

The Student Life Office at Arapahoe Community College embraces the principles of civic engagement and is undergoing a strategic realignment to fully incorporate civic engagement in our programmatic endeavors. The Student Life Office oversees activities, student clubs/organizations, student leadership development, Veterans services, student conduct and students of concern.

The newly stated (June 2016) Mission of the Student Life Office is

**To foster development, leadership, and engagement of our students
through activities, services and experiences.**

The Student Life Office combines student leadership, student organization/clubs and volunteerism together to create a more engaged student body and to enhance the students' classroom and social experiences. Two of the college's strategic directions are 'Collaborative Partnerships' and 'Student Success'. As outcomes for our College's strategic plan, Student Life will work to grow our network with local businesses and community organizations in the spirit of community engagement and responsibility, and "impact student's personal growth and development through relevant and meaningful co-curricular retention and completion endeavors". (<https://www.arapahoe.edu/sites/default/files/shared/images-pdf/aboutacc/accstrategic-planning-handbook.pdf>).

ACCs Student Life Office utilizes the American Association of Community Colleges definition of civic responsibility to inform our practices. Civic responsibility is the "active participation in the public life of the community in an informed, committed, and constructive manner, with a focus on the common good." Civic responsibility is cultivated through an engaged community. The ACC Student Life engagement initiatives desire to connect the student with the world beyond the potentially passive classroom settings and encourage them to be an active participant for the greater good of our society. (http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/horizons/Documents/cr_guide_2nd.pdf).

Prior to the 2016-17 academic year, our current democratic engagement working includes our long standing relationship with the League of Women Voters to offer voter registration drives every semester (Fall, Spring and Summer). Student Life collaborates with the Political Science department to engage each Fall and Spring semester in "Hot Topic" discussions on State and National political and social issues. Additionally, the ACC Student Government also connects at a State-level by electing a representative to the Colorado's State Student Advisory Council. For the upcoming 2016-17 academic year, the Vice-Chair for the Colorado State Student Advisory Council is an Arapahoe Community College Student.

Student Life annually supports various community service projects including a clothing swap, blood drives, food drives, wellness fairs, and an on-campus community garden. Student Life is also currently working with the Phi Theta Kappa, our International student honors society, to create a service project that creates a sustainable peer to peer network to assist students with college transition and wellness resources.

ACC has recently registered with the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) and received our first report regarding the voting of our students in 2012 and 2014. We have learned that our students are already getting out to vote!

- In the 2012 presidential election, **ACC students had a 60.9% voting rate of our entire student body.**
 - **90.7% of those registered-to-vote students actually voted in 2012!**
- The **2014 election voting rate was 38.3%**, not as high as the 2012 presidential election but still a very promising showing that we have a high level of voter engagement from our student body.

ACC recognizes our voting rates are higher than like institutions. We are very proud to know our students are already participating at higher rates. We do not want to rest on these numbers but continue to see them maintained and ideally grow with the 2016 election.

Goals For civic engagement in Fall 2016:

1. We are interested in learning the best practices to mobilize our students to vote and to find their voice in the democratic process whether at the local, state or national level.
2. We hope to gain guidance on how to both engage and sustain collaborative civic engagement opportunities with external community partners.
3. We desire to increase engage from our student body towards fully participating in service to their community, to include voter initiatives.

ACC Campus Votes Coalition - Lead by the Student Life Office, our coalition, consisting of faculty, staff and student, drive ACCs initiatives for democratic engagement.

Director, Student Life and Campus Vote Coalition Chair	Jennifer Husum
Student Life Specialist	Stephanie Beecher
Orientation and Engagement Specialist	Emma Guzman
Student Access Services	Alyssa Holland
Dean of Students	Dr. Dawn Zoni
Student Government (Student)	Tasha Estein
Political Science Department chair (Faculty)	Mary Carr
Marketing, Web and Communications	Jessica Horning

Colorado Organizer, Campus Election Engagement Project – Campus Compact of the Mountain West (Community Partner)	Ashley Edinger
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ACC Campus Vote Initiatives

Voter Registration

The League of Women Voters and the Campus Election Engagement Project agencies hosted several voter registration drives on our campuses. For the Fall semester, voter registration days will coincide with some of the signature events by the Student Life Office. Groups invited on our campuses to conduct voter registration drives are non-partisan.

Upcoming events:

August 24-25 10a.m. to 2p.m. – Campus Resource Fair and Voter Registration

September 27 10a.m. to 2p.m. – National Voter Registration Day – Partnered with the Arapahoe County Election Office.

ACC is a partner with nationalvoterregistrationday.org

October 31 12:00p.m. to 1:00p.m. – Costume Contest and Voter Registration

Hot Topics Discussions

Starting in 2015, the Student Life Office partnered with the Political Science Department to host “Hot Topic” discussions. These included topics on state & national political and social issues. From campaign finances to marriage to civic responsibility, these hot topic sessions draw in students, faculty and staff for a moderated panel discussion with experts sharing information and field questions.

Upcoming events:

September 21 1:00p.m. to 2:30p.m. – Media Campaigns, Realty vs. Perception

Attendance – 45 Students

October 13 1:00p.m. to 2:30p.m. – Understanding the Upcoming Ballot Measures – Presented by Colorado Secretary of State – Wayne Williams.

Attendance – 55 students

Constitution Day – Live!

In a rare treat, Teddy Roosevelt came to ACC to discuss the meaning of being a citizen of the United States and the responsibilities that come with it, and what to be wary of in politicians. Actor and Roosevelt expert, Don Moon, will portray Teddy. Constitution day is honored annually on September 17. This year it falls on a Saturday, so the event will be hold at ACC on a Wednesday to gain the most participation from our student body.

September 14 1:00p.m. to 2:30p.m.

Attendance – 38 students

Debate Watch Party

Students joined their classmates from both side of the aisle to hear from the Presidential candidates about their plans for the future of our country. Non-partisan Voter Guides and refreshments will be provided. <http://www.campuselect.org/nonpartisan-voter-guides.html>

September 26 6:00pm

Attendance – 12 students

Social Media Campaign and Electronic Communication

ACC uses one official Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest to promote information and resources to all of our students. These platforms will be utilized to convey necessary information and deadlines about the 2016 election.

Ballot access information and ballot drop-off locations will be shared via all social media platforms and to all student email accounts. Since Colorado is a “vote by mail” state, all registered voters receive their ballot to their home addresses. In review of our NSLVE data, we can see the impact of this 2013 change to the vote by mail system. In 2012, 0.1% of ACC students voted by mail and in 2014, 40.7% voted by mail. We predict this will continue to increase in the 2016 election.

Other examples of the information to be shared via social media are as follows:

The online voter registration form from CO Secretary of State’s office:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/voter-classic/pages/pub/olvr/verifyNewVoter.xhtml>

Important Dates: September 27 - National Voter Registration Day

October 17 - when most counties start to send out ballots

October 31 - lasts day to register to vote for the election - must pick up a ballot at a Voter Service and Polling Center.

November 8 - Election Day

Through the Higher Education Act, the National Voter Registration Act, and Colorado law, we know we are required to **distribute voter registration forms to students**. We will use our Student Email system to communicate to our students in early September to remind them to register, how to register/update information and to attend an upcoming registration drives on campus. This emailed reached approximately 11,000 students via their ACC student email account.

Community Partnerships

ACC has recently partnered with the Campus Election Engagement Project which is a national nonpartisan project that collaborates with colleges to mobilize students for electoral participation. <http://www.campuselect.org/> Their Colorado Organizer, Ashley Edinger, is a member of our ACC coalition. ACC has also partnered with National Voter Registration Day www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

Civic Engagement Events Calendar

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 First Day of Fall Sem.	23	24 Campus Resource Fair & Voter Registration Days	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Wellness Fair & Community Resources	13	14 Constitution Day – LIVE! 1p – 2:30p	15	16	17

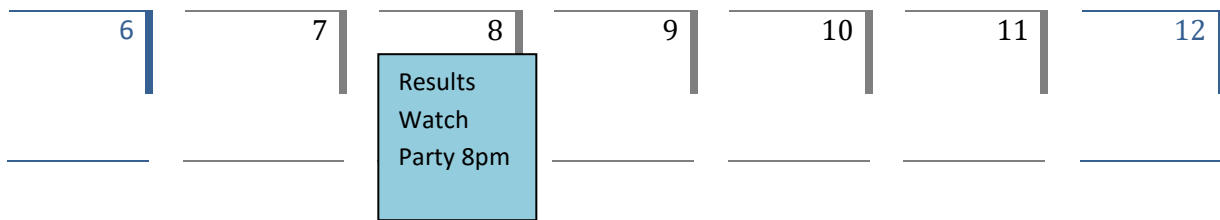
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Hot Topics: Media & Campaigns	Campus Clothing Swap		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	First Debate Watch Party	Nat. Voter Reg. Day!				

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
				Hot Topics: Understanding Ballot Measures 1pm			
16	17	18 No classes	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31	October 31 – Last day to register to vote by mail or online.					
	Costume Contest & Voter Reg.						

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5



Outcomes

A successfully civically engaged community does not happen overnight. With opportunities to learn, services on campus, and activities that promote awareness, ACC and the Student Life Office desire to grow the numbers of our students who are using their voice and vote to create and impact the great good of our community. At the conclusion, we would like to see a 2 to 3% increase in our NSLVE voter rate and an increased participation rate by registered voters.

Through this planning process, we have already established two new partnerships – National Voter Registration Day and the Campus Election Engagement Project. As a result of and through our Fall 2016 initiatives, we desired to make more partnerships with community agencies to promote civic responsibility for our students.