



## FACT SHEET

- The Democracy Commitment (TDC) is a national initiative to engage community college students in civic learning and democratic practice. The goal is that every graduate of a U.S. community college—whether they aim to transfer, earn an associate degree or obtain a certificate—will have had an education in democracy.
- The Democracy Commitment will provide a national platform for the development and expansion of programs and projects, and the sharing of best practices.
- The Democracy Commitment currently represents nearly two million students and 110 college campuses, with institutional members from all around the country.
- The Democracy Commitment asks that participants agree to
  - Publicly commit to the central role of civic education
  - Provide intentional support for both curricular and extracurricular programs that build civic skills among students, especially focusing on projects that support students in doing public work
  - Offer faculty and staff development in civic engagement
  - Partner with local civic, non-profit and governmental agencies whose primary work is the social and economic development of local communities
  - Participate in a national clearinghouse of program designs, curricula and project development strategies for community colleges
  - Attend an annual meeting that brings together faculty, staff, administrators and partners
  - Develop joint regional and national programs with partner universities and with national higher education associations
  - Appoint a campus coordinator to liaison between the national coordinator, their campus, and other member institutions.
- Members of The Democracy Commitment should complete a campus civic inventory of their current civic and democracy education projects. An electronic submission form is available on the website under “Member Resources.” The inventory will facilitate the development of conference agendas and panels, enhancing faculty development and curricula, and the sharing of best practices.

- Participating colleges are also asked to make an annual contribution to assist with national projects and the annual conference. A donation from the Rappaport Family Foundation provided seed money for the TDC staff member housed at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) in Washington, DC.
- The Democracy Commitment was developed in early 2011 by community college leaders. It was modeled on the American Democracy Project (ADP), which is focused on four-year colleges and universities. ADP is a project of AASCU.
- The Democracy Commitment and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) received a \$360,000 grant to support faculty and curriculum development that will result in new humanities courses that teach skills and knowledge essential for responsible citizenship in a diverse and globally connected world. Twelve community colleges will be selected in late February 2012 to pilot the initiative. For more information visit: <http://thedemocracycommitment.org/neh-grant/>
- The Kettering Foundation [www.kettering.org/](http://www.kettering.org/), The Community Learning Partnership (<http://communitylearningpartnership.org/>) Street Law, Inc. (<http://www.streetlaw.org/en/home>), Emerald Cities Collaborative (<http://emeraldcities.org/>), Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (<http://pulitzercenter.org/>), Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability (<http://dans.aashe.org/>), and Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) Center (<http://www.theseedcenter.org/default.aspx>) are all partners of The Democracy Commitment.
- Endorsers of The Democracy Commitment include the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the League for Innovation in the Community Colleges (“the League”), the Association for American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and the Community College National Center for Community Engagement (CCNCCE). The Academic Senate of California Community Colleges and the Maricopa Community Colleges Faculty Association have approved resolutions in support of The Democracy Commitment.
- The third annual meeting of The Democracy Commitment will be held June 6-8, 2013, as a joint conference with ADP Denver, Colorado.

For more information, please contact:

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