

## **Metropolitan State University of Denver: Campus Vote Plan**

### **Summary**

Metropolitan State University of Denver has a long history of civic engagement activities taking place on campus. We are one of largest universities in the state and located in the heart of downtown Denver. This year, we are excited to take the learnings over the years from civic engagement activities taking place and streamline them into a succinct campus vote plan that will reach more students than ever before.

This year, we are excited to continue our partnership with a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, New Era Colorado, to bring a high-quality civic engagement program to MSU Denver students. New Era has worked on campus every year since 2011, and has a great understanding of how to work with students at MSU Denver. In 2016, MSU Denver was the recipient of the *All In: Campus Democracy Challenge* Champion Award for having the highest undergraduate voting rate on a large campus. Our students are excited to engage in the 2018 midterm election, and we are excited to work more deeply and strategically throughout the entire campus.

Our student population consists of students who largely live off campus rather than in residence halls, and we believe that the best way to engage with them is on campus when they are in-between classes. Our students are juggling a lot of different priorities, and we think that the most effective way to register them is face-to-face.

This plan is an overview of our civic engagement program.

### **Point of Contact for Designation Process:**

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### **Coalition description**

Metropolitan State University of Denver's Student Government Assembly (SGA) and a nonpartisan community partner, New Era Colorado, are partnering in 2018 to carry out this plan. These two entities have both worked to civically engage students in the past, and the partnership will allow us to run the strongest program to date.

MSU Denver's Student Government Assembly is the formal representation of the student body to higher administration and faculty.

New Era Colorado is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging young people in democracy and has expertise in registering students to vote, as well as in educating students about Colorado's new election law (Colorado modernized our elections system in 2013).

MSU Denver's Student Government and New Era have been meeting throughout 2017 and 2018 to discuss ways in which to improve the civic engagement program based off previous years' experience. We have identified the needs to carry out the work, and have already started the actual program.

### **Voter Registration Efforts summary:**

- **Table during Welcome Back week events**

- Use the buzz around welcome back week to a) register students to vote; and b) do outreach/education about the fact that you need to update your voter registration each time you move.
- **NVRD**
  - Tuesday, September 25th is [National Voter Registration Day](#), so it's a great opportunity to make a big splash for voter education at a good time in the overall election calendar.
- **Table 3-4 days a week until October 15:**
  - Provide opportunities for students to register to vote or update their address. We'll use this opportunity to recruit student volunteers to help carry out the work to ensure that the work is effective and peer-to-peer.

### **Voter turnout efforts**

- Flyer throughout the campus to ensure students know what to do with their ballots when they receive them (include a photocopy of their student ID, a student ID card if requested, etc)

### **Resources**

- Metropolitan State University of Denver's SGA: We consider MSU Denver SGA to be a huge resource. SGA has student leaders to help carry out the work, and also has expertise in all of the available avenues to register students.
- Election law experience & expertise specifically for students: New Era has been working on campuses in Colorado for 10 years, and can provide high-quality information about the voter registration and voting process, while still making it digestible for students.

### **Timeline and evaluation**

Our goal is to refine and expand the work that is already happening on campus, and to train new student leaders to lead the efforts.

The coalition will evaluate and debrief this vote plan after the election. We are excited to compare the outcomes of this year compared to previous years--including 2012, 2014 and 2016.