

ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CIVIC ACTION PLAN

2021



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The Civic Action Plan Task Force
2020-2021

I. VISION/MISSION



The Civic Action Plan (CAP) aims to support the expansion of on- and off-campus community engagement opportunities for students, faculty and staff - combining these efforts seamlessly with the College's mission, vision and values.

While St. Charles Community College already retains a reputation as a central force in the community, the CAP will encourage a cultural shift in which civic and community engagement are incentivized and more intentionally infused into curricular and co-curricular programming, as well as diversity and inclusion initiatives, professional development, and college service opportunities.

By implementing the CAP, St. Charles Community College will uphold its commitments to academic excellence, equity, individual empowerment, and community partnerships.

II. APPROACH

What is the Civic Action Plan?

Context: Campus Compact's 30th Anniversary Action Statement

St. Charles Community College (SCC) is an active member of Missouri Campus Compact, the state branch of the national Campus Compact organization. Founded in 1986, Campus Compact membership comprises college and university presidents and chancellors from across the country who are dedicated to advancing civic and community engagement efforts on their campuses.

In recognition of Campus Compact's 30th year, members drafted and signed a "30th Anniversary Action Statement," renewing their commitment to the pursuit of civic engagement at their institutions as well as on the local, state, and national levels. The statement details five key commitments to which each signatory agrees to support.

Since its publication, over 450 college and university leaders have signed in support of the Action Statement and its attendant commitments, and in doing so, each signatory pledged on behalf of their institution to draft and implement a Civic Action Plan unique to their campus. The CAP is designed to denote how the institution will invoke the practice of civic and community engagement to uphold each of the five commitments.

SCC leadership signed in support of the Action Statement in 2016, and over the following years, key stakeholders began the process of crafting the Action Plan.

FIVE KEY COMMITMENTS

We empower our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world.

We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.

We embrace our responsibilities as place-based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.

We harness the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice—to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.

We foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement.

Context: SCC's Service-Learning & Civic Engagement Program

While SCC already works to meet and advance community needs through public programming, curriculum, and degree and technical programs, the incentivizing of conscious civic engagement in curricular and co-curricular programming is relatively new to the College.

- SCC piloted the Service-Learning Program in 2014, helmed by a faculty lead and two staff members, with an emphasis on helping faculty develop service-learning courses.
- After Board approval, it became a permanent, funded program in 2015.
- Since then, the program worked to expand its scope to include both curricular and co-curricular programming.
- As of 2019, the program is now known as the Service-Learning & Civic Engagement Program and is overseen by faculty program chair with release hours.

The CAP builds on the work of the Service-Learning & Civic Engagement Program:

- Expanding the scope to include and support college-wide initiatives rooted in various committees, departments, and programs.
- The wide net that this Plan casts will result in expanded opportunities for students, faculty, and staff who are committed to supporting service-learning class offerings, as well as civic engagement curricular and co-curricular programming at SCC.

The Planning Process: SCC's Civic Action Plan Task Force

While initial plans for crafting the CAP began in 2018, the Civic Action Plan taskforce first came together in the spring of 2020. Two factors contributed to the official start of the process:

- The taskforce chairs completed the necessary professional development to begin crafting the CAP.
- In 2018, the Higher Learning Commission released updated guidelines for accreditation that emphasized intentional service-learning curriculum and community engagement as a part of campus culture and curricular/co-curricular programming.

In March 2018, SCC's Vice President for Academic Affairs charged the taskforce chairs with creating a Civic Action Plan taskforce.

- The chairs invited representatives from across campus and the community with the hope of bringing together a diverse array of voices and experiences to the planning process.
- Composed of more than 25 faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni and community partner representatives, the CAP Taskforce worked diligently over the next 12 months to brainstorm and formulate the basis for the College's Plan.

KEY APPROACH:

Increase Service-Learning Course Offerings and Co-Curricular Opportunities

While initial plans for crafting the CAP began in 2018, the Civic Action Plan taskforce first came together in the spring of 2020. Faculty across disciplines offer an average of more than 15 service-learning class sections each semester. Each service-learning class includes a transcript designation—a permanent record of a student's participation in this work.

At the time the CAP was written, the Service-Learning & Civic Engagement Program offered various co-curricular activities:

- Day of Service
- Week of Service
- Participation in Campus Compact's Semester of Service Program.

The outcomes of the Civic Action Plan will enable greater visibility of and thus participation in service-learning and civic engagement curricular and co-curricular courses and experiences, leading to a wider array of offerings.





KEY APPROACH:

Incentivize Civic and Community Engagement for Faculty and Staff

Already, faculty and staff participate in college and community service to various extents as defined by the expectations of their roles at the College. However, the expected parameters of engagement and the incentives to participate in these activities are not always clearly delineated. Outcomes in the CAP aim to create the conditions in which employee participation in community engagement yields numerous and concrete personal and professional benefits and, most importantly, becomes permanently embedded in the culture of SCC.

KEY APPROACH:

Build and Strengthen Cross-Departmental Partnerships

While working towards meeting the commitments and outcomes defined in the CAP, stakeholders will identify the ways in which the goals of the Plan can be met through collaboration between departments and other initiatives at SCC. One of the continuous discussions held by the CAP task force was the need to reduce the number of “silos” across campus. The CAP aims to foster relationships across departments by identifying overlapping goals and concerns and then working together to push for mutually beneficial outcomes.

KEY APPROACH:

Reinforce and Expand SCC’s Community Partnerships

The CAP planning process involved the input of several community partner representatives, as well as SCC employees who work directly with community partners as part of their duties at the College.

- In doing this, community representatives are invited to the table as collaborators.
- This egalitarian approach is upheld as the gold standard for campus and community partnerships in civic engagement discourse.

KEY APPROACH:

Create Opportunities for Stakeholders to Advance the Civic Action Plan

To successfully implement the CAP, specific processes must be put into place to review, evaluate, and make any necessary changes as the timeline progresses. This can be achieved through organized meetings composed of key stakeholders.

- One of the intended outcomes of the CAP is the formation of an executive Civic Engagement Advisory Board, comprising key stakeholders hailing from SCC’s campus and the community.
- This expansive group, composed of faculty, staff, students, alumni, administrators and community members will meet several times throughout the year to evaluate the progress of the Plan and make recommended changes or enhancements to it as needed.

SCC’s Academic Affairs division will introduce a formalized Service-Learning & Civic Engagement Committee to begin meeting in fall 2021.

- This committee, comprising a smaller group of faculty, staff, administrators and students, will be geared towards careful and thoughtful implementation of curricular and co-curricular programming outlined in the CAP.
- These efforts will enhance civic and community engagement in and out of the classroom, providing opportunities for members of the campus to come together in service of each other and the community.



III. OUTCOMES

What Does the Civic Action Plan Aim to Accomplish?



PREPARE | HARNESS

Service-learning classes will have greater visibility, and enrollment will increase.



PREPARE | EMBRACE | FOSTER

Faculty, staff and students will participate in civic engagement opportunities on and off campus.



EMPOWER | EMBRACE | HARNESS

Continually assess community and student needs while increasing support through employee participation in community activities.



EMPOWER | FOSTER

Develop community-centered professional development programming on campus.



EMPOWER | FOSTER

Provide incentives to SCC faculty and staff to become more involved with community and civic engagement initiatives.



EMPOWER | EMBRACE

Promote sustainability on and off campus.



PREPARE

Implement community-based participatory research in classes.



EMPOWER | EMBRACE | FOSTER

Include diverse community voices in institutional assessment practices.



PREPARE | EMBRACE | HARNESS

Promote deliberative dialogue opportunities between the college and the community.



HARNESS

Publicize how our service learning and civic engagement initiatives serve and reflect our Mission, Vision and Values.



ALL COMMITMENTS

Increase civic literacy on campus.



ALL COMMITMENTS

Establish a Civic Engagement Advisory Board, composed of key stakeholders to continually review the progress of these outcomes, as well as add to and revitalize the CAP as outcomes are accomplished.

III. TIMELINE

APRIL 1986 – Establishment of Saint Charles Community College [SCC].

AUGUST 2013 – College leadership approves plans for an official Service-Learning Program.

AUGUST 2014 – Service-Learning Program pilot officially begins.

AUGUST 2015 – SCC formalizes the Service-Learning program and offers its first batch of designated classes.

OCTOBER 2015 – SCC holds its first Day of Service event.

JANUARY 2016 – SCC leadership signs in support of the Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Action Statement.

MARCH 2018 – SCC leadership charges the Service-Learning program with moving forward with the Civic Action Plan [CAP].

JANUARY 2019 – Upon recommendation by the program chair and SCC leadership, the Service-Learning Program is officially renamed the Service-Learning & Civic Engagement Program.

MARCH 2020 – SCC leadership charges the CAP chairs with establishing a CAP task force.

MAY 2021 – President's Council, the official governing board of SCC, officially approves the CAP.

AUGUST 2021 – Implementation of the CAP.

MAY 2026 – Proposed completion of the CAP.

IV. COMMUNICATION

Ways to Publicize and Support the Civic Action Plan.

1. Establish greater social media presence through Instagram and Facebook and explore other social media platforms as necessary.
2. Use social media to highlight goals of the Civic Action Plan and highlight Service-Learning & Civic Engagement projects, events and initiatives.
3. Continue to emphasize the service-learning course designation and transcript record as an incentive for enrollment.
4. Utilize Marketing and Communications department resources to create and distribute content internally and externally.
5. Start an annual celebration for all involved with CAP both on the campus and in the community.
6. Establish a regular newsletter that is sent throughout the campus and to social service agencies, churches, civic organizations, municipalities, and other related groups.
7. Create a presentation to be used by SCC leaders to highlight the goals and achievements of the CAP.
8. Contact TV, newspapers and radio stations with press releases on CAP achievements.
9. Collect and publicize video, audio, and written testimonies from service-learning students, faculty, key stakeholders, and others who support the Civic Action Plan.
10. Publicly acknowledge student, staff, and faculty participation in service-learning and civic engagement efforts.
11. Acknowledge extraordinary student contributions through various modes of recognition by key campus stakeholders.
12. Support and publicize the work of the Service-Learning & Civic Engagement college-wide committee.

SPECIAL THANKS

Civic Action Plan Task Force (2020-2021)

CHAIRS:

Bryonie Carter (English/Chair of Service-Learning & Civic Engagement)

Mara Vorachek-Warren (Dean of Business, Science, Arts, and Math)

MEMBERS:

Civic Action Plan Task Force (2020-2021)

Diane Arnzen (Director of Advising)

Faith Becker (We Love St. Charles)

Lindsay Brand (English)

Todd Clements (Grounds)

Cheryl Clerkley (SCC Alumna/North East Community Action Corporation)

Boyd Copeland (former Dean of Student Life)

Cathy Daugherty (Reading)

Felicia Emery (Biology)

Abby Fuentes (SCC Student)

Monica Hall-Woods (Biology)

Catherine Gettemeyer (SCC Alumna)

Dawn Huffman (ELCI)

Martha Kampen (Chief Diversity & Compliance Officer)

Patty Lager (Biology)

Sylvia Bane Malta (Human Services/Criminal Justice)

Lindy McGuire (Dardenne Creek Campus Director of Operations/Dean of Health Sciences)

Matt Miller (Calvary Church)

Grace Moser (History)

Audra Notgrass (SCC Student)

Mandy Rose (Associate Dean of Adult Education and Literacy/St. Charles Community Council)

Paul Roesler (Political Science)

Tammie De Los Santos (Associate Dean of Workforce/Education Partnerships)

Peggy Schnardthorst (Foundation & Alumni Relations)

Julia Wilbers (Library)



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The College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, ncacihe.org.