CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CCAC

OUR MISSION

CIVIC PURPOSE

CCAC's **civic purpose** is to cultivate a sense of community by:

- Promoting intentional **service activities** for students, staff and community.

- Bringing awareness of the issues associated with **social justice** and their impact on democracy.

- Helping students develop **civic literacy** as well as self-awareness as **global citizens**.

- Providing all students the necessary resources and **civic education** for them to better understand that **their vote is their voice.**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

At CCAC, civic engagement is not limited to political participation. The College has a general definition of civic engagement:

Any activity that encourages students to become active citizens involved on their campus/centers, in their communities, or in the wider world, is considered civic engagement.

CCAC

OUR TEAM

- The Civic Engagement Plan was drafted by the members of the College's Community and Civic Engagement Team that is composed of students, faculty and administrative staff from all of the College's campuses.

- This team works to increase civic learning and democratic engagement by identifying programs and services that will increase student involvement with legislative processes; working to increase efforts to improve the social, economic, political and educational opportunities for students experiencing material needs; and/or providing services to improve the lives of citizens in the communities served by the College.

- Our coalition includes individual team members, a number of CCAC organizations and initiatives, and a variety of community and additional partners

CCAC

CCAC students selected as Democracy Fellows by the Campus Vote Project

Posted: December 22, 2020

Article by: **CCAC Public Relations**

PITTSBURGH—The Community College of Allegheny County enjoys a legacy of civic engagement on the part of its students. The college received a Bronze Seal (2016) and a Gold Seal (2018) for Excellence in Student Voter Engagement from the All IN Campus Democracy Challenge for achieving student voting rates above the average. This year, CCAC President Quintin Bullock was proud to sign on to the Presidents' Commitment to full student voter participation in the 2020 election. This commitment was bolstered by the efforts of CCAC students Madysen Kelly and Sabrina Ukasik, who were selected by the Campus Vote Project to serve as Democracy Fellows. As such, they have assisted CCAC's Civic Engagement Coordinator and History Professor Dr. Jacqueline Cavalier with student voter registration and student voter education efforts throughout the 2020 election season.

Campus Vote Project launched the Democracy Fellowship program in 2014. Since then, CVP has graduated 186 student leaders. Democracy Fellows play a critical role in motivating their peers, faculty and administrators to take part in nonpartisan democratic engagement activities on their campuses. They talk to their peers about registering to vote, educate them on election laws and what's on the ballot, and make sure students at their campus are ready to engage with democracy. Fellows not only engage their peers in upcoming elections, they've been challenged to implement programs on their campuses that will

DEMOCRACY FELLOWS

CCAC

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh
- Allegheny County Elections Division
- ALL-IN Democracy Challenge
- Campus Vote Project

OUR FOCUS

- Our commitment at CCAC is to consistently fulfill best practices with respect to the implementation of activities in the following categories:
  - **Voter registration**
  - **Voter education**
  - **Voter turnout**
  - **Student voting rights**

VOTER REGISTRATION

Upon arrival to the CCAC Homepage (www.ccac.edu), visitors were met with the "**Register to Vote**" sticker that takes them to a newly-developed webpage, "**Election 2020 – Make Your Voices Heard**!" that serves as a repository for resources related to voter registration.

The Election 2020 – Make Your Voices Heard! webpage contains a number of resources specifically related to voter registration including (but not limited to):

- Deadlines for voter registration and mail-in ballot access in Pennsylvania
- Vote411 – a step by step checklist for the first-time voter
- League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh Voter Resource page

VOTER REGISTRATION

DEVELOPED BY THE CCAC LIBRARIANS, THE ELECTION 2020-VOTE! LIB GUIDE CONTAINS A VARIETY OF RESOURCES TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH VOTER REGISTRATION INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- PA ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

- VOTES PA

- "HOW TO" INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

- FAQS RELATED TO VOTER REGISTRATION, DEADLINES FOR MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS, AND POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS

VOTER REGISTRATION

Just like your education, make voting a lifelong pursuit.

Your voice matters.

If you want to live in a society where your values and viewpoints are represented, it begins at the ballot box.

To vote in the upcoming 2020 general election, you must register to vote no later than Monday, October 19. You can register online, in person or by mail.

As part of the college's Civic Engagement initiative and in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, CCAC is committed to providing you with the tools and information you need to be a well-informed voter. To learn more about the voting process, the candidates' positions on issues that matter most to you, as well as other important information, check out CCAC's dedicated Election 2020 webpage.

Pledge to exercise your constitutional right to vote! #CCAC Votes on November 3.

Starting in September 2020, all CCAC students received email blasts consistently through the CCAC email system encouraging them to register to vote and providing resources to assist them in doing so

Election 2020! Make your voice heard!

ELECTION 2020 ★
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Get out and VOTE in this year's election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. #CCACvotes
For more info please visit CCAC's 2020 Election web-page.

Was this item helpful?   👍 Yes   👎 No

Don't show this again   Close

Each time students and faculty accessed their respective Blackboard course sites, they are met with the **Election 2020** pop-up directing them to the 2020 Election webpage.

CCAC

VOTER REGISTRATION

The Community College of Allegheny County received a Gold Seal from the **All IN Campus Democracy Challenge** for achieving a student voting rate between **40% and 49%** in the 2018 midterm elections.

The achievement is a result of college-wide efforts to promote voter registrations and participation at all CCAC campuses and centers. The average for college campuses in Pennsylvania participating in the challenge was 37%.

VOTER REGISTRATION

THE [ALL IN CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE](#)

PRESIDENTS' COMMITMENT IS A PROMISE TO OUR STUDENTS THAT OUR ADMINISTRATION IS DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING CCAC IN INCREASING NONPARTISAN STUDENT VOTER ENGAGEMENT.

CCAC PRESIDENT QUINTIN BULLOCK HAS SIGNED THE [#PRESIDENTSCOMMITMENT](#), PROMISING TO COMMIT LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LEARNING ABOUT AND TAKING PART IN THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

MY CAMPUS SIGNED THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT!

ALL IN

PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT

SIGNATORY

Striving towards Full Student Voter Participation
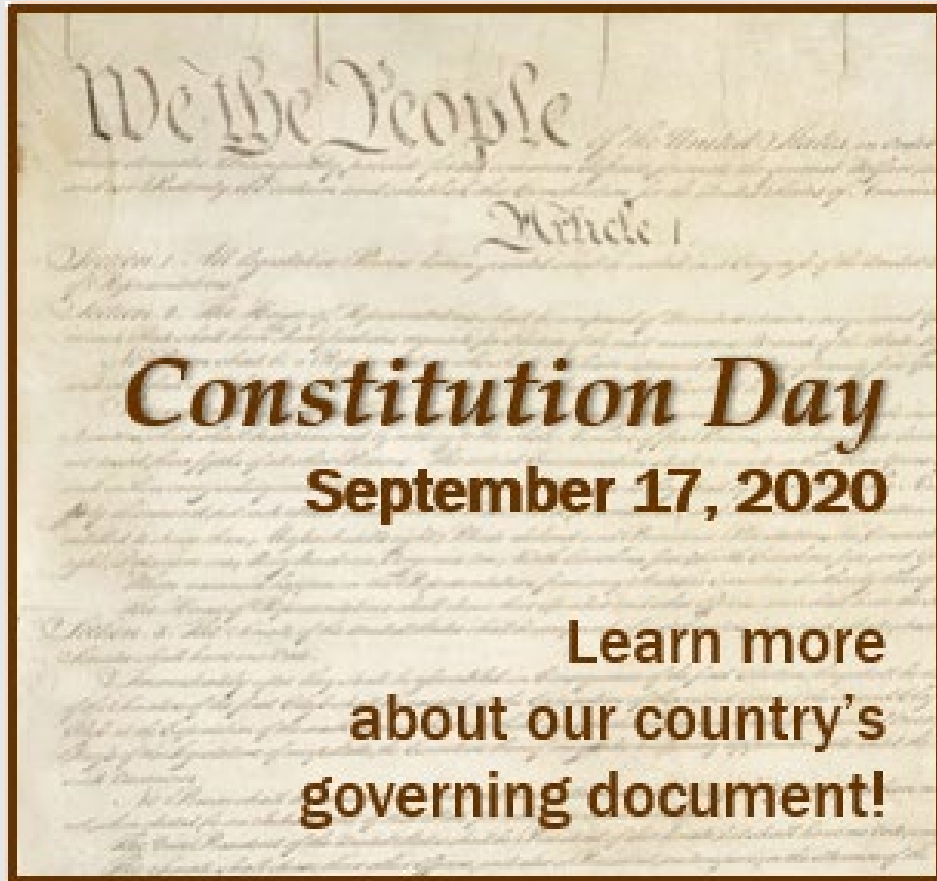
2020

CCAC

VOTER EDUCATION

- At CCAC, we are committed to helping our students become informed, engaged citizens who are involved on their campus and in their communities. As part of the college's Civic Engagement initiative, students have the opportunity to participate in activities that foster leadership and critical thinking skills, develop civic literacy, and bring awareness to issues that impact our communities—all with the goal of becoming global citizens.

- **Voter education** is an essential part of our civic engagement initiative at CCAC and some of those activities related to voter education are summarized in this section but by no means is it an exhaustive list.

CCAC

VOTER EDUCATION

- The CCAC election – 2020 webpage includes a variety of educational resources related to government, politics, and specifically, voting. These resources include:
  - "fact from fiction" – a list of voting resources from the league of women voters
  - Find your legislator and your polling place
  - Learn more about absentee and mail-in ballots
  - Get involved and work your polling place

VOTER EDUCATION

Constitution Day
September 17, 2020

Learn more about our country's governing document!

THE CCAC LIBRARY CONTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE LIB GUIDE FOR CONSTITUTION DAY/WEEK. THE RESOURCES INCLUDED ON THIS LIB GUIDE INCLUDE LINKS TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA), THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SITE FOR CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY, AS WELL AS A LINK TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER.

CCAC

VOTER EDUCATION

The CCAC Vote 2020 Lib Guide contains a number of educational resources which gives students an opportunity to learn more about media bias and informed bias.

Learn the Issues

ISideWith
This interactive site provides questions that match your political beliefs with political parties and candidates.

AllSides: 2020 Election
The AllSides election page provides balanced news coverage and perspective blogs on the 2020 race.

VoteSmart: Political Galaxy
Search by politician or zip code; select an issue and instantly arrive at every fact related to that person on that issue.

VoteSmart: Vote Easy
Click on a candidate's sign to see their positions on key issues OR compare your issue positions to those of all the candidates.

Britannica's ProCon.org: 2020 Presidential Electiom
From reputable Britannica, this comprehensive site tracks the views of presidential candidates. It provides a **matching quiz** that matches responses with the candidates and also provides a concise **Candidate Comparison Chart**.

PolitiFact
PolitiFact seeks to present the true facts, unaffected by agenda or biases. Their journalists read transcripts, speeches, news stories, press releases, and campaign brochures and watch TV and scan social media.

CCAC

VOTER EDUCATION: 2020 CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

- Despite the inability to gather in person due to COVID-19, CVP democracy fellows Madysen Kelly and Sabrina Ukasik organized student activities, including a virtual "**Ask All**" event via zoom, in which students had the opportunity to ask any questions they may have had about the election in a relaxed environment.

- PTK co-hosted a virtual program titled "**What Happens after You Vote?**" on October 30. this program was an educational program that panelists could answer specific questions about the Electoral College and the voting process. Professor Davis Manel and Rep. Bethany Hallam from the Allegheny County Board of Elections were the panelists, and two students from the Political Science Club and PTK moderated the discussion.

- **Scavenger hunt** to further promote the **Election 2020 website** and its contents, as well as the ALL IN Pledge to Vote. At the end of the digital scavenger hunt students were able to click on the **ALL IN democracy challenge** link to Pledge to Vote, which drew greater attention to this link to get CCAC on the leaderboard. Prizes were awarded from a drawing held during the first week of November for a chance for students to win one of 15 ($20) Amazon Gift Cards.

CCAC

VOTER TURNOUT

With the majority of CCAC students attending in a remote/online environment, we have relied heavily on technology to
"**GET OUT THE VOTE!**"
In addition to the CCAC Election 2020 website, students are encouraged to register and vote through additional channels such as email blasts and consistent pop-ups on the Blackboard learning platform.

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CCAC

VOTER TURNOUT

- After the registration deadline in Pennsylvania passed in October, the messaging to our students shifted to "**your vote is your voice**!" social media, the website, and all other modes of communication shifted to emphasizing direct action through voting at that point.

- The CCAC election 2020 website also asked students to "**take the pledge**" to vote.

Take the Pledge!
Make your vote count! By pledging to vote in the upcoming election you not only show your support for the principles of democracy, you also help CCAC makes this year's leaderboard for the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. Simply add your name to the **pledge** to vote. Let's work toward achieving a 100% commitment to this all-important constitutional right that previous generations fought so hard to win.

STUDENT VOTING RIGHTS

- CCAC institutional leaders (Administration, faculty, and staff) advocate for **all** students' right to vote

- Through voter registration and voter education efforts, We work diligently to ensure that all students who register to vote go on **to vote**

- Through political discussions on campus, calls to advocacy, and other forms of programming, we work to avoid student voter confusion and student voter suppression

CCAC

STUDENT VOTING RIGHTS

- Our efforts include
  - **Supporting efforts to expand early voting**
  - **Supporting mail-in voting**
  - **Providing all students with identification cards**
  - **Opening ccac campuses as polling places**
- We intend to continue these best practices beyond the pandemic for future elections

SOCIAL MEDIA

ALL OF THE RESOURCES THAT WERE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS VIA THE CCAC **ELECTION 2020** WEBSITE, EMAIL BLASTS, AND THROUGH THE BLACKBOARD LEARNING PLATFORM ARE CONSISTENTLY REINFORCED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA INCLUDING CCAC FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND INSTAGRAM.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Volume 1 - Spring 2020

BREAKING NEWS

Greetings Colleagues ~

SPREAD THE WORD

Civic Engagement updates are reported to college stakeholders through the distribution of a "Civic Engagement" newsletter issued twice a semester as well as in the form of other regular email updates

VOTER-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

- The mission of the Voter Friendly Campus designation is to bolster efforts that help students overcome barriers to participating in the political process. CCAC was evaluated based on a campus plan about how we would register, educate, and turnout student voters in 2020, how we facilitated voter engagement efforts on our campus, and a final analysis of our efforts- all in the face of the upheaval caused by a global pandemic. The designation is valid through December 2022.