Political Learning - Now

- Post-election opportunities and challenges?
- Overview National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement
- Overview – studies on campus climates for political engagement
- Discussion
- Adjourn 11:45

2012 Student Voting Rates by Age and Gender

2012 Student Voting Rates by Field of Study

2012 Student Voting Rates by Race

- The first objective measure of college student voting
- A service to campuses
- A database for research
- Over 1000 institutions
- All states
- 8.5 million college student records for each election year

The Challenges of Political Learning and Engagement – Now

Nancy Thomas, Ishara Casellas Connors, and Margaret McKenna

2012 Student Voting Rates by Age and Gender

2012 Student Voting Rates by Field of Study

2012 Student Voting Rates by Race
Massachusetts NSLVE Institutions

Campus Climate Framework

Politics 365

Strong social cohesion among diverse student populations
Pervasive political discussions

- Classroom discussions
- Prepared faculty and students
- Balanced academic and expressive freedom

Student agency, power, and shared responsibility

- Students with positional authority
- Students respected for their views, with or without positional authority
- Strong student government association

Active political engagement

- Traditional political participation, election season “buzz”
- Issue activism and organizing, with or w/o government
- Nimble institutions, supportive faculty

Call to Action

- Treat conflict as a learning opportunity.
- Encourage faculty-student relationships and supportive communities.
- Treat diversity as an educational asset.
- Create deliberative forums and mini-publics; respect student voice and activism.
- Teach students to participate in and facilitate discussions on difficult topics. Consider starting with campus climate issues, such as attitudes toward free speech and inclusion.
- Talk about your NSLVE reports; create an election buzz.

Our Vision: A Democracy that is...

Participatory: people engage in shaping the political and social systems that affect their lives.

Equitable and representational: people have an equal opportunity for engagement in social and political systems, with equitable outcomes.

Educated and informed: people have equal access to quality public education and information.

Effectively governed: government systems are equitable, ethical, transparent, accountable, and collaborative.

Resources

Diversity & Democracy: Student and Institutional Engagement in Political Life

Politics 365: Fostering Campus Climate for Student Political Learning and Engagement

Talking Politics: Guide for Campus Conversations about your Voting Reports
Where to find...

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Is my campus participating in NSLVE? Look here.

How do I obtain my campus report? Go here.

Where do I go for other resources? Go here.