2018 Campus Vote Initiative: Creating Lifetime Citizens through Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

PROJECTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

All In
This organization recognizes colleges and universities for their commitment to increasing student voting rates. Its national award program encourages institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship. Hundreds of colleges and universities have joined the Challenge and have committed to making democratic participation a core value on their campuses. Together, they are cultivating generations of engaged citizens who are essential to a healthy democracy.

https://www.allinchallenge.org/

Six Oklahoma Institutions are currently members of All In:
Northeastern State University, Oklahoma City University, Rogers State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and University of Oklahoma.

Congratulations to Northeastern State University and the University of Central Oklahoma, Bronze Seal winners in the ALL IN Challenge for 2016 voter participation!

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Last week in Washington, D.C., the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge hosted its first-ever awards ceremony to recognize colleges and universities that achieved high student voter participation in 2016. In all, more than 30 awards were announced, including the Highest Voting Rate for University of Missouri – Saint Louis and the Most Improved Voting Rate for Northwestern University. ALL IN also recognized high-performing campuses with a Gold Seal (70+% voting rate), Silver Seal (60-69%), and Bronze Seal (50-59%).

Campuses were recognized based on their student voting rates as measured by the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE). Campuses that take part in NSLVE are not required to share their results, and individual campus voting rates are not made public by NSLVE researchers. However, campuses that choose to participate in the ALL IN Challenge do agree to enroll in the study and to share their NSLVE results. Over 1,000 colleges and universities are currently enrolled in NSLVE, including 8 in Oklahoma. About 300 campuses take part in the ALL IN Challenge.
The Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE), part of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University, serves as a leading venue for research, resources, and advocacy on college student political learning and engagement in democratic practice. Through research, resource development, and convening, we strive to inform and shift college and university priorities, practices, and culture to strengthen democracy and advance social and political equity.

Founded in 2015, IDHE was created to address a pressing need in higher education. In 2012, the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement published *A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy’s Future*, which calls for investing in higher education’s capacity to make educating young people for democracy a widely shared national priority and urges institutions to make civic learning and democratic engagement expected parts of every college student’s education in the 21st century. In 2014, the White House and Tisch College hosted a national, invitational conference of educators and policy makers to further discuss the potential of civic learning in higher education.

The Institute’s signature initiative is the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), which offers colleges and universities an opportunity to learn their student registration and voting rates and, for interested campuses, a closer examination of their campus climate for political learning and engagement, as well as correlations between specific student learning experiences and voting. More than 1,000 campuses across the country are enrolled in this first-of-its-kind study which provides us a research database that includes nearly half of all college students in the United States. Participation is free, easy, and protective of student privacy.

Eight Oklahoma institutions of higher education currently participate in NSLVE:
Cameron University, Langston University, Northeastern State University, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma, and University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma

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**Generation Citizen**
[https://generationcitizen.org/](https://generationcitizen.org/)
This organization works primarily with middle school and high school social studies classes to inspire civic participation through its Action Civics curriculum and professional development, all of which are aligned with state standards (teacher packet, student guides, assessment guide, material for coaches). Its three goals for students are Civic Knowledge, Civic Skills and Civic Motivation. Through student-driven projects, youth learn how to effect policy change by engaging with local government and leaders to solve community problems. All issues addressed as projects must be local. **Higher education’s role comes in as students volunteering as democracy coaches, with involvement broken down by semester.** See [https://generationcitizen.org/our-programs/democracy-coach-model/](https://generationcitizen.org/our-programs/democracy-coach-model/). For additional
information also please see the democracy coach model at Gen Citizen’s Go Beyond the Ballot website: http://www.gobeyondtheballot.org/. At least two OK institutions of higher education are already involved with Gen Citizen.

While Gen Citizen prioritizes low-income schools, the Oklahoma Executive Director, Amy Curran, would be happy to talk to any schools and higher education institutions about opportunities. It is involved in the OKC schools, Mid-Del and Norman, Enid and Chickasha. It is also talking to the Lawton and Tulsa public schools, and is partnering with OU’s K-20 Center. In terms of higher education, Ms. Curran is available for talks, panels on civic education (think Constitution Day, etc.), and also can do a civic trivia night.

Contact
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