



GATEWAY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CIVIC ACTION PLAN

Intentionally connecting students, faculty, and staff to
the community in which they live, work, and serve

In March 2016, Campus Compact, a nationwide organization of colleges and universities dedicated to community and civic engagement, provided a challenge to all affiliated colleges to create a tangible plan to reconnect with their communities.

Gateway Technical College educates tomorrow's leaders, professionals, and workers. The responsibility we have to our students, faculty, and staff is to ensure their connection to education, skill development, and the community in which they live, work, and serve. Through the creation of the Civic Action Plan, we have committed to intentionally offer the opportunities for students and staff to engage as citizens within our community and campus.

By creating measurable goals associated with the guided commitments developed through Campus Compact, we have developed a pathway to foster the civic development and engagement of our students and staff in a way that is purposeful and intentional within the community.

The Civic Action Plan will support college-wide efforts in increasing enrollment, persistence, retention, and completion rates while encouraging and supporting our staff in engaging in a defined culture of service. Focusing on educational and experiential opportunities, which include a strong community engagement focus along with accountable assessment practices, will help us accomplish these goals. Increasing our culture of service will help us engage our students and staff at Gateway and the community.

COMMITMENTS TO MEET

We **empower** 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.

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.

We **embrace** our responsibilities as **place-based institutions**, contributing to the **health and strength of our communities** — economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.

We **harness the capacity of our institutions** — through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice — **to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities** that threaten our democratic future.

We foster 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.

HOW WE WILL MEET THESE COMMITMENTS

This is a working document intended to give direction and focus to Gateway Technical College that will adjust and evolve as the Civic Action Plan Implementation team moves forward.

GOAL 1: We will identify, prioritize, publicize and celebrate our various partnerships and create a mechanism that will document and recognize all local, regional and global partnerships moving forward. Our goal includes the identification of missing partnerships, opportunities for enriching existing partnerships, and acknowledgement of partnerships which have run their course and need to be terminated.

GOAL 2: We will create sustainable educational opportunities driven by student voice and feedback aimed at preparing them for lives as engaged citizens within the broad areas of government, environment, education, and social justice. This will be done in conjunction with Goal 5 (pg 5).

GOAL 3: We will create and maintain a centralized district-wide inventory of college outreach with external partners. This central repository maintained by a department champion is intended to collect partnerships, involvement, and relationships to foster effective collaboration within our community. It is expected that by the creation of this centralized database, Gateway Technical College will be better situated to build and cultivate relationships internally and externally to contribute purposefully to the health and strength of our communities, while meeting the limitations and gaps of service.

NOTE: This goal has now been adopted into an existing College-wide Initiative in partnership with SEM and will be addressed collaboratively to identify a single CRM (Customer Relationship Management) product which will help us meet this goal in the future.

GOAL 4: We will continually evaluate Gateway's current research, teaching, and institutional practices in order to raise awareness about social and economic inequalities aimed at broadening the discussion about topics raised by our communities. To encourage our audience to think critically about and act on challenging social and economic inequalities, we will host and foster a culture of open discussion on these topics with the intention of establishing action-oriented habits and creative solutions and practices.

GOAL 5: In order to meet the centrality of the public purposes of higher education, this goal has been broken into four separate measurable outcomes with the intention of focusing on setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their education and achievement in: government, education, environment, and social justice.



5.a. We will provide knowledge of governmental impacts at the college, state, local levels through the development of a government informational speaker series working with United Student Government, Student Life and the Office of Community and Government Relations, and the Office of the Provost.

5.b. Students and staff will understand the impact that their daily lives have on the surrounding environment by increased awareness of opportunities at Gateway and within our communities.

5.c. Engaging in opportunities within the K-12 and Higher Ed. partners in the tri-county area to assist the next generation in their educational success through exposure to career and training opportunities.

5.d. Empowering Gateway staff and students to understand the needs/concerns/issues within the tri county area by collaboratively working with United Student Government, Student Life and outside non- for profit agencies which will strengthen the communities in which we live through increased engagement.

GOAL 6: We will invest in the growth of community engagement at Gateway Technical College by offering more opportunities for academic service learning for students, volunteering and engagement opportunities for staff, and collaborative service opportunities for all audiences. We will accomplish this by developing a policy in regards to employee engagement, hosting and promoting single days of service on campus and in the community, and expanding the service learning program into an “IMPACT” program.

