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83 Colleges and Universities Designated “Voter Friendly Campuses”

Washington, DC – Eighty-three campuses in 23 states earned the designation as “Voter Friendly Campuses” through a new program sponsored by NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and Campus Vote Project (CVP), a project of Fair Elections Legal Network. The program requires campuses to engage their student body and promote voter registration and voting as part of their institutional mission. The goal of the Voter Friendly Campus designation program is to bolster efforts that help students overcome barriers to participating in the political process and develop a culture of democratic engagement on campus. For more information, visit www.voterfriendlycampus.org.

The institutions that undertook the designation process represented a range of two-year, four-year, public, private, rural, and urban campuses, with a total enrollment of nearly 1.4 million students.

Throughout 2016, campus representatives participated in trainings to develop, implement and report results for engagement programs that encouraged their students to register and vote. Campuses were evaluated on their ability to complete a three-step process. These included writing a campus plan about how they would engage student voters in the fall of 2016, facilitating voter engagement efforts on their campus, and writing a final analysis on their efforts. The designation is valid through December 2018.

Regarding the designation program NASPA President Kevin Kruger said,

"Today, more than ever, it is critical that we employ a comprehensive set of strategies to engage college students in the democratic process. This past election cycle, too many college students opted out of active participation in the political process. The Voter Friendly Campus program provides a clear pathway for campuses to activate students and underscores the importance of civic engagement."

Motivating students to register and vote establishes civic habits that last well beyond the collegiate experience. Incorporating democratic engagement into campus life creates structure and stability for students as they explore what their political beliefs are, and how they would like to engage in the democratic process.

Mike Burns, the National Director of the Campus Vote Project added,

“Educating citizen leaders was the motto of my undergraduate institution and that is where I first developed the skills of civic participation that I now use in my professional and personal life. Our work at Campus Vote Project and the development of the Voter Friendly Campus designation with NASPA

allows us to continue to foster the civic mission of higher education to prepare the next generation of citizen leaders.”

The following colleges and universities earned the Voter Friendly Campus designation for 2017-2018:

Alfred University	Rochester Institute of Technology
Alvernia University	Rollins College
Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life;	Saint Louis University
University of Texas at Austin	Santa Fe College
Arapahoe Community College	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Austin Community College	Sinclair College
California State University, Chico	South Mountain Community College
California University of Pennsylvania	Southern Utah University
Case Western Reserve University	Southwestern University
Chapman University	SUNY Alfred State College
Chatham University	SUNY Binghamton University
De Anza College	SUNY College at Brockport
Durham Technical Community College	SUNY Geneseo
East Carolina University	Texas A&M University - Central Texas
East Tennessee State University	The College of New Jersey
Florida Atlantic University	The Ohio State University
Florida International University	Towson University
Fort Hays State University	University of Alaska Anchorage
Frostburg State University	University of Central Florida
Grand Valley State University	University of Central Oklahoma
Hope College	University of Illinois at Chicago
James Madison University	University of Louisville
Kennesaw State University	University of Miami
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	University of Missouri - St. Louis
La Salle University	University of Nevada Reno
Lone Star College	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Lynchburg College	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Mesa Community College	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Miami Dade College	University of Pennsylvania
Miami University	University of Puget Sound
Miami University - Hamilton	University of Utah
Michigan State University	Virginia Wesleyan College
Middlesex Community College	Wake Technical Community College
Mount Ida College	Washington State University
Mount Saint Mary's University	Washington University in St. Louis
Mount St. Joseph University	Weber State University
Northeastern Illinois University	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Ohio Northern University	Western Carolina University
Ohio University	Wichita State University
Piedmont Virginia Community College	Winona State University
Pitt Community College	Winthrop University
Queens University of Charlotte	Wofford College

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NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Our work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories.

The Fair Elections Legal Network (FELN) is a national, nonpartisan voting rights and legal support organization that works to eliminate barriers to voting and improve election administration across the United States. FELN's Campus Vote Project (CVP) works with universities, community colleges, faculty, students and election officials to reduce barriers to student voting and helps campuses institutionalize reforms that empower students with the information they need to register and vote.