



## We're For Strategic Planning

### **Goal Three:**

#### **Enhance Community Engagement**

**Initiative:** 3 **Initiative Name:** American Democracy Project (ADP)

#### ***Introduction***

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative established in 2003 by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). ISU joined this initiative at its inception, and today there are over 250 colleges and universities that feature ADP on their campuses. Through programming, celebrations of special events (e.g., Constitution Day, MLK Day of Service), and other activities, ADP is geared toward engaging today's youth in citizenship.

#### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the American Democracy Project on Indiana State University's campus is to produce the next generation of civically-minded citizens who leave the University engaged in their communities. ADP's central focus is to create opportunities for students to become engaged in both historical and contemporary issues related to the community, the country as a whole, and larger problems facing the world in which we live. With programming varying from campus issues to larger social issues such as equality to human rights and trafficking, ADP encourages student learning and activism on an array of topical areas.

#### ***Methods***

The American Democracy Project sponsors and cosponsors over 20 events each academic year. All the programming is targeted towards engaging students in social and political issues. These activities include:

- Voter engagement activities such as voter registration drives;
- Pizza and Politics student discussion events;
- Constitution Day activities celebrating the adoption of the U.S. Constitution;
- ISU Day at the Indiana Statehouse where students meet with state policymakers;
- Hosting movie events honoring civically-relevant days;
- Connecting with community partners to develop opportunities for students to engage the larger Terre Haute Community

### *Discussion*

The American Democracy Project had another very successful year. One of the major achievements was an increase in student participation in our events. Specifically, whereas in AY 13-14 1043 individual ISU students attended ADP programming in the fall and spring semesters, this rose to 1292 in AY 14-15. Many of these students attended multiple events thus resulting in a net count of 2212 total student attendees to all of ADP's sponsored and co-sponsored events.

In addition to expanding the number of students participating in ADP programming, ADP also expanded its network of collaborators. ADP co-sponsored 11 events this academic year with the African American Cultural Center, Women's Studies, Union Board, and Veteran's Services to name a few.

Further, the annual Spring Statehouse trip was yet another major success. ADP staff worked with faculty, staff, and administrators to coordinate over 100 students representing 20 campus units. At least 35 state legislators, Governor Pence, and Superintendent Ritz met with students. In addition, students were recognized on both the House and Senate chambers.

Finally, ADP is now a more of a student-driven entity. The ADP graduate assistant supervises six ADP undergraduate fellows that serve on an advisory board that develops, plans, and implements ADP programming. These students are developing leadership skills as they work to further civic & political engagement on campus.

### *Summary*

ADP continues to develop and build upon its earlier achievements through collaborating with more campus departments and faculty. Each year, ADP expands its network of collaborators and diversifies its programming to reach a broader set of students.

The ADP Student Fellows Advisory Board will continue to take on more responsibility and stewardship of ADP in the coming academic year. This group of students is a key driving force behind the program.

### *Initiative Chair(s) and Contact Information*

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