

2010 College Poll Worker Program

Grant Recipient Program Summaries

Alverno College; Milwaukee, WI

Contact: Susan Leister

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Program Name: Alverno College Help America Vote College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: 40,800.00

Project Description: Alverno College will partner with the Milwaukee Election Commission to recruit, train and place at least 200 students as poll workers for the City of Milwaukee election in November. At least 25 of these poll workers will be fluent in Spanish to accommodate the need for translators. Two Alverno students will intern with the Election Commission to assist with planning and developing a poll worker recruitment and training program that will primarily target Alverno students, but will also reach out to students at Marquette University, the Milwaukee School of Engineering, and the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. The program will also develop three courses that integrate the poll worker experience into Alverno's curriculum. Alverno will create a video for use in presentations, classes and programs to promote the importance of poll workers as well as include daily features on AIFR.com, Alverno's student-run radio station, and adapt social media outreach strategies already in place to support recruitment efforts.

Benedictine University; Lisle, IL

Contact: Joel Ostrow

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Program Name: College Poll Worker Education and Training Program

Funding Level: \$55,385.00

Project Description: Benedictine University (BU) and its Center for Civic Leadership and Public Service (CCL) will partner with the DuPage County Election Commission (EC) to develop a College Poll Worker, Education and Training program that will train and recruit 100 college students. BU's program is two-fold, centered on a practical component that involves online judge certification training for students with measurable performance-based results, and an academic component that will modify existing Political Science courses to incorporate material on elections, voting and political participation. All Political Science majors and minors will be required to participate in the poll worker program. Recruitment strategies include developing a website that will provide information about poll workers, the application for the program, information about CCL and EC and online training. In addition, BU will create promotional video clips that will include an interview and information on what it is like to be a poll worker. This will be made available on the new website as well as other social media such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Central Connecticut State University; Hartford, CT

Contact: Robbin Smith

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Program Name: CCSU Student Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$32,107.00

Project Description: Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) will work with the Connecticut Association of Town Clerks to recruit 250 college poll workers by building off of the pilot program of 2004 HAVCP grantee, Asnuntuck Community College (ACC). CCSU's program will target first year students to create a pool of students who will return to work as student mentors for other students in future elections. Students will be required to enroll in a one credit hybrid U.S. Elections and Civic Engagement course that will focus on serving as a poll worker. By combining an academic course with a civic engagement project, CCSU hopes that the program will not only develop a stronger sense of community amongst students and an increased level of knowledge about civil society, but will also

produce an increased likelihood of students participating in civic activities in the future. CCSU's program will go beyond the ACC program by sending out follow-up surveys to measure changes in attitudes towards civic participation among college students participating in the program.

College of the Canyons; Santa Clarita, CA

Contact: Theresa Zuzevich

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Program Name: Training election poll workers in Santa Clarita, California

Funding Level: \$59,200.00

Project Description: The College of the Canyons (COC) will work with the Santa Clarita City Clerk's Office, the Board of Trustees of the Santa Clarita Community College District and the Santa Clarita Valley chapter of Junior Chamber International to recruit and train 750 poll workers for North Los Angeles County. As the largest voting district in Los Angeles County, as well as its geographical isolation, Santa Clarita is in need of poll workers to serve 117 voting precincts. COC will offer a series of workshops on civic responsibility and engagement for students and community members who sign up to be poll workers. Data will be tracked by the Student Development Office and information will be disseminated using social media tools like Facebook and Twitter. The program will recruit students bilingual in Spanish, facilitate students with disabilities and hire interpreters to translate poll worker trainings into sign language for students with hearing impairments. COC will create a replicable program to be used by other colleges and universities in future years.

Harris-Stowe State University; St. Louis, MO

Contact: Annette Curdt

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Program Name: HSSU Student Poll Workers Initiative

Funding Level: 43,433.00

Project Description: The Department of Student Activities at Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) is working with the St. Louis City Board of Election Commissioners to implement a college poll worker program that will recruit 100-150 students. Located in an urban community, HSSU serves a population of more than 90 percent minorities. HSSU will increase student knowledge of election and voting processes and their level of participation through voting.. Recruitment efforts will take place in and out of the classroom involving instructors in the Political Science and Criminal Justice department to recruit students from their classes, and website development to the HSSU website that will direct interested students to information about the program as well as an application that can be sent electronically to the director.

Keystone College; La Plume, PA

Contact: Sharon Burke

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Program Name: Help NEPA Vote: Step up to the Poll!

Funding Level: 39,996.00

Project Description: Keystone College's "Help NEPA Vote: *Step Up to the Poll!*" program will recruit and train 75 students to become poll workers to serve in Lackawanna, Wyoming, Bradford and Susquehanna Counties. Partnerships will be made with each county's Director of Elections to facilitate direct connection to municipalities in need of poll workers and assist with registration for poll worker training. Particular emphasis will be placed on recruiting culturally diverse students and students who are multi-lingual. A Student Champion will coordinate Help NEPA Vote recruitment activities and a student-centered *Step Up to the Poll!* challenge campaign which is designed to motivate and increase student participation. The *Step Up to the Poll!* program will integrate poll work into the classroom, updating classroom curriculum, as well as implement an excused absence policy for all students campus-wide who will be serving as poll workers and utilize Student Senate to lead peer-to-peer education on election process and motivate civic engagement.

Kids Voting of Central Ohio; Columbus, OH

Contact: Jeff Cabot

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Program Name: The Central Ohio College Poll Worker Recruitment Program

Funding Level: \$84,000.00

Project Description: Kids Voting of Central Ohio (KVCO) will partner with the Franklin County Board of Elections (FCBOE) and HAVA Partners (HP) to develop innovative outreach and training strategies to recruit and train 500 college students from the Ohio State University (OSU) and Columbus State CC (CSCC) to serve as poll workers in the November elections. The program will create training video-games that simulate working at the polling place. The program will develop virtual polling places that train students through the use of an avatar. Students will be able to role-play typical interactions with voters, solve problems that might arise at the polling place, and learn what decisions to make in varying circumstances all through a highly interactive video game. KVCO will make use of social media tools like Facebook and Twitter to recruit students. The program will track student activity and collect data as well as survey users about their experience.

Kutztown University; Kutztown, PA

Contact: Julianne Nolan

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Program Name: Kutztown University College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$58,868.00

Project Description: Kutztown University (KU) is partnering with Berks County Board of Elections to expand the pool of poll workers and available poll interpreters, particularly fluent in Spanish; assess and address the accessibility of the polling places; and produce an updated poll worker recruitment and training video to be used by the county. Berks County does not have a student poll worker program at the college level and is in need of a larger and younger pool of poll workers. KU will recruit and train 75 students, targeting at least 25 students who are bilingual in Spanish, to address the city's need for interpreter assistance. Collaborative efforts will be made with the Language Arts Department to incorporate a service learning component for students who serve as interpreters, as well as with the Multicultural Center to involve students of all ethnicities. KU's Office of Disability Services will assist in assessing the environments of the polling places to determine if they are welcoming and accessible surroundings for disabled voters.

Lourdes College; Sylvania, OH

Contact: Manda Rice

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Program Name: Poll Worker Program at Lourdes College

Funding Level: \$34,783.00

Project Description: Lourdes College is partnering with the Lucas County Board of Elections to recruit 120 students to serve the 97 precincts in the county. The TRiO Student Services program, which is a federally funded program that serves first generation, low-income students and those with disabilities, the Veteran's Center and the Office of Accessibility Services will be involved with recruitment and implementation efforts. TRiO and non-TRiO students will develop a committee that will assist the project director and project coordinator in administering the project. Particular emphasis will be placed on recruiting students that represent diverse backgrounds including underrepresented groups, those with disabilities and veterans. Social work students will work with the Board of Elections to conduct a needs assessment of access to voting resources among economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and individuals with disabilities. Training will be held on campus, recorded via lecture capture technology with closed captioning and made available to other counties waiting to establish a college poll worker program.

Marshall-Wythe Law School Foundation; Williamsburg, VA

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Program Name: The Tidewater Roots Polling Project

Funding Level: 63,700.00

Project Description: The Election Law Society (ELS) at the William & Mary Law School will recruit and train 240 college students from six colleges in the Tidewater region including Christopher Newport University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Regent University and William & Mary. Through the Tidewater Roots Polling Project (TRPP), students will take part in a series of trainings including a technical training session offered by Registrars of the counties being served as well as events that offer students the opportunity meet and interact with experienced poll workers. The program intends to go beyond recruiting and training college poll workers to not only teach students the skills needed to be effective poll workers, but also to ensure lasting impact by inspiring students and instilling a sense of civic spirit. TRPP will create five video oral histories through interviews with selected veteran poll workers who served in Virginia for more than thirty years. These videos will be part of a website development project that will provide information and resources for how students can get involved in the election process.

Morehouse College; Atlanta, GA

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Program Name: College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: 38,037.00

Project Description: The Morehouse College Community Revitalization Initiative (MCCRI) will collaborate with the Brisbane Institute and the Bonner Office of Community Service of Morehouse College to recruit, train and mobilize 75 students to become poll workers. The MCCRI will collaborate with 12 neighborhood organizations such as Georgia Stand Up and the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda to assist with recruitment efforts and the Fulton County Election Commission will provide training to students. One student assistant will be recruited to develop recruitment materials. MCCRI will also provide a monthly Voter Education class that will be designed to educate participants on voting trends and the electoral process. Morehouse College will develop website pages dedicated to the program and promote the program on the web-based Morehouse College calendar and MCCRI Facebook page. Pre and post surveys will be distributed to measure the impact of the program.

Southern Utah University; Cedar City, UT

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Program Name: College Action for Student Turnout – College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$46,480.00

Project Description: The Michael O. Leavitt Center for Politics and Public Service (Leavitt Center) at Southern Utah University (SUU) proposes to work with the Lieutenant Governor and five County Clerk offices to recruit 30 students as poll workers to address the recent decline of voter participation in the state. The goal of this program is to connect SUU students with surrounding local rural communities, inspiring them to fulfill their civic duties. Data will be collected to determine where students are needed the most and assign them to serve in these districts. With a large percentage of students from the surrounding local areas, this program will try to assign students to polling stations in their home voting districts. With this approach, the Leavitt Center hopes to teach students civic responsibility while inspiring them to participate well into the future. The Leavitt Center will use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and a campus mass texting network to reach out to students. Particular emphasis will be on recruiting Native American and Hispanic students through the Native American Student Union and the Hispanic Student Association, as well as students with disabilities through the Disability Support Center.

Suffolk University; Boston, MA

Contact: Rachael Cobb

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Program Name: The University Poll Worker Project at Suffolk University

Funding Level: \$30,211.00

Project Description:

As a past EAC grant recipient, Suffolk University plans to build on past successes by expanding its poll worker program. Suffolk University will partner with Wheelock College, the Colleges of the Fenway and the Disability Law Center to recruit 250 students to serve as poll workers. This program proposes to develop a supplementary pilot poll worker training curriculum that will focus on creating new materials that specialize in training poll workers to assist voters with disabilities. Suffolk plans to develop two training videos—one for voters and one for poll workers—to educate both populations about what kinds of accommodations exist, how to use these accommodations and how to ask for them if necessary. These videos will be available through the City of Boston's Election Department website.

University of Tennessee; Knoxville, TN

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Program Name: Knox County Election Commission: College Student Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$61,000.00

Project Description: The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville will partner with the Knox County Election Commission to recruit and train at least 200 college students to become poll workers on Election Day through the development of a series of videos and website for an online college student poll worker training program. Knox County has 94 precincts serving 265,000 registered voters and is in need of poll workers due to the shortage of volunteers, absenteeism, and unfamiliarity with technology and other election processes, and the decreasing number of volunteers due to the increasing average age of poll workers. This program will recruit students from three different campuses including the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Knoxville College and Pellissippi State Community College. The Howard H. Baker Center will collaborate with the Tennessee Disability Coalition and Disability Resource Center to ensure accessibility and training needs of students with disabilities. The goal of this program is to create accessible opportunities for all college students to participate in the poll worker program while meeting the immediate need for poll workers, developing a model for the state and creating a new generation of people who will continue to stay engaged in the election process.

University of Rochester; Rochester, NY

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Program Name: Monroe County Election Fellows Program

Funding Level: 62,000.00

Project Description: The Rochester Center for Community Leadership (RCCL) will partner with the Monroe County Board of Elections to recruit and train 150 college poll workers from the University of Rochester, Monroe Community College and Roberts Wesleyan College with emphasis on minority and disabled students. Two Election Fellows will be selected from each of the participating institutions to design and implement strategies to recruit student poll workers on their campuses. Election Fellows will also be responsible for attending "Boot Camp" training where Election Commissioners will introduce and provide training on the new ImageCast voting machines. Election Fellows will work closely with the Monroe County Board of Elections to evaluate the effectiveness of the new voting technology and seek to develop helpful voting procedures and materials. The RCCL anticipates expanding its outreach to include the remaining four local institutions—Nazareth, St. John Fisher, SUNY Brockport, and Rochester Institute of Technology.