

Civic Education and Voter Engagement Professional Development Opportunities

In this document, you will find a list of current professional development opportunities related to civic education and/or voter engagement. These events are hosted by nonpartisan organizations.

Practicing Democracy: Voter Education and Engagement on Campus Workshops

Join AASCU's American Democracy Project in helping our campuses prepare students and communities to participate in the 2024 local, state, and national elections.

About Voter Education Workshops: Voter education is defined as building knowledge, civic skills, and democratic values. Sessions include best practices to build knowledge, skills, and democratic values, informational overviews, resource spotlights, and trainings designed to incorporate civics into curriculum and co-curriculum. They are designed for faculty and staff who wish to incorporate information literacy, deliberative dialogues, and issue-based discussions into their campus during fall 2024.

About Voter Engagement Workshops: Voter Engagement encourages and supports peaceful and meaningful participation in elections within our communities. Sessions include strategies for building, implementing, and assessing campus voting plans and understanding legislation about voting on campuses. They are designed for campus leaders who support student and community voting.

March:

- [Voter Education Workshops](#)
March 15: How to Incorporate a Political Diagnostic in Your Work
March 22: Integrating Civic Awareness Across Disciplines
- [Voter Engagement Workshops](#)
March 11: Assessing Learning Outcomes for Student Civic Fellowships
March 18: Physical and Mental Health During Election Years

April:

- [Voter Education Workshops](#)
April 5: Exploring the Impact of Political Ideology on Hot Topics
April 12: Including Deliberative Dialogues in the Classroom
April 19: Artificial Intelligence and the Election
April 26: Ideas for Incorporating Voter issues into the Classroom
- [Voter Engagement Workshops](#)
April 8: Organizing Community Dialogues
April 15: Developing Engaged Students
April 22: Strengthening Campus-Community Voting Initiatives
April 29: Maintaining a Positive Campus Climate During the 2024 Election

Find more information and register [online](#). Direct questions to [Ellen Knutson](#), program manager for Practicing Democracy.

Trust 101 Workshops: The Extending Empathy Project

The Extending Empathy Project is pleased to collaborate with The American Democracy Project to bring to you this [series of colloquia](#) geared toward examining just how thoroughly trust determines the course of our lives. Each talk will focus on how trust works at different levels of engagement, beginning with one-on-one interaction, then the media, then social media such as Twitter, and then, finally, democracy itself. All presentations will take place on Zoom and are free to the public. [Registration is open now.](#)

Upcoming sessions:

- **Trust and Media in a Post-Truth Era**
Dr. Steve Hunt
School of Communication
Illinois State University
Wednesday, March 13th, 2024
4:00-5:30 pm CST
- **Misplaced Trust: What Role Does Trust Have in Conspiratorial Thinking?**
Anna George, MSc & Dr. Eric Wesselmann
Oxford Internet Institute & Department of Psychology
Oxford University & Illinois State University
March 20th, 2024
4:00-5:30 pm CST
- **Enhancing Trust by Dismantling Stigma: An Ecological Perspective**
Dr. Daniel Lannin
Department of Psychology
Illinois State University
Wednesday, April 17th, 2024
4:00-5:30 pm CST
- **“Why can’t I trust you?” The Neuroscience and Psychology of Trust**
Dr. J. Scott Jordan
Department of Psychology
Illinois State University
Wednesday, May 15th, 2024
4:00-5:30 pm CST
- **Confronting America’s Legitimacy Crisis: (Dis)Trust, Precarity, and the Necessity of Democratic Reforms**
Dr. Byron Craig and Dr. Steve Rahko
School of Communication
Illinois State University
June 19th, 2024
4:00-5:30 pm CST

Additional Resources

The Center for Collegiate Mental Health (CCMH) at Penn State University provides a free 2-hour Continuing Education program:

- The live webinar “**When Politics Get Personal: Sociopolitical Stress and College Student Mental Health**” will take place on April 24, 2024, from noon to 2:00 p.m. EST. Bringing together a multidisciplinary team of professionals in law and mental health, this training will provide a range of professionals in higher education and beyond with the necessary awareness, knowledge, and skills to support college student communities as they navigate a politically stressful environment. The program is available to anyone who wishes to attend. Registration must be made [online](#).

Human Resources at Illinois State University is promoting Trainings & Workshops in the coming weeks. Check the full calendar and register through the [Event Portal](#):

- **Helping Students Navigate Mental Health Challenges:** 4/9/24 from 1:00 to 2:30, Student Services Building, Room 314. Presenters: Danielle Beasley, LCSW and Stacy Parton, LCPC. In this session, we will go in-depth into ways to have difficult conversations with students who are struggling with mental health concerns, as well as resources and referrals where they can get help. Emphasis will be placed on faculty & staff self-care in managing these difficult interactions. You will also be introduced to Kognito, an interactive training program that teaches users how to recognize, approach, and assist others in emotional stress by connecting them with the appropriate resources on and off campus. This training will help you: 1. Have difficult conversations with students who are struggling. 2. Identify resources on and off campus that can be helpful to your students and to you. 3. Maintain self-care and boundaries to preserve your energy and effectively handle difficult situations
- **Trauma-Informed Leadership:** 4/11/24 from 10:00 to 12:00, STV 401. Presenter: Stacy Parton, LCPC. Trauma is very prevalent in our world, whether it is through childhood events, recent losses, prejudice and oppression, or living through a global pandemic. This workshop will focus on understanding the biopsychosocial impacts of trauma and how those can impair functioning in a university setting. Participants will learn to identify possible trauma responses and take appropriate steps to ensure that care and support are available. Learn how to create a supportive workplace by integrating elements of trauma-informed care into your leadership practice.

LinkedIn Learning, available through Illinois State University, offers short training opportunities and courses that may be of interest and can be taken at any time:

- [Bystander Intervention for Today's Workforce](#)
- [Conflict Resolution Foundations](#)
- [Conflict Resolution For Beginners](#)