



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

All In Campus Challenge

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: On November 6, 2018 the state of Texas will hold elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, United States Congress and Senate, and Texas Supreme Court. Local elections are also being held for county commissioner and school board representatives. The results of these elections will impact the state in many ways. Democratic engagement, through higher voter turnout rates, is important for this and all elections. Southwestern University contributes to higher education's role in promoting civic learning and democratic engagement through coursework, cross-campus collaborations, community engagement, student leadership development, and diversity education.

Southwestern's action plan was drafted by the co-chairs: Sarah Brackmann, Jason Chapman, and Emily Sydnor. Our plan focuses on increasing voter registration, promoting voter education, and encouraging voter participation.

Initial programming will start in August during Freshman Orientation and continue through voting day on November 6th.

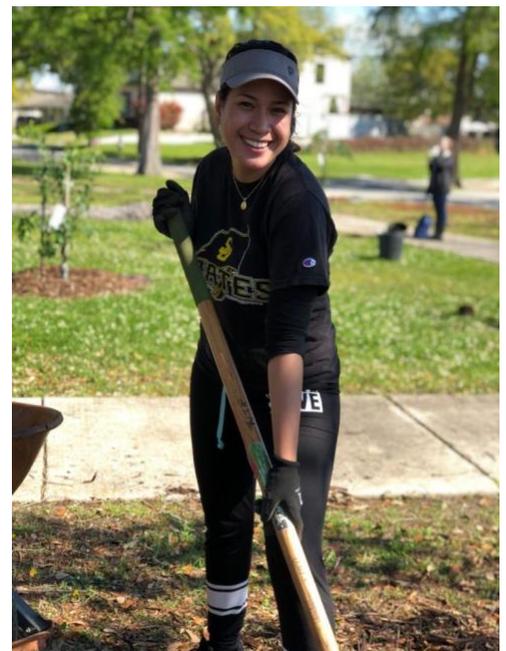
LEADERSHIP: Academic Affairs and Student Life collaborate on programming to promote curricular and co-curricular civic learning and democratic engagement. Our committee includes staff, faculty, and student representatives, and includes a variety of campus perspectives.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Sarah Brackmann, Director of Community-Engaged Learning; Jason Chapman, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Residence Life; Emily Sydnor, Assistant Professor of Political Science.

Partnering Campus Departments:

- Community-Engaged Learning (CEL),
- Office of Student Activities (OSA)
- Office of Diversity Education (ODE)
- Department of Political Science
- Residence Life

Working Group Members will be recruited over the summer and will meet in early September to discuss a work plan. Potential members include the following individuals:



- Terri Johnson, Assistant Dean for Multicultural Education
- Natalie DeCesare, Southwestern University Newman Civic Fellow
- Camille Martin, SU Senior
- Alesha Lewis, SU Sophomore
- Teresa Cropper, SU Junior
- CDSJ Representative
- Student Government Association Representative
- Philosophy Club Representative
- Pi Sigma Alpha Representative

COMMITMENT: Southwestern University’s mission statement, “fostering a liberal arts community whose values and actions contribute to the well-being of humanity,” prompts a community of scholarship and learning that facilitates social activism in the pursuit of justice and the common good. In addition, the University’s core values of “fostering diverse perspectives, being true to oneself and others, respecting the worth and dignity of persons, and encouraging activism in the pursuit of justice and the common good” promote democratic engagement, both on campus and beyond.



Academic Affairs and Student Life collaborate on programming to promote curricular and co-curricular civic learning and democratic engagement. Spring Breakaway is a collaboration across campus that encourages students to consider active citizenship through direct service and reflection during spring break.

Through community-engaged learning classes and a variety of programs, the **Office of Community-Engaged Learning** fosters the following civic learning outcomes:

- Diversity of communities and cultures
- Analysis of knowledge
- Civic identity and commitment
- Civic action and reflection
- Awareness of civic contexts/structures

Other Departments Supporting Democratic Engagement:

- **The Office of Diversity Education (ODE)** promotes diversity and social justice events on campus. In the past, they have hosted national leaders such as Dolores Huerta and Angela Davis, difficult dialogue circles, brave space training, and social economics workshops that promote deeper civic learning on issues of power and privilege. The ODE also advises the Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice which includes nine cultural, identity, and social justice based groups within the coalition: Pirates for Pride, E.B.O.N.Y., Kappa Delta Chi, Hispanics and Latinos Organization, SU NATIVE, Asian Student Association, SU Planned Piratehood, Students for Environmental Activism and Knowledge, and Muslims and Allies. Students in these groups engage in activism in the campus community, and within our local and regional communities.
- **Political Science-** Students enrolled in Dr. Emily Sydnor’s American Politics class engage for four hours in a political or civic activity, such as attending city-wide meetings, volunteering for local political parties, or participating in Southwestern’s Voter Friendly Campus initiative. Since 2012, students enrolled in CEL responded in agreement that these courses have benefitted civic learning outcomes such as helping them better understand people of different ages, abilities, cultures, or economic backgrounds (85%) and encouraging them to seek additional opportunities to learn about people of different ages, abilities, cultures, or economic backgrounds (70%).

- **The Office of Student Activities (OSA)** advocates, educates, and mentors students by promoting leadership opportunities, advising student organizations, and facilitating student engagement. Specifically, OSA supports student leadership in organizations such as the College Republicans, College Democrats, and Young Americans for Liberty in ways that foster political discussion across campus. They also help coordinate voter registration drives and polling locations on campus.

LANDSCAPE: Our Paideia liberal arts curriculum encourages students to draw connection between their academic coursework to other campus life experiences and broader social issues and problems. In addition, all students take at least one course that provides them an opportunity to understand how difference is used in the maintenance of structures of power and inequality, as well as activism in which people engage to promote social justice. Institutional surveys confirm that the connection between our academic curriculum and co-curricular opportunities are promoting meaningful experiences for students.

Community-Engaged Learning is offered in a variety of courses with 75% of the class of 2018 taking at least one course before graduating.



Southwestern University supports learning wherever it takes place- residence halls, student organizations, internships, or the dining hall. **Mosaic** is Southwestern Student Life's intentionally designed approach to these co-curricular experiences. Five key areas of development include the following:

- Make Meaning of the Academic Experience
- Develop 21st Century Skills
- Shape Identity
- Construct a Well-Managed Life
- Contribute as a Global Citizen

According to the 2017 NSSE Snapshot, 73% of SU students reported that their experience at SU contributed to their knowledge, skills, and personal

development of being an informed and active citizen.

TEXAS LANDSCAPE: We are working on an education plan to make our students aware of voter identification laws with the help of the Williamson County Elections Department and the Texas Secretary of State. Williamson County has also agreed to allow SU to have a polling location for early voting. On Election Day, we will run a shuttle from our campus to the local polling location.

GOALS: The University seeks to involve students in finding a personal and social direction for life, developing more sensitive methods of communication, cultivating those qualities and skills which make for personal and professional effectiveness, and learning to think clearly and make relevant judgments and discriminations.

Southwestern's Core Values promote the following actions:

- Cultivating academic excellence
- Promoting lifelong learning and a passion for intellectual and personal growth
- Fostering diverse perspectives
- Being true to oneself and others
- Respecting the worth and dignity of persons
- Encouraging activism in the pursuit of justice and the common good.

SU's short-term goals for the 2018 election include the following:

- Promote civil, public discourse
- Increase voting rate among registered voters (2016- 60.5%)
- Increase voter registration of underrepresented or marginalized groups

STRATEGIES

We've used past voting data and SU campus goals to draft the following strategies:

Voter Registration

We will host several different voter registration drives. In addition to broad campus registration drives, we will also promote voter registration during freshman orientation and at different campus events. We plan to collaborate with the Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice, as well as campus fraternities and sororities.

Timeline: August 17th-October 5th

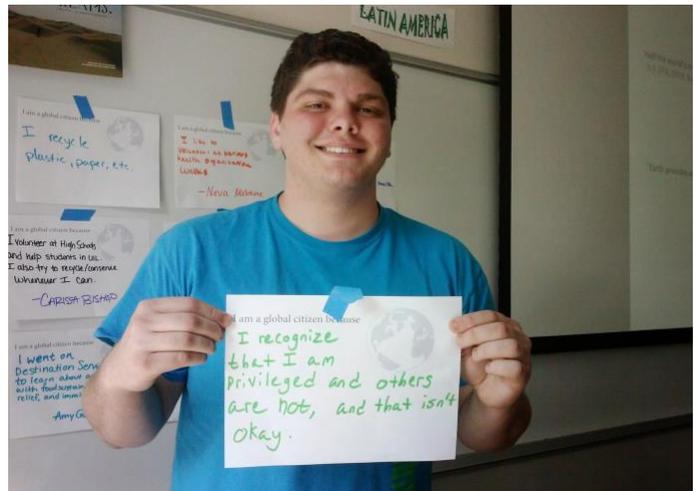
Location: Bishop's Lounge, Robertson Center

Voter Education

We strive to teach our students the importance of voting and being informed about the issues. We encourage students to be educated voters not only about who the candidates are, but also on the issues that students are passionate about changing. We seek to achieve this goal by offering information in a variety of ways- campus speakers, salons, social media, and a document highlighting the local sample ballot. In addition, a debate watch party will be hosted by Dr. Sydnor.

Timeline: August 17th-November 6th

Location: Various locations throughout campus



Ballot Access

We seek to educate students on local voting locations. Most college students believe that they can only vote where they grew up or where the address on their driver's license is, but our plan focuses on encouraging students to understand that they can vote locally if they choose.

Timeline: August 17th-November 6th

Get Out the Vote

Southwestern will host two early voting opportunities on campus. We also plan to promote early voting and provide shuttle service on election day. We will also hand out buttons that say "#SUVOTES18!" as a reminder for students to vote.

Timeline: October 22-November 6th

Location: Bishop's Lounge, Voting Precincts throughout Georgetown

REPORTING

The Co-Chairs will share this action plan with Southwestern's Marketing and Communication Office. In addition, the OCEL will post it on their campus website. Collaborating offices and departments will also share via social media.

EVALUATION

We plan to conduct an exit poll for students doing early voting on campus. A draft of exit poll questions will be compiled by students in Dr. Sydnor's American Politics course. In addition, we will continue to analyze and incorporate data from the NSLVE report.