

OUR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY

2018



Stony Brook
University

DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement from the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University:

Stony Brook University students voted in the November 2012 Presidential Election at a rate of 43.2 percent, which was 3.7 points lower than all colleges and universities nationwide. In the November 2014 Midterm Election, students voted at a rate of 12.7 percent, which was 6.1 points lower than all colleges and universities nationwide.

Since then, Stony Brook has transformed its commitment to democratic engagement for all undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

In 2015, Stony Brook established a partnership with The Andrew Goodman Foundation and its Vote Everywhere program. This partnership has been nationally recognized for its impact on college student democratic engagement in just 18 months. This includes:

- Registered **over 13,000** undergraduate, graduate and professional students to vote
- Increased voter turnout among all students by **23%** from 2012 to 2016
- Achieved a voter turnout rate of **86%** at its on-campus polling site in 2016, which was the highest of any polling site in the nation for the Presidential Election
- Institutionalized voter registration to ensure that **all students** can register to vote before their first day of classes
- Introduced **three annual \$1,000 scholarships** for students committed to civic justice

Looking to the future, Stony Brook will seek to capitalize on this momentum by increasing college student democratic engagement in non-Presidential Elections, enhancing dialogues about issues affecting the community, and providing opportunities for students to effect positive change in their communities through awareness, advocacy and action.

This important work will have a new home at Stony Brook with the anticipated launch of its Center for Civic Justice in Spring 2018. We are excited about the possibilities that this new identity will allow for both Stony Brook and the global community.

DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS: 2012 vs. 2016

2012

2016

Stony Brook University
student voter turnout rate

43.2

53.2 (+10)

Stony Brook's student voter turnout rate increased by 10 points from 2012 to 2016, which is an increase of 23 percent. This rate includes registered and non-registered student voters.

National average student voter
turnout rate at all institutions

46.9 (-3.7)

50.4 (+2.8)

Stony Brook's student voter turnout rate was 3.7 points below the national average in 2012, and it was 2.8 points above the national average in 2016, which is a 6.5-point change. This rate includes registered and non-registered student voters.

Number of students who voted
at Stony Brook University's on-
campus polling site

2109

3002 (+893)

The number of students who voted at Stony Brook University's on-campus polling site increased by 893 from 2012 to 2016, which is an increase of 42 percent. Stony Brook University's polling site was introduced in 1986, and 3002 student voters is the most in its 30-year history.

Percent-change in number of
eligible student voters vs.
percent-change in number of
student voters

17,944

20,859 (+16.2%)

7758

11,099 (+43.1%)

The percent-change in the number of eligible Stony Brook student voters from 2012 to 2016 was 16.2, whereas the percent-change in the number of Stony Brook student voters was 43.1, which is 2.66 times greater and statistically significant.

YEAR IN REVIEW: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

2008 new Seawolves register to vote in just six weeks

From early July to mid August 2017, our Vote Everywhere team was focused on ensuring that each and every new first-year student at Stony Brook had an opportunity to register to vote before their first day of classes. Over the course of 13 days, 2008 new first-year students were successfully registered to vote.

Why does this matter? As a result of our previous work, the number of first-year students who voted increased by 6.4 points from 2012 to 2016, which is an increase of nearly 23 percent. For reference, 874 first-year students voted in 2016, whereas 577 voted in 2012.

Over 150 students, faculty and staff engaged in Stony Brook's first large-scale Community Dialogue, which focused on *Immigration in America* (right)



Vote Everywhere Ambassadors present at regional conference for the first time



Our three Vote Everywhere Ambassadors presented at the Long Island Council of Student Personnel Administrators (LICSPA) Annual Conference in November 2017. Titled "*Democratic engagement on college campuses: Time to raise the bar*", they shared Stony Brook's democratic engagement transformation and how other institutions on Long Island can enhance their commitment to this important work.

Left to right: Anthony Raymond, Yark Beyan and Elif Onay were the only undergraduate students to present at this year's LICSPA Annual Conference

500 students attend Stony Brook's first two large-scale Community Dialogues

To increase student awareness of issues affecting the community, Stony Brook hosted two large-scale Community Dialogues. The Community Dialogues provide an opportunity to discuss the different options and approaches to address these issues, and to prioritize the needs of the community related to these issues.



Facilitated by faculty and staff, over 300 students participated in our second large-scale Community Dialogue on *Safety and Justice*

In September 2017, with the support of faculty and staff as facilitators, over 150 students participated in our first large-scale Community Dialogue on *Immigration in America*. Student considered three different options to address issues related to Immigration in America: 1) welcome new arrivals; 2) protect our borders; and 3) promote economic prosperity.

In November 2017, over 300 students participated in our second large-scale Community Dialogue on *Safety and Justice*. Student considered three different options to address issues related to Safety and Justice: 1) enforce the law together; 2) apply the law fairly; and 3) de-escalate and prevent violence.

Students review the different ways in which our community can address issues of *Safety and Justice*, and consider each option's benefits, tradeoffs and drawbacks



2018 DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Increase Stony Brook student voter turnout rate for the 2018 Midterm Election

In the November 2014 Midterm Election, Stony Brook students voted at a rate of 12.7 percent, which was 6.1 points lower than all colleges and universities nationwide.

For the November 2018 Midterm Election, Stony Brook will seek to increase its student voter turnout rate to 25 percent, which is a percent-change increase of nearly 50.

2. Provide comprehensive access to voter education in advance of 2018 Primary and Midterm Election

Stony Brook will provide numerous opportunities for students to become well-informed members of the electorate in advance of this year's Primary and Midterm Election.

To do so, Stony Brook will:

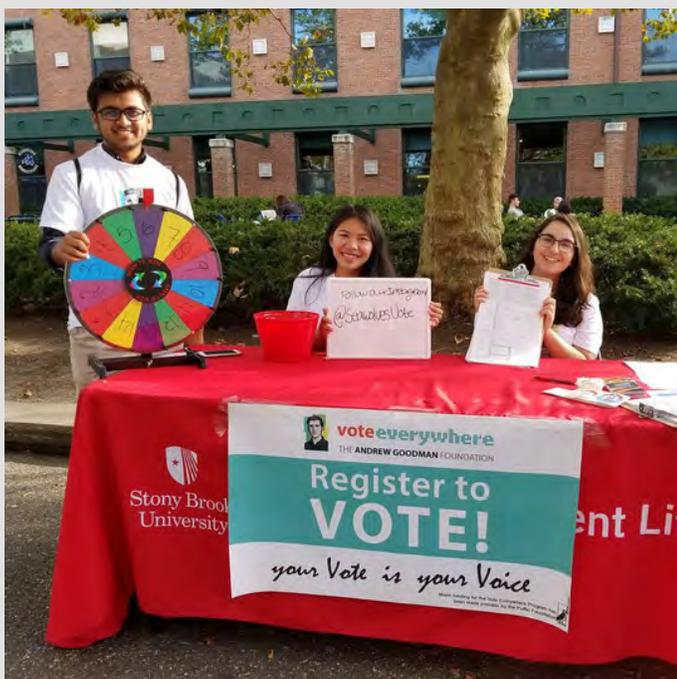
- Host large-scale Community Dialogues about issues affecting the community
- Introduce student-led Knowledge Communities that will foster new and ongoing dialogue and action development related to these issues
- Provide weekly on-campus and virtual experiences to understand the importance of students using their vote as their voice as a member of the electorate
- Host town-style forums for local, state and federal candidates to have an open dialogue about issues affecting the community and how they will seek to address these issues



Two of Stony Brook's Vote Everywhere Ambassadors registering students to vote at New Student Orientation

3. Preserve and protect the nationwide right to vote for each and every Stony Brook student

Stony Brook is proud to have one of the most globally diverse student populations in the nation, and with representation from 49 different states, several U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. This means that there is a need to increase the accessibility of the right to vote for students who want to have their voices heard no matter where they are from.



Three members of Stony Brook's Vote Everywhere team registering students to vote, and educating them about their rights, on Constitution Day

- To do so, Stony Brook will:
- Provide students with regular access to absentee ballots in all 50 states, all U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia
- Inform students about important information and deadlines related to registering to vote, and to vote in all 50 states, all U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia
- Educate students about ballot measures that are being voted on as information becomes available in all 50 states, all U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia

4. Collaborate with colleges and universities nationwide to transform democratic engagement

Stony Brook has been nationally recognized for its impact on college student democratic engagement, and is committed to sharing its story so that other colleges and universities nationwide can transform democratic engagement on their campuses as well.

Members of the Vote Everywhere at Stony Brook University team will present a general session at the 100th NASPA Annual Conference in March 2018.

2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND INITIATIVES *

January

Week of January 22 - Launch of the Center for Civic Justice website
January 24 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative

February

February 5, 19 - Knowledge Community on *Immigration in America*
February 6, 20 - Knowledge Community on *Safety and Justice*
February 7, 14, 21, 28 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative
February 14 - Community Dialogue (issue TBD)

March

March 5, 19 - Knowledge Community on *Immigration in America*
March 6, 20 - Knowledge Community on *Safety and Justice*
March 7, 21, 28 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative
Week of March 26 - Commit to Your Community (more information TBD)
March 26, 27, 28, 29 - SPLC film showcase (more information TBD)

April

April 2, 16, 30 - Knowledge Community on *Immigration in America*
April 2 - Community Dialogue (issue TBD)
April 3, 17 - Knowledge Community on *Safety and Justice*
April 4, 11, 18, 25 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative

May

May 1 - Knowledge Community on Safety and Justice
May 2 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative
May 2 - Launch of #SeawolvesEngage Summer Campaign

* The dates for these events/initiatives are tentative and pending confirmation from various campus partners

June

June 8, 12, 15, 19, 21, 26 - Voter registration at new student orientation for transfer students

July

July 5 - Voter registration at new student orientation for student-athletes and students in the University Scholars program

July 6 - Voter registration at new student orientation for students in the University Scholars program and the Women in Science and Engineering program

July 10 - Voter registration at new student orientation for students in the University Scholars program

July 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, 26, 27, 31 - Voter registration at new student orientation for first-year students

August

August 2, 3 - Voter registration at new student orientation for transfer students

August 14 - Voter registration at makeup new student orientation for first-year students

August 17 - Deadline to register to vote for Local and State Primary on September 11

Week of August 27 - Launch of "*Introduction to Civic Justice*" course

August 29 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative

September

September 4, 18 - Knowledge Community on *Safety and Justice*

September 5, 12, 19, 26 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative

September 5, 12, 19, 26 - Weekly "What's Up!" session (discuss current national issues)

September 5, 19 - Knowledge Community on TBD

September 6, 20 - Knowledge Community on TBD

September 10 - GOTV initiatives for Local and State Primary

September 11 - Local and State Primary

Week of September 17 - Constitution Week

September 17 - Knowledge Community on *Immigration in America*

September 17 - Community Dialogue (issue TBD)

September 25 - National Voter Registration Day Campaign

September 27 - SPLC film showcase (more information TBD)

* The dates for these events/initiatives are tentative and pending confirmation from various campus partners

October

Week of October 1 - GOTV / voter registration initiatives for General (Midterm) Election
October 1, 15, 29 - Knowledge Community on *Immigration in America*
October 2, 16, 30 - Knowledge Community on *Safety and Justice*
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Weekly "What's Up!" session (discuss current national issues)
October 3, 17, 31 - Knowledge Community on TBD
October 4, 18 - Knowledge Community on TBD
Week of October 8 - GOTV / voter registration initiatives for General (Midterm) Election
October 13 - Deadline to register to vote for General (Midterm) Election on November 6
Week of October 15 - GOTV initiatives for General (Midterm) Election
October 17 - SPLC film showcase (more information TBD)
Week of October 22 - GOTV initiatives for General (Midterm) Election
Week of October 29 - GOTV initiatives for General (Midterm) Election
October 29 - Town forum with candidates for elected office (more information TBD)

November

November 1, 15, 29 - Knowledge Community on TBD
November 1 - Community Dialogue (issue TBD)
November 5 - GOTV / voter registration initiatives for General (Midterm) Election
November 6 - General (Midterm) Election
November 7, 14, 28 - Weekly voter education and engagement initiative
November 7, 14, 28 - Weekly "What's Up!" session (discuss current national issues)
November 7 - Post-General (Midterm) Election community debrief
November 12, 26 - Knowledge Community on *Immigration in America*
November 13, 27 - Knowledge Community on *Safety and Justice*
November 14, 28 - Knowledge Community on TBD

December

December 5 - Launch #SeawolvesEngage Winter Campaign
December 6 - SPLC film showcase (more information TBD)

* The dates for these events/initiatives are tentative and pending confirmation from various campus partners

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Internship Program

Each Fall and Spring semester, we offer at least three undergraduate students who are passionate about democratic engagement and civic justice an opportunity to earn course credit toward graduation for supporting our work in very intentional ways as interns.

For 15 weeks, these interns contribute to our long-term vision to cultivate, develop and empower Seawolves to improve the human condition through awareness, advocacy and action. Whether it be registering students to vote or conducting research about barriers to civic participation in the local community, our interns are working hard to make a positive difference.

At the end of each semester, our interns have an opportunity to share the progress they made toward resolving an issue they are passionate about in the community. Beyond the internship program, these students have an opportunity to continue their work on a voluntary basis.



Two members of Stony Brook's Vote Everywhere team engage students on Constitution Day

If you have questions about our internship program or any available volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.stonybrook.edu/vote or email us at voteeverywhere@stonybrook.edu.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our team partners with individual students and many student organizations throughout the year to advance our commitment to democratic engagement.

We always welcome opportunities for new partnerships, so if you or your organization is passionate about this work, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

CONTACT US AND STAY ENGAGED

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vote everywhere

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