

Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City
CIVIC ACTION PLAN



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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Amidst the current climate of discord and divisiveness in our country, it is more important than ever for individuals and institutions to use the mechanisms at our disposal to uphold America's democratic

traditions and values. As Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."

It is in this spirit that Metropolitan Community College has chosen to partner with Campus Compact and cement our commitment to serving our students and community through the development of this Civic Action Plan (CAP).

Inspired by Campus Compact's commitment to facilitating positive change and embracing the ability of higher education to impact the greater good, our plan focuses principally on promoting civic and community engagement. We look forward to executing our plan and empowering our students, employees and other stakeholders with the resources and experience they need to become difference makers in their communities, nation and world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Beatty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Kimberly Beatty
MCC Chancellor



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE- KANSAS CITY CIVIC ACTION PLAN

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

It is the greater goal of our institution to prepare students for promising careers and shape them into well-rounded and engaged citizens in our communities, our nation and the world. To align this greater goal, this Civic Action Plan (CAP) was developed to offer educational experiences that intentionally prepare students for informed, engaged participation in their communities' civic and democratic life by providing opportunities to develop civic knowledge, skills, and mindsets through learning and practice. We will accomplish this through a variety of curricular and cocurricular community engaged learning programming such as academic service-learning, civic internships, and student clubs and organization service. Through a dedication to civic engagement, we will realize Metropolitan Community College's (MCC) vision of student success as it will foster significant personal growth in our students, which will reflect in their coursework, future careers and beyond. This CAP will further reflect MCC's dedication to diversity and our school's mission of preparing students, serving communities, creating opportunities for all.

Mission: To foster a greater sense of engaged citizenship among MCC community members (faculty/staff/students) by increasing engagement in our communities.

Vision: Create a comprehensive framework to encourage community engagement on campus, the greater Kansas City area, and the world.

APPROACH

Metropolitan Community College's mission is preparing students, serving communities, creating opportunities for all and is committed to providing access and affordability to higher education in the Kansas City metro area. In February 2021, MCC embarked on developing a Civic Action Plan for the institution with the overall goal of civic engagement. This Civic Action Plan aims to guide and shape the campus culture toward a greater involvement by all stakeholders to further enhance the greater community that MCC serves. In this vein, the Civic Action Plan steering committee was formed to bring together various institution stakeholders to develop this action plan to be implemented across the diverse student, employee and community constituents.

From this steering committee, it was determined that the committee's objective was to learn, research, and propose this Civic Action Plan. The vision from the committee was to demonstrate MCC's commitment to developing, executing and integrating civic engagement throughout the fabric of the institution with the end goals of contributing to both student success, and MCC's mission, vision, and strategic themes. Ultimately, as a result of this Civic Action Plan, our vision is that MCC will be a nationally recognized leader in community engaged learning.



A broad representation from across the district community served as the committee members.

MCC's approach to implementing the Civic Action Plan includes forming a collective team of institution and community partners while aligning the institution's strategic plan to support the initiatives focused on Civic Engagement. This plan encourages the institution's commitment to collaborative participation for all employees, students and community partners.

The Civic Action Plan represents a phased process focused on continual improvement. As the Civic Action Plan is implemented, benchmarks will be created, and results will be measured to confirm the intended outcomes of these actions. To implement this plan, MCC should specify a team of constituent stakeholders from across the institution to increase awareness, disseminate the information and uphold the mission, vision and goals of the Civic Action Plan. This team's primary purpose is to foster and promote civic engagement within the culture of the institution and the larger community through the commitments stated within the Civic Action Plan.

CHANGEMAKING EDUCATION

Changemaking Education sparks a sense of agency in students and provides real-life opportunities to understand problems and practice creating positive social and/or environmental change.

Changemaking Education Includes one or more of the following elements:

1. Learning from environment, others, and self to develop informed perspectives on social issues
2. Recognizing and appreciating human diversity and commonality
3. Behaving and working through controversy, with civility
4. Taking an active role in the political process
5. Participating actively in public life, public problem solving, and service
6. Assuming leadership and membership roles in organizations
7. Developing empathy, ethics, values, and a sense of social responsibility
8. Promoting social justice locally and globally

Adapted from Miami Dade College iCED, 2022



COMMITMENTS

Commitment to Statement #1

Metropolitan Community College empowers 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.

A. Types of Change

1. Identify and create “featured” partnerships with community and nonprofit organizations near each campus.
2. Provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to interact with featured partners.
3. Develop a co-curricular service-learning program.

B. Implementation

1. Host a professional development workshop for community partners.
2. Create a database of approved featured community partners.
3. Create opportunities for partners to visit campus to recruit volunteers, and meet students, student organizations, faculty and staff.
4. Host an annual community engagement expo to bring partners on campus.
5. Provide professional development for faculty in academic service-learning and connect faculty with featured partners as they develop their courses.
6. Create guidelines and professional development for co-curricular service-learning and provide to student club members and leaders, and club advisors.

C. Assessment

1. Record the number of featured partnerships developed.
2. Survey each featured partner to assess impact and their level of satisfaction with the partnership.
3. Document examples and impact of cocurricular service-learning on student participants.

Commitment to Statement #2

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.

A. Types of Change

1. Increase support, resources, and professional development opportunities for academic service-learning for faculty.
2. Develop curriculum around themes of community engaged learning.
3. Develop an MCC Civic Action Scorecard as a roadmap for students to build their civic knowledge and skills.
4. Implement co-curricular transcripts.

B. Implementation

1. Survey faculty using community engaged learning activities in the curriculum to determine a baseline.
2. Host professional development workshops on academic service-learning and other community engaged learning high impact practices.
3. Develop an internal campaign to increase awareness of strategies to incorporate civic engagement community engaged learning strategies into the classroom and campus.
4. Develop resource libraries at each campus to access through the teaching and learning centers.
5. Utilize and track existing service-learning designators for academic service-learning courses.
6. Identify campus contact(s) for assistance with academic service-learning and community engaged learning.
7. Identify faculty and staff to attend statewide/national conferences on service-learning and civic engagement. and create opportunities for interactions with peers from other institutions involved in community engaged learning.

8. Implement a database for tracking student volunteer and service hours.
9. Develop a co-curricular transcript that identifies service-learning and civic engagement.

C. Assessment

1. Increase the number of academic service-learning trained faculty.
2. Increase the number of courses that contain a community engaged learning component.
3. Develop the Civic Action Scorecard and track the number of students completing civic actions.

Commitment to Statement #3

MCC embraces our responsibilities as a place-based institution, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally, educationally and politically.

A. Type of Change

1. Increase support for community engagement activities and events.
2. Increase civic engagement student programming.
3. Establish an MCC Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

B. Implementation

1. Sponsor and promote community events such as MLK day of service, history month events, voter engagement, common read, all for the children, kite festival and other campus events.
2. Identify physical location, establish operating budget, and staffing recommendations for MCC's Center for Community and Civic Engagement.
3. Create a Center website.
4. Explore possibility of developing a community service Federal Work-Study program that places MCC students with featured community partners.
5. Work with the MCC foundation to seek out potential grants and sponsorship opportunities.

C. Assessment

1. Develop and present comprehensive proposal for MCC Center for Community and Civic Engagement.
2. Establish Center and hire staff.
3. Increase funding partnerships.
4. Explore applying for an AmeriCorps VISTA grant to help with building out the program.

Commitment to Statement #4

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

A. Type of Change

1. Increase programming and support for nonpartisan voter registration and engagement.
2. Provide professional development for faculty on community engaged learning high impact practices such as project-based learning, academic service-learning, learning communities, etc.
3. Increase number of community-campus partnerships.
4. Increase volunteer opportunities for students and employees.

B. Implementation

1. Develop a voter engagement section of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement's website as a one-stop election readiness site for students, faculty, and staff.
2. Implement a campus-wide nonpartisan voter engagement campaign built around the national civic holidays (National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, and Vote Early Day).
3. Engage with and increase the number of community and internal partners to identify volunteer and civic engagement opportunities.

4. Offer professional development on community engaged learning high impact practices.
5. Establish an MCC Center for Community and Civic Engagement to help oversee and promote community-campus partnerships.
6. Work with human resources and IT to implement an engagement database to track volunteer and service hours.

C. Assessment

1. Track number of visits to new voter engagement section of website.
2. Track number of faculty attending professional development on community engaged learning high impact practices.
3. Track the number of faculty and students involved in community engaged learning activities.
4. Meet 80% of positive feedback from our community and internal partners through an annual survey.
5. Record and report the volunteer and service hours for our students.
6. Record and report the volunteer and service hours for our employees.

Commitment to Statement #5

MCC fosters 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.

A. Type of Change

1. Foster a culture at MCC that advocates and supports civic engagement within our campus community.
2. Create a shared understanding and definition of community engaged learning.
3. Create recognition program for faculty, staff, students and community partners involved in service and community engaged learning.

B. Implementation

1. Survey the campus community to determine its attitude towards participation in civic engagement opportunities.
2. Define the critical terminology, develop a statement associated with civic engagement, and communicate how the civic engagement plan relates to the institutional learning outcomes.
3. Identify opportunities where employees can develop programs and services to ensure the sustainability of a culture of civic engagement.
4. Every three years, identify an efficacy study of the opportunities developed to ensure sustainability.
5. Recognize community engagement via stoles, cords and within the program at commencement.
6. Create and implement recognition programs at each campus (e.g., gratitude ceremony for faculty involved in community engaged learning practices, service-learning student of the year, changemaking award, President's Volunteer Service Award, etc.)

C. Assessment

1. Increase the number of student participants in civic engagement opportunities.
2. Increase the number of faculty implementing community engaged learning practices in their courses.
3. Document the number of awards at each campus.
4. Assess changes needed from efficacy study for continual improvement.





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