

## CSU's Office of Civic Engagement 2020 Democracy Action Plan Showcased by ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

The CSU Office of Civic Engagement's 2020 Democracy Action Plan to increase college student voter participation, civic and community engagement, and citizenship readiness was deemed to be one of the strongest submissions by ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. The plan was developed by Anita Ruf-Young, OCE Program Coordinator and Interim Director, and Nora Walsh, OCE Graduate Assistant. This plan was recognized by the national organization, ALL IN Democracy Challenge, as one of the top 10 strongest plans out of 170 submitted for 2020. The CSU Democracy Action Plan is featured on the All IN Democracy Challenges website for other universities to use as a reference, <https://www.allinchallenge.org/resource-hub/action-plan-examples/>. This Democracy Action Plan serves as CSU's roadmap for integrating and institutionalizing citizenship readiness into CSU's campus culture.

*The OCE takes multiple steps to promote and ensure active citizenship readiness throughout CSU's campus, Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County. **These steps include:***

1. Recently developed a **"Vikes Vote"** curriculum which is currently being piloted in 8 FYE ASC101 Introduction to University Life sections and will be formally rolled out to over 65 sections in fall of 2020. The initiative is designed to educate CSU students on the importance of voting, how to vote, and how to be a civically engaged citizen.
2. Coordinated a **campus wide voter registration campaign**, in partnership with NVRD.org, Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Faculty Member Mittie Jones, The Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters, the 2020 Census and Alpha Kappa Alpha, that took place on 10/24/2019 which was National Voter Registration Day.
3. Partnered with faculty member Dr. Beth Nagy and hosted a **National Issues Forum relating to the National Debt** on 5/1/2019.
4. Recently established a formal partnership with **Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates (NOVA)** in order to maximize voter registration on campus. Along with NOVA, OCE operated **29 voter registration tables this spring semester** (Due to COVID-19, tables for April and May had to be postponed). Additionally, through CSU Admissions, **26 voter registration tables were being planned for** all summer 2020 New Student Orientations, First Year Orientations, Transfer Student Orientations, and Magnus Fest. (Due to COVID-19, finalization of these tables is on hold).
5. Partnered with the **Campus International School** on CSU's campus to provide civic engagement educational opportunities.
6. Recently established a **League of Women Voters Student Organization** at CSU in partnership with the Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters. CSU LWV was present at The Center for Student Involvement's spring semester Student Organization Fair and was set to host the Greater Cleveland League of Women Voters new member brunch at CSU, in March, until the COVID – 19 pandemic necessitated cancelation of the event.
7. Planning a panel discussion featuring CSU students and **Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose**, occurring in the fall 2020 semester.

8. Currently working to finalize a community impact scholarship award, with the Plain Dealer, for CSU students interested in addressing a wider community need.
9. In partnership with **Campus Vote Project and Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP)**, OCE recruits, supervises, and assigns duties to three on campus Democracy Fellows here at CSU. Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellows receive a **\$1,500** stipend, and CEEP Democracy Fellows receive a **\$1,000** stipend for their civic engagement work.
- 10. These engagement efforts have resulted in the registration of over 600 CSU students, faculty and staff as voters since June of 2019.***

In 2019, OCE received a Gold Seal as part of the 2018 Midterm Election ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This Seal recognizes colleges and universities committed to increasing voting participation among college students, and CSU was honored for achieving a student voting rate between 40% and 49%.