitive red state. Given that our state uses vote by mail, our goal is to get as many students as possible registered because they will be mailed a ballot. While that

registration is happening, we also intend to educate our students so that they feel the efficacy necessary to make good choices in voting.

## Strategy

These are events that are already planned.

- May – November
  - Weber County Elections installed a ballot drop box on our campus between our library and student union so that students and members of the community can use it to drop off their ballots if they do not want to pay for postage
  - Student workers are on call to deliver ballots for the primary elections in June and going forward
- September
  - League of Women Voters will host a study of the ballot initiatives in Utah, which includes a rather controversial medical cannabis
- September 25 National Voter Registration Day
  - Voter registration drives will happen at both our Ogden and our Davis Campus
    - The Davis Campus hosts a concurrent enrollment high school and Utah just passed a law which allows 16 and 17-year-old people to register to vote and to vote in primaries as long as they are 18 by the general election
- October 16
  - Local radio talk show host Doug Fabrizio will lead a panel on local political issues
- October 16
  - Utah Congressional District 1 Debate
    - Hosted by another university so Weber State University will livestream the debate while hosting a fact checking seminar for students on our campus
    - The Communication Department will train students on how to fact check a political debate
    - This event will be part of the University-wide Engaged Learning Series “What the Fact”
- November 8
  - We will be hosting Mike Caulfield to teach our students about digital polarization and how to manage increasingly polarized politics on social media
  - This event will be part of the University-wide Engaged Learning Series “What the Fact”

## Assessment

As we did in 2017, we will share the NSLVE data from the 2018 election with our campus at meetings with students, faculty, administration and community members. We will discuss the fleshed-out plan and see if our efforts made changes in key demographics at the university. We will also conduct focus groups to assess our political learning after the election to see if we have moved the needle at all from when the ADP-IDHE team was on our campus.