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June 16, 2020

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America's Urban Campus launches the Chicago Campus Voting Challenge for 2020

Chicago – Colleges and universities can now compete for the best voter registration and turnout rates in the Chicago Campus Voting Challenge, a new nonpartisan initiative announced today by Executive Director of America's Urban Campus, David Baker. America's Urban Campus is the consortium of Chicago's Colleges and Universities that serve 210,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

All 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions in Chicago are invited to be a part of the Challenge. Participating colleges and universities will be eligible for awards based on voter turnout and registration rates on their campuses for the November 3, 2020, election.

“Voting is the most fundamental right and duty of citizens” said Baker, “Our hope is to engage young people across the city in exercising their right through encouragement from and friendly competition among our city's higher education institutions.”

“UIC students are encouraged to become active citizens on campus and lifelong active leaders in their communities. We have made huge strides in voter registration in recent years and we are determined to keep up the momentum,” said University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis. In 2019, UIC led the nation in the number of new student voter registrations and ranked third in percentage of undergraduate students registered to vote.

College and university administrators, faculty and staff can learn more and sign up at <https://www.americasurbancampus.org/ALLIN-Chicago>. There is no sign-up cost to participate. Institutions that opt into the Challenge will be provided guidance and tools to create an action plan for increasing student engagement on their campus. By signing up for the Challenge, all accredited, degree-granting higher education institutions across the city can improve, measure, and celebrate efforts to institutionalize nonpartisan civic learning, political engagement and informed voter participation.

America's Urban Campus will issue biennial statewide awards for 2-year and 4-year institutions based on campuses' National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) reports generated by the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education at Tufts University in Mass. for the November 2020 election. Awards will be issued for the highest voter turnout, most improved voter turnout, and highest rate of voter registration.

America's Urban Campus is partnering with the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#), a national, nonpartisan nonprofit, to facilitate Illinois' competition. Schools that sign up for the Chicago Campus Voting Challenge will also be automatic participants in the nationwide ALL IN Challenge and the Illinois Campus Voting Challenge run by [Campus Compact Illinois](#).

"Preparing students for their public lives as citizens, members of communities and professionals in society has historically been a responsibility of higher education," said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, Executive Director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. "We are thrilled to partner with America's Urban Campus to encourage higher education institutions in Chicago to make a plan to increase student voter engagement."

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, a program of [Civic Nation](#), is a national, nonpartisan initiative started in 2016 that supports and recognizes more than 650 colleges and universities working to improve civic learning, political engagement and voter participation. The Challenge encourages institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, as well as institutionalize democratic engagement activities and programs – making them a defining feature of campus life.

America's Urban Campus is a tax exempt non-profit consortium of 20 Chicago colleges and universities serving 96% of all post secondary students in the city. Its mission is to elevate Chicago as a global destination for higher education and leverage the collective resources of the institutions for the benefit of the city.

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