



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

## Civic Learning, Political Engagement, and Voting Rate Action Plan 2018

### Connection to University Initiatives

#### *QEP*

As a part of our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process the University of Central Florida created a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP theme is *What's Next: Integrative Learning for Professional and Civic Preparation*. There are three components of this initiative: intentional learning, high-impact practices, metacognition. The UCF voting plan will be using this format for implementation.

1. Intentional Learning
  - a. Creating pathways for students, faculty, and staff to set goals and view their voting experiences holistically
2. High-Impact Practices
  - a. Connect both curricular and co-curricular voting learning and practice
3. Metacognition
  - a. Provide opportunities for guided reflections at all stages and in connection with multiple curricular and co-curricular experiences
  - b. Encourage students to make connections between their classroom and beyond-the-classroom experiences

#### *Collective Impact*

The University of Central Florida has recently released a new Collective Impact: Strategic Plan. The UCF voting plan will connect to Promise #3 Deploy Our Distinctive Assets: To Solve Society's Greatest Problems through the Community Engagement metrics of: engage all students in at least one service learning activity annually and involve all faculty and staff in at least one community engagement activity annually. While voting engagement is not service learning by nature, UCF will make an effort to integrate voting practices into some service learning activities. Also the plan will include ways to involve faculty and staff in voting engagement.



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### *SDES Strategic Plan 2017-22*

The division of Student Development and Enrollment Services has also released their Strategic Plan 2017-22. This plan works concurrently with the Collective Impact, but has specific metrics and strategies for the division. The UCF voting plan will connect to SDES Priority #5 Student Advocacy, Equity and Inclusion through the metrics:

- c. Increase by 20 percent students' understanding and knowledge regarding free speech and university free assembly policies.
- d. Increase by 20 percent the number of campus dialogues and conscious conversations between students, student organizations and other constituents.
- e. Increase by 20 percent the number of students who participate in diverse civic engagement or community service learning opportunities.

### **CLDE Emergent Theory of Change**

Utilizing the CLDE Emergent Theory of Change, we hope to support democracy and democratic engagement on our campus and in our local community through education, outreach, and building connections on campus.

#### **1. The Vision Question**

What are the key features of the thriving democracy we aspire to enact and support through our work?

- Increased voter registration on campus
  - **GOAL:** Achieve 85% voter registration based on 2020 NSLVE data.
- Increased voting rate on campus
  - **GOAL:** Achieve 70% voting rate based on 2020 NSLVE data.
- Increased campus dialogues and conscious conversations
  - **GOAL:** Increase by 20% the number of campus dialogues and conscious conversations between students, student organizations and other constituents.
- Increased civic engagement and civic identity for administrators, faculty, student affairs staff, and students
  - **GOAL:** Increase the general campus climate advocating for contributing to a larger community based on UCF's Personal and Social Responsibility Inventory data (PSRI).



## 2. The Learning Outcomes Question

What knowledge, skills, and dispositions do people need in order to help create and contribute to a thriving democracy?

- Voter Registration
  - How to register to vote
    - Using new Florida online voter registration
    - Traditional methods
  - Deadlines for voter registration
- Finding Information on How to Vote
- Making an Informed Decision
  - Where and how to find information about candidates
  - Approaching situations with an open mind
  - How to have a civil dialogue and conscious conversation with others

## 3. The Pedagogy Question

How can we best foster the acquisition and development of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for a thriving democracy?

- Host presentations on voting/civic engagement at existing programs
- Infuse civic engagement/political conversations into classroom assignments
  - Develop a list of courses that already do this
  - Create a Civic Engagement designation (courses/minor/diploma)

## 4. The Strategy Question

How can we build the institutional culture, infrastructure, and relationships needed to support learning that enables a thriving democracy?

- Increase support from administration
  - New UCF President, new focus on civic engagement?
- Build connections across campus
  - Gather campus partners and individuals doing CLDE work
- Change campus culture to get more people engaged and excited about voting



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## **Partners**

UCF is American's Partnership University. The institution is very focused on partnering with both internal and external entities to amplify our academic, economic, social, and cultural impact and reputation. The below is a non-exhaustive list of campus and community partners that will both directly implement and indirectly assist this plan.

## **Campus**

- Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving
- Career Services
- Center for Distributed Learning
- College Democrats
- College Republicans
- Experiential Learning
- Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
- Faculty Member Public Affairs
- First Year Experience
- Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities
- Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
- Housing and Residents Life
- Human Resources
- LEAD Scholars Academy
- LGBTQ+ Services
- Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government
- Multicultural Academic and Support Services
- Multicultural Student Center
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Office of Emergency Management
- Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Office of Student Involvement
- Office of the President
- Recreations and Wellness Center
- SGA Legislative Affairs Coordinator
- Social Justice and Advocacy
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Athletics
- Student Government
- Student Union
- Transfer and Transition Services
- UCF Black Faculty and Staff Association
- Wellness and Health Promotions



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## Community

- ALL IN Challenge
- American Democracy Project
- Association of American Colleges & Universities
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Bob Graham Center for Public Service at University Florida
- Campus Compact- Florida
- Campus Vote Project
- Dayton State
- Eastern Florida State College
- NASPA- CLDE
- Rollins College
- Seminole County Supervisor of Elections
- Seminole State
- Stetson University
- Students Learn Students Vote
- Supervisor of Elections Orange County, Florida
- The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)
- Valencia College



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## Checklist/Action Plan

### 1. Voter Registration:

#### *a. Focus on new voter registration*

- Send out a campus wide-email through Office of the President with information on voter registration and upcoming elections:
  - Online voter registration
  - Paper registration form
- Provide staffers/volunteers to distribute and collect voter registration forms during orientation, welcome week, move-in and similar programs
- Coordinate with existing voter registration efforts through Student Accessibility Services
- Coordinate with academic advisors to have conversations during advising appointments to answer questions about voter registration
- Partner with Housing and Residence Life to utilize Resident Assistants to encourage students living on campus to register to vote
- Partner with Fraternity & Sorority Life to register affiliated students in on-campus fraternity and sorority housing
- Coordinate with academic affairs to have faculty or a student representative to present on voter registration or distribute forms at the beginning or end of class
- Host a campus-wide event around programs such as National Voter Registration Day or Constitution Day
- Embed voter registration information in the school's homepage, course management systems, and other heavily trafficked online portals/sites operated by the school
- Social media voting campaigns
  - Videos with Knightro, student leaders, and administrators answering questions about voting and registration
- Designate individuals on campus as "experts" on voting who will serve as a resource for students, employees, and community members
- Create an optional syllabus clause for faculty regarding civic engagement and upcoming elections and voting deadlines through the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning

#### *b. Focus on existing voters who are new to Orlando*

- Send out an email to out of state students with information on how to update voter registration using their local or campus address
- Partner with Transfer and Transition Services to reach transfer student population
  - Send emails or materials to transfer students on how to update voter registration using their local or campus address
  - Provide voter registration opportunities during Transfer Orientations



*c. Focus on underrepresented racial minority voters*

In the 2016 general election, data from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 59.3% of citizens in Florida were registered to vote. When broken down by race, the data shows disparities amongst racial minority groups in regard to voter registration: White (62.2%), Black (47.2%), Asian (39.7%), and Hispanic – of any race (44.4%).

- Involve Office of Diversity and Inclusion Assistant Director of Hispanic Initiatives in voter registration and engagement efforts for Puerto Rican individuals who have relocated to Orlando and UCF
- Establish partnerships with Multicultural Academic and Support Services office and Multicultural Student Center to engage multicultural and first-generation students in conversations and events on voter registration and civic engagement
- Host events highlighting the importance of voting in civil rights/suffrage movements:
  - Asian History Month
  - Black History Month
  - Hispanic Heritage Month
  - LGBTQ+ History Month
  - Month of the Woman
- Include voter registration opportunities/discussions in existing office programs
- Present at multicultural student organization meetings and events to inform students on how to register

**2. Voter Engagement:**

*a. Organizing Events*

- Host a local candidate forum or issue forum on campus
  - Orange County mayoral candidates (2018)
  - County Commissioner candidates (2018)
  - Local/state ballot measures (2018)
  - Congress to Campus events
- Partner with local Supervisor of Elections offices to host outreach events open to students and community members
- Partner with UCF faculty to host discussions and seminars on voting, voting rights, and political engagement
- Partner with UCF Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving to contact any potential alumni who held or have run for political office



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- Partner with LEAD Scholars Academy to host voter engagement or civic engagement event during Leadership Week

*b. Marketing Efforts*

- Highlight the “Engaged Citizen Podcast” from Lou Frey Institute as a way to engage students in conversations on civic engagement topics
- Create a voter education website with comprehensive information for students
- Develop campaign about vote-by-mail or absentee voting options for students
- Distribute nonpartisan ballot guides or sample ballots
- Hang up posters, flyers, or utilize other types of campus media to inform students what candidates and issues are on the ballot in upcoming elections
- Distribute a message to Faculty about voting (including student vote guide)

*c. Student Organizations and Groups*

- Continue to grow connections with politically-affiliated RSOs
- Involve Student Government Association and SGA Agencies in voter engagement efforts
  - Partner with SGA to host events outlined previously

**3. Voter Mobilization:**

*a. Orlando Community Voter Engagement*

- Build connections with local Supervisor of Elections offices
- Develop community connections with local neighborhoods through voter registration drives and neighborhood canvassing efforts utilizing UCF student volunteers
- Partner with local colleges and universities on voter engagement efforts and events

*b. Access to Polling Places*

- Mobilize volunteers to provide rides to polling places for day-of or early voting
- Utilize campus staff volunteers to provide golf cart rides to on-campus polling places

**4. Development of Campus Civic Ethos (Long Term)**

- Increased support from administrators and UCF departments
  - Explore new opportunities for civic engagement and voting as new UCF President begins term in 2018



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- Explore opportunities for civic engagement through new UCF Downtown campus and future partnerships
  - Identify voter registration and voter engagement as high priorities for institution
- Infuse civic engagement across campus (curricular and co-curricular)
  - Increased courses including or focusing on civic engagement topics
  - Increased service-learning opportunities focused on civic engagement topics
  - Increased presence of civic engagement and voting in strategic planning efforts
- Increase opportunities for employees to participate in at least one civic engagement or community service experience annually
- Create voter registration campaign for employees and community members