

## Background: Campus Compact President’s Civic Action Plan

*In spring 2016, presidents of Campus Compact member institutions signed the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Action Statement of Presidents and Chancellors that affirms the commitment of higher education to the public good. The Statement commits campuses to taking concrete steps to advance student civic learning and contribute to a more just, equitable, and sustainable democratic future. In signing the Action Statement, each campus commits to create a Campus Civic Action Plan, documenting how it will strengthen engagement (excerpted from compact.org.)*

Cal State East Bay values civic engagement and learning, as articulated within our mission and strategic commitments. We educate students to be, “to be socially responsible contributors to society” and “strive(s) to meet the educational needs and to contribute to the vitality of the East Bay, the state, the nation, and global communities.” This over-arching recognition of our responsibility as an anchor institution and commitment to education for the public good can be seen in the infrastructure and activities supported by our university. A wide variety of offices and programs engage staff, faculty, and students in collaborative efforts that embrace the diversity of our campus, recognize the importance of educating future leaders, and realize our ethical commitment to the health and welfare of the region.

Campus Compact President’s Action Statement:

#1: 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.
#2: 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.
#3: We embrace our responsibilities as place-based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities – economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.
#4: 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.
#5: 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.

### Cal State East Bay Vision:

Our Civic Action Plan seeks to build upon current structures and efforts to further foster a campus culture that values and empowers each student with the capacity to thrive in and

contribute to the public good. By creating and working within a framework of intentional, applied, and connected civic learning experiences Cal State East Bay will become a learning ground for civic responsibility and action, helping students understand their role in creating an equitable future. The plan is not meant to be representative of all activities and learning related to civic engagement, but an articulation of next steps and collaborations that are specifically aligned with the Campus Compact Civic Action statement.

Our approach includes a variety of strategies that address campus culture, academic courses, co-curricular learning experiences, and community partnerships. Within these we will examine current efforts towards civic learning and, based on the benchmarks set forth in Campus Compact President's Action Statement, more purposefully and transparently realize aspects of civic learning.

Cal State East Bay will be converting from quarters to semesters beginning in Fall 2018. Semester conversion is an important consideration within this plan, using the interim to assess, plan, and pilot; then after semester conversion, roll out further conversations and steps based on pilot activities.

#### **Cal State East Bay Collaboration and Implementation Plan:**

The activities/steps articulated in the plan represent the investment of a variety of campus stakeholders. The plan for collaboration moving forward includes quarterly meetings of an informal "civic learning group" for networking, resource sharing, brainstorming, and tracking of activities. Within this group, participants will self-identify as working groups focused on items in the plan aligned with their work or interests. There is no administrative oversight of the group; the Center for Community Engagement is currently acting as organizing entity for this group effort.