GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Plan (2020-21)

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# Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary .................................................................................3  
II. Leadership .............................................................................................3  
III. Institutional Commitment .................................................................5  
IV. Landscape (Achievements, Challenges) .............................................6  
V. Goals .....................................................................................................8  
VI. Strategy (for each Outcome Area) ......................................................10  
VII. Reporting and Evaluation .................................................................12  
VIII. Photo Gallery ....................................................................................13
I. Executive Summary

Preface: We are in a new and uncertain time in our nation’s history. There is so much in flux. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasingly deep and enflamed racial tensions in our nation, the GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition met recently to discuss ideas, strategies and solutions for the ongoing semesters for each of the outcome areas. There is still so much yet to be determined. As we shift in to this new and evolving reality, the CDEC has and will continue to determine next best steps to address these fundamental tensions and in both virtual and hybrid learning environments, as we shift our work in to the 2020-21 academic year.

Grand Valley State University (GVSU) is a four-year, master’s large public university established in 1960. With 25,000 plus students, two main campuses (one rural and one urban) and three satellite campuses, GVSU is an institution which holds civic learning and democratic engagement as core to our institutional mission and values. We recognize the central role of a public university in our democracy as a bastion for the free exchange of ideas, a place where students learn to think critically, are exposed to opposing viewpoints, and hone their skills of inquiry, dialogue and democratic engagement— all skills essential for the healthy functioning of a robust democracy.

After the fall 2016 election season, and in response to increased student interest in democratic engagement the GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) was formed, initially by GVSU staff in the Office of Student Life, the Division of Inclusion and Equity and Student Senate, along with several faculty partners. Together, this group developed the 2016-2017 Campus Democratic Engagement Plan (CDEP) which sought to “create a campus-wide civic ethos to prepare our students to be informed, engaged and empathetic citizens who understand and exercise their civic rights and responsibilities.” We focused our efforts on creating a campus culture wherein students recognize the importance of dialogue across difference, the power of student organizing and of their own voices, the legacy of student leadership in social change and the importance of actively engaging in the public sphere.

Over the past four years, the GVSU CDEP has informed the work of the GVSU Votes! initiative and the four outcome areas that the CDEC focuses on: (1) voter registration, (2) voter turnout, (3) voter education and (4) civility and dialogue. We view our annual CDEP as a living document that evolves to accommodate the ever-shifting dynamics of GVSU and the broader political landscape. Although the work of the CDEC began in 2016, it includes both short-term and long-term goals to be able to inform the work of the university for years to come.

The CDEP will be primarily implemented by the members of the CDEC and the staff of the Office of Student Life Community Service Learning Center. Leading up to the November 2020 general election, our team is focusing on creating relationships across campus in an effort to further institutionalize our civic engagement efforts.

II. Leadership

The GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) is composed of a passionate group of faculty, staff, students, and community leaders. Currently, the CDEC is led by Melissa Baker-Boosamra, Associate Director of Student Life for Civic Engagement and Assessment and Ryan Fritz, Campus Vote
Project Democracy Fellow and Vice President of Public Relations for Student Senate. Melissa serves with Ryan as a liaison between the CDEC and broader institutional civic engagement efforts. Our team is supported by entities across campus, including representatives from the Provost’s Office, Housing and Residence Life, Fraternity and Sorority Life and Student Senate.

The CDEC organizes our work around four main outcome areas; (1) Voter Education, (2) Voter Registration, (3) Voter Turnout, and (4) Civility and Dialogue. Team members are divided into four working groups, based on these outcome areas, and are responsible for meeting regularly, updating a shared project list, and continuing to move our planning and shared work forward. All are welcome to join the CDEC. Many of CDEC members have voluntarily joined the group, and others were strategically invited.

The CDEC membership has evolved since the early stages of our coalition meetings in the winter of 2017. Keeping that, and all that we have accomplished, in mind, we continue to move forward with this approach in mind: We recognize that coalition members who continue to participate are our most dedicated, passionate, and committed advocates. These are the people who have developed and will continue to implement our Campus Democratic Engagement Plan. We continue to acknowledge and appreciate the importance of shared ownership and buy-in of this democratic work. In order to sustain the participation of our core team members, we aim to thank and reward those with public accolades through sharing opportunities to present our work and through encouraging shared leadership. The CDEC Core Team will share the 2020-21 draft prior to its finalization and is currently planning to pull the CDEC back together in early Fall 2020. At that time, we aim to energize and mobilize the CDEC in preparation for a lively, engaged and celebratory fall election season! The CDEC Core Team will continue to assess CDEC membership and identify any gaps or strategic opportunities to reach out and include additional CDEC members.

- The GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Core Team (CDECT) meets once a month during the academic year and throughout the summer months. We will plan conference calls online in order to keep members up to speed. This team serves as the backbone for the CDEC and is tasked with leading, planning, and implementing the GVSU Campus Democratic Engagement Plan. The Core Team functions as the “boots on the ground” team. This team regularly communicates with one another, creates materials, volunteers to host events, recruits additional participants and volunteers, facilitates presentations, etc.
  - The CDEC Core Team is comprised of partners from across the institution, including representatives from the following units:
    - Campus Elections Engagement Project
    - Campus Vote Project
    - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
    - Division of Inclusion and Equity
    - Fraternity and Sorority Life
    - Office of Student Life
    - Provost’s Office
    - Student Senate
The Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) met throughout the fall and winter of the 2019-2020 academic year and will continue to do so through 2020-2021. This coalition serves as an informal advisory board, providing ideas, feedback and support to the CDECT. Additionally, the CDEC members serve as ambassadors for our shared work and allow us to reach out strategically across the university. We encourage CDEC members to serve as liaisons to their home unit or organization by promoting participation in and pushing for increased attendance at CDEC events and programs, and through inviting colleagues, students and campus partners to attend CDEC meetings.

- The CDEC includes a list of Core Team members from above, as well as representatives from the following campus areas or organizations:
  - Allendale Township Clerk
  - Alternative Breaks
  - Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies
  - College of Education
  - College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
  - College Republicans
  - Division of Inclusion and Equity
  - Fraternity and Sorority Life
  - Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies
  - Honors College
  - Housing and Residence Life
  - Ottawa County Bureau of Elections
  - Student Senate

III. Institutional Commitment

Grand Valley State University continues to be committed to supporting civic engagement efforts, as evidenced below.

- Civic engagement outcomes are embedded throughout the 2016-2021 GVSU Strategic Plan.

- GVSU is an active member of Campus Compact and was signatory on the 2017 Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Action Statement of Presidents and Chancellors. Through becoming a signatory on this statement, GVSU indicated our commitment to living out the values of community, inclusion and civic engagement. The GVSU Civic Action Plan provided a framework for how our institution would enact that commitment. The Civic Action Plan was developed in partnership with GVSU campus and community partners, and includes an outcome-specific plan to prepare students for community engagement and increasing student civic learning and democratic participation (Outcome 3.1 and 3.2).

- CLDE is supported through the GVSU Office of the Provost, the Director of Civic Learning and Community Engagement. There are several other positions which are resourced throughout the institution, which support civic and community engagement work at GVSU, including one full
time positions, one graduate assistant and four student employees in the Office of Student Life Community Service Learning Center; a full time position in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and positions throughout the colleges which have a portion of their time dedicated to civic engagement.

- The GVSU Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, in collaboration with faculty, staff and students, has developed a number of Student Learning Outcomes, based on the AAC&U LEAP Goals and VALUE Rubric for civic engagement. Those Student Learning Outcomes can be found here.

- GVSU proudly celebrates campus recognition for student voter engagement efforts through University Communications. Recent recognitions include: 2019 NASPA Gold Excellence Award for Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement; 2019 NASPA CLDE Collaborative Program Award; 2019 Campus Vote Project Voter Friendly Campus.

IV. Landscape

Institutional-level assessment data regarding the political climate and democratic engagement on campus currently includes the (1) National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), (2) NSSE Civic Engagement Module. Student learning outcomes around civic learning and democratic engagement are utilized in various courses and co-curricular programs throughout the institution, but are not currently compiled in a systematic way.

When the GVSU Votes! initiative began in 2016, GVSU had a total overall voting rate of 44.9%, only a 0.7% increase from 2012 and lagging behind the 50.4% national student voting rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Measures</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Rate</td>
<td>66.3%</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting Rate of Registered Students</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>53.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Student Voting Rate</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In response to 2016 NSLVE data and the 2016 Campus Democratic Engagement Plan, the GVSU Civic Action Plan and in response to national, state, local and institutional issues, civic learning and democratic engagement work at GVSU has evolved. The fruit of our efforts can be seen most clearly in our 2018 NSLVE Campus Report. During the 2018 Midterm Election, GVSU had a total overall student voting rate of 35.7%, a **21.1 point increase** from the 2014 Midterm Election! While the university fell just short of the national voting rate (39.1%), our efforts over the last two years have proven to be successful in moving the needle at GVSU and increasing student voting in all measures, as can be seen
above. With that said, we have a lot of work still to do! Our goals for this work, outlined below, continue to guide our work.

Achievements

1.) Building a Coalition: After the 2016 election, Grand Valley acknowledged the low levels of voter turnout and civic engagement on campus. With this, we created and formed the Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition (CDEC) in order to increase voter registration, voter education, voter turnout, and civility and dialogue.

2.) Civic Engagement Programs: Grand Valley offers programs that encourage civic engagement. Those programs include but are not limited to Democracy 101 events, the Be the Change podcast, and voter registration drives.

   **Democracy 101:** This program began in the fall of 2016 as a series of town hall discussions to help students navigate the jarring political landscape we found ourselves in. Since then, it has flourished into one of the CSLC’s most successful programs. Every semester this program offers a series of interactive, co-curricular lectures, panel discussions and workshops focused on the idea and practice of democracy. Past sessions have included topics like “Democracy in Ancient Athens,” “Why Democracy Needs the News,” and “PFAS in Michigan.” In recent semester’s, the CSLC has partnered with Grand Valley TV, the student-run television network at GVSU, to film the Democracy 101 series in an attempt to make our series more accessible to all.

   **Be the Change:** Be the Change is a student-run podcast that began in the winter semester of 2019 as a way for students and community members to share what they do to engage with their communities and strengthen our democracy. Hosted by CSLC Civic Engagement Associate and Campus Vote Project Fellow Jane Johnston, the podcast has highlighted hot-button issues such as immigration and climate change, and has featured high-profile guests such as Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and NPR host and correspondent Renee Montagne.

   **Voter Registration Drives:** Voter Registration Drives have been and continue to be an integral part of the GVSU Votes! initiative. These drives, which for the last year have been coordinated by Campus Elections Engagement Project Fellow Sam Jacobs, invite student organizations across campus to register students to vote and, when applicable, fill out absentee ballots. In 2019-21, Grand Valley registered 780 students to vote and assisted students with more than 200 absentee ballot requests. We aim to register upwards of 1000 people during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Challenges

1.) **On-campus polling location:** Grand Valley does not currently have a polling location on campus. We will continue to push the charge forward with local officials and work with our on campus partners and affiliates in order to ensure that voting is more accessible to students who live and stay on campus. Without compliance and assistance from the Allendale Charter Township Clerk, students may not be able to vote. Our challenge now is making sure that we provide a location
on campus that gives access to all students if they do not have access to our local polling location. We believe that not having access to a polling location on campus has significantly impacted our voter registration and voter turnout rates. Melissa Baker-Boosamra, the Student Body President, and student leaders from Grand Valley State University Student Senate continue to meet with the Allendale Charter Township Clerk to encourage partnership with this effort.

2.) **Sustaining involvement across campus:** While involvement during both midterm and general election years has remained strong, the CDEC core team has struggled to maintain this level of excitement and buy-in for the work during years without a major election cycle. This team continues to meet and strategize programs and initiatives to maintain involvement during off years, such as involvement in the programs mentioned above and broader initiatives on Civility and Dialogue and Free Speech and Inclusion.

3.) **Building and maintaining a broad and diverse coalition:** The CDEC core team is committed to creating a coalition that is inclusive of all students at Grand Valley and stretches across all campus divisions and departments, although this has proven to be a difficult task to achieve. We believe that a multitude of reasons have contributed to this, including a perceived lack of interest in the coalition from some entities across campus and scheduling conflicts. The CDEC remains persistent in finding ways to include these entities and ensure their voices are evident in our work.

4.) **Changes to voting process:** With the passage of [Proposal 3 in 2018](#) and continued efforts to increase voter engagement from the Michigan Secretary of State’s office, the GVSU Votes! initiative has been challenged to adjust to ever-changing voting laws in Michigan. While the CSLC staff and CDEC core team works diligently to continue to update and distribute accurate information to our campus community, we still face the spread of outdated or false information about student voting rights.

## IV. Goals

**Goal 1:** Ensure that every GVSU student has the opportunity to register and to vote in an effort to increase overall voter participation from 44.1% to 75% or above.

- **2018:** Recognizing that we set a very lofty goal for 2016, we now have the opportunity and responsibility to continue working to meet that goal for 2020. During the 2018-2019 school year, we registered 1,350 students to vote. On 2018 National Voter Registration Day, we registered 362 students, the most of any college campus in the state. Additionally, more than 200 students were provided with transportation to local polling places on Election Day through GVSU Voter Vans.

- **2019:** This work has continued into 2019. During our fall semester, we registered 589 new student voters through our National Voter Registration Day efforts and through partnerships with various student organizations, Ottawa County Elections Officials, and the Michigan Secretary of State’s office. This work was made easier by the implementation of Proposal 3, which—among other things—changed the register-to-vote by mail deadline from 30 days to 15 days before Election Day and extended the in person deadline to Election Day, as well as
enacting automatic voter registration and no-excuse absentee voting. Our work has additionally been impacted by the recent implementation of online voter registration in Michigan.

- **2020:** As we attempt to reach our lofty goal of 75% student voter participation, we will review our NSLVE data for both 2016 and 2018 with a coalition of campus partners and develop a coordinated strategy for reaching more students with our efforts. We will additionally continue to work with GV campus partners and Ottawa County elections officials to create an on-campus polling location ahead of the 2020 election. Finally, we will continue to adhere to the Michigan Secretary of State’s office Collegiate Voting Task Force recommendations, which was drafted by college students across the state including Grand Valley Student Body President Eric-John Szczepaniak and Grand Valley Student Senator and Ottawa County Elections Office Intern Will Thayer and plan to participate in the SOS’s new “Michigan Collegiate Voting Challenge” initiative.

**Goal 2: Provide opportunities for education and dialogue around public issues for the campus community during the 2016 election season and beyond.**

- **2018-19:** Students have continued to be provided multiple, diverse opportunities for education and dialogue around public issues. Through collaboratively organizing Democracy 101: A Series of Critical Conversations, the Community Service Learning Center podcast “Be the Change,” continued dialogue around media literacy and Elect Her, our campus community has had ample opportunity to explore and engage in dialogue around public issues.

- **2020:** Moving forward, we will continue to grow our civic learning opportunities. Democracy 101 has achieved prominence on campus, with regular attendance of 30+ students per session and high achievement of student centered civic learning outcomes. This program is an example of faculty-staff-student collaboration that provides an opportunity for campus dialogue about democratic values, principles and systems – and how we can and should participate therein. During the winter semester of 2020, Democracy 101 was centered around the theme “Deconstructing the American Dream.” The series tackled several several topics debunking the myth of the American Dream, including sessions including “Slavery and the American Dream,” and “The Mythology of the American Dream.” We see this series as a way to move beyond just “voter registration” on our campus. Additionally, the “Be the Change” podcast allows for students to discuss the work they are doing around our campus to create change in our community, and our focus on media literacy empowers students to think critically about how media and democracy interact in their day-to-day lives. We are developing a partnership with our student-led campus newspaper publication, the Grand Valley State Lanthorn, encouraging them to regularly host a civic engagement column that will feature relevant content and events happening on campus. Grand Valley prides itself on, and will continue to provide resources for, our positive relationship between student media and student-led civic engagement efforts.

**Goal 3: Build a coalition of partners from across campus to grow and sustain an ethos of civic learning and democratic engagement at GVSU.**
• **2018-19:** The success of the GVSU Votes! effort has been in large part due to the broad and committed campus support of student voter engagement and civic learning efforts. This commitment is based on our institution’s mission and values and has been cultivated through CLDE efforts, beginning in the Fall of 2016. Exemplifying the quality and effectiveness of this coalition building process, is our receipt of the 2019 NASPA Gold Excellence Award and the 2019 Silver Seal Award from the All-In Challenge. Additionally, our campus coordinated and hosted the 2018 Michigan Student Voter Summit with campuses across the state, and has previously been awarded the 2017 Outstanding Team / Project Award for GVSU Votes! Our coalition was developed and implemented by a wide representation of students, student organizations, faculty, staff, community partners and election officials.

• **2020:** Moving forward, we look forward to formally reconvening and growing our coalition in early January of 2020. We have a number of campus partners who have indicated an interest in serving as a part of this team and we will be convening to review our 2016 and 2018 NSLVE data and to begin planning for Fall 2020. During the summer of 2020 and into the fall, the core team will work to continue to broaden our coalition and continue to build relationships with Grand Valley’s Black and Multicultural Greek Councils, the Panhellenic Association and faculty senate and invite them into our work. In addition, we are gratefully partnering with Campus Vote Project and Campus Elections Engagement Project to host three student Democracy Fellows to assist in the growth of our Campus Democratic Engagement Plan and its implementation.

V. **Strategy**

Please see the [CDEC Project List and CDEC Events](#) list for information on programs / initiatives and strategies for meeting goals in the four outcome areas of (1) voter registration, (2) voter education, (3) voter turnout and (4) civility and dialogue and responses to the questions above.

The **Campus Democratic Engagement Coalition** is tasked with making sure our project and events list is completed throughout the duration of the academic year and ensure all four outcome areas are fulfilled. We rely on campus partners through facilitation and execution. The purpose behind this work is to make sure we have educated citizens and make sure students on campus know what resources can be available to them.

**Partnership with State and National Partners**

GVSU has partnered national organizations such as Campus Vote Project, Campus Vote Project, Students Learn Students Vote, Campus Compact in addition to collaborations with state entities like the Michigan Department of State and the Ottawa County Clerk’s office in an attempt to broaden the scope and reach of our work within and outside of the university. These partnerships are helpful in meeting goals in all four outcome areas as they have provided the university with a number of resources like on-campus Democracy Fellows and online and in-person professional development and strategic support in addition to opportunities to both host and attend state and national student civic engagement summits. These partnerships have been incredibly helpful as resources to place and organize fellows, help situate our campus within the larger movement to increase student democratic engagement, and support Grand Valley resources that highlight our work within the context of the larger movement of student democratic engagement. We look forward to continuing to utilize and strengthen these relationships in the years to come.
Outcome Area 1: Voter Registration

National Voter Registration Day: Grand Valley will host an event on campus to help get as many students as possible registered to vote on National Voter Registration Day 2020, in collaboration with NVRD, Students Learn Students Vote, the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, Campus Vote Project and Campus Election Engagement Project. GVSU will continue a collaborative effort with various offices on campus to march forward to provide an elevated experience for students and community members. For the past 4 years, GVSU has registered the highest number of voters on National Voter Registration Day of all colleges and universities in Michigan. As a result, during the most recent NVRD (2019) GVSU had the honor of hosting MI Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson for a campus visit.

Voter Registration Drives: Grand Valley's Community Service Learning Center (CLSC) will offer a position in their office that will primarily focus on partnering with student organizations on campus to co-host voter registration drives. Student organizations may bring content that applies to their specific club, but they will assist with the CLSC in getting as many students registered to vote as possible. While much of voter registration relies on in-person interaction, the CDEC has determined ways to reach students either virtually or in a socially distant and safe way. In place of typical voter registration drives during Fall 2020 semester, drives could instead be hosted in Student Living Centers with social distancing measures in place. Voter registration drives are usually offered during orientation, but this year the CDEC is providing students and parents with the online voter registration link and resources during online orientation. Another opportunity for registration is the annual Campus Life Night. This event will be held virtually and the CDEC will offer voter registration to all student participants. With classes being online, the CDEC will prepare pre-recorded presentations for professors to share to their students via Blackboard/online class format. With students potentially being able to come back to campus under social distancing measures, the CDEC would like to apply for the “Campus Takeover Mini Grant” to purchase masks and other safety equipment that may be needed for in-person registration. Additionally, departmental funds may be used to purchase GVSU swag like “I Voted” or “GVSU Votes” hand sanitizer, masks and t-shirts. Probably most important of all, the CDEC will be focusing heavy efforts on social media engagement to make sure students get registered and then get to the polls this November. An example of this would be to create a Snapchat account where we can post stories as they happen and interact with students through polls, live videos, hashtags and more.

Outcome Area 2: Voter Education

Democracy 101: Democracy has and will continue to serve as a venue for campus conversations about relevant public policy issues. This series has been utilized in the past to host sessions such as a “First Time Voter Workshop”, fora on ballot issues, the “Elect Her” workshop and more. Please see a full list of previous topics and video of those presentations here. The Democracy 101 series is a consistent workshops available through the CSLC, and is in the works of offering events such as debates, Netflix watch parties and more.

Lanthorn column: Plans are in place to collaborate with GVSU student media, in particular, the Lanthorn to feature a collaboratively written, regular column on issues of civic importance, which can be used to provide education on public issues and the democratic process to students.
Educational presentations and workshops: The Community Service Learning Center offers presentations and workshops on the following topics of relevance to voter education: Media Literacy, Dialogue Across Difference, Free Speech and Inclusion, Civic Courage and more. These presentations and workshops also contribute to Outcome Area 4: Dialogue Across Difference.

The “Be the Change” podcast is already an existing platform where students discuss relevant public issues. For 2020-21, we are working on creating a studio that is socially distant and safe and figuring out ways to do virtual interviews. DEM 101 workshops and presentations that were offered in-person throughout will now being translated to online formats in hopes of still reaching students in new, innovative ways.

In addition, tabling that is usually done in common areas around campus will be available online, where a video chat will be open for a couple hours and attendees are free to join at any point during the time window and ask questions.

Outcome Area 3: Voter Turnout

GVSU Voter Vans: Grand Valley will continue to offer students, community members, faculty, and staff, a ride to the local polling location on election day. This will help assist those who may not know where to go or how to get there. This will also provide a central location on campus for pick up and drop off for those who may not have access to the local polling location.

Campus Polling Location: Campus stakeholders are currently in conversation with township and county elections officials about the potential to host a polling location on GVSU’s campus. We currently have support and buy-in of a diverse group of stakeholders on campus, and as a result, we have space and parking reserved that are ADA compliant and which meet requirements of elections officials. We are currently in talks with the Township Clerk and Township Board about finalizing this agenda before August 2020 elections.

MI Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has recently pledged to send all registered voters in MI an absentee ballot application. We will focus our efforts on promoting this vote by mail option and educating students about the process to do so. The main tool for engagement will be direct communication to students through mail/social media/messaging whether it be through campus-wide communication, within a course or on social media apps. One way to do this creatively is to replace the “I Voted” sticker with an “I Voted” filter for students to use and interact with department accounts/create a fun incentive to vote and share. If students are able to vote in person, the CDEC is working with local township stakeholders to create a polling location on campus as well as provide transportation for students to polling locations within Allendale.

Outcome Area 4: Dialogue Across Difference

“Be the Change”

“Be the Change” is a student-led podcast, brought to the community by the Community Service Learning Center, which explores student-led civic engagement efforts and how students are using their voices to make change at GVSU and beyond. “Be the Change” is in its third season and is a platform that can be utilized to productive dialogue around a number of topics and issues.
A variety of events, workshops and programming are planned in the Dialogue Across Difference category of the CDEC’s plan, which is a general effort to reach all students of all walks of life across campus. Fortunately, many of these activities can be translated to online formats, much like the rest of the department’s work. If students are on campus in a hybrid situation, the CDEC plans to still have tabling on campus, but can transition to a virtual format if needed. An example of this is the Change my Mind event, which is an interactive table where students are encouraged to discuss topics that matter to them. If not able to take place in person, the event could be translated to an online format similar to the other tabling events. During summer of 2020, we are developing a series of workshops that can be made available online and in person around the topics of “ Civility and Dialogue: Challenging Definitions”, “ Engaging in Productive and Respectful Dialogue” and “ Free Speech and Inclusion on Campus”. We currently have workshop content on the topic of “ Media Literacy”, “ Voter Engagement” and “ Civic Courage” that will also be made available in an online format. In The Lanthorn student newspaper, an effort to provide relevant candidate information will be made online and in print. Other events and speakers planned for campus are being translated to virtual formats to reach students in the best way possible.

VI. Reporting and Evaluation:

We will continue assess the impact of our work against the goals identified and outlined above. Grand Valley State University will submit a 2020-2021 report to Campus Vote Project and the All-In Campus Challenge in early winter of 2021. We will utilize internally tracked data (number of voter registrations processed, participation rates at proposed events and programs, civic learning outcomes achieved, and number of students transported to the polls). Once we have access to the 2020 Presidential Election NSLVE data, we will share this information with the Campus Vote Project and the All-In Challenge, as well as with campus and community stakeholders. Further, this report will be submitted to the Grand Valley State University Provost’s Office for contributions to GVSU’s Strategic Plan and GVSU’s Civic Action Plan. Reporting will be available to the public.
VII. Photo Gallery

Democracy 101: “Elect Her”, co-sponsored by Running Start, featuring six female-identified state, county and local elected officials for this informative and inspiring workshop, encouraging young women to run for office.

“Democracy Wall” interactive activity
Democracy 101: Youth Political Engagement panel

Democracy 101: “PFAS in Michigan”
“Be The Change” Podcast Host Jane Johnston with NPR journalist, Renee Montagne

National Voter Registration Day 2018

GVSU Votes! 2019

National Voter Registration Day 2019
National Voter Registration Day 2019

National Voter Registration Day 2019 with MI Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, reps from Campus Voter Project, Campus Elections Engagement Project, GVSU Votes and Louie the Laker

Michigan Student Voter Engagement Summit 2019

Hosted by GVSU, in partnership with Campus Vote Project, Campus Elections Engagement Project, Students Learn Students Vote, All In Campus Democracy Challenge and MI Department of State.