

## How are we channeling student passion for civic engagement this summer?

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Mon 7/13/2020 8:02 AM

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for a new academic year, we are requesting that you share your stories of engagement!

We are less than 5 months from Election Day, and if the previous few months are any indication, there will be more turmoil ahead. We began the [Engage 2020 Initiative](#) in late 2019 with the idea that encouraging participation in the electoral system at various levels would contribute to the civic preparedness of our students. As we said at the time, and as we still believe, learning through civic engagement is good for students, for their educational institutions and for the country.

Many of our partner institutions planned to encourage student participation with internships, service-learning classes, and volunteer opportunities. We imagined young people knocking on doors, talking with their neighbors about local issues, or working on national campaigns. With the intensification of the Covid -19 pandemic in March, many of our plans were upended, and civic participation was derailed. However, in the last few weeks, we have seen a torrent of political activity from young people as revulsion at racism and injustice spurred massive protests across the country. Civic engagement has been ignited in communities across the country.

How can colleges and universities help channel the public energies of our students into work within local, state and national elections? How can we find ways to make the political participation of young people even more educational and effective?

To date, [close to 300 colleges and universities](#) have signed on to the principles of Engage 2020! Here at Wesleyan University, [E2020 Summer grant recipients](#) are supporting local and national campaigns, while also doing issues advocacy work. We are eager to hear what our partner institutions are doing in this regard - to share good practices, to leverage the best ones, and to inspire new efforts.

**Please share your stories with us by [filling out this form](#), and read other [Engage 2020 stories here](#).** So much is at stake, for our students, for our institutions, and for the country!

Thank you for your continued support!

All the best,

*The E2020 Initiative Team*