

Creating Visibility

Voter registrations may be finished, but there's more you can do to keep student voters involved and educated! Here are 10 ideas CEEP has highlighted from campuses that are using visible, creative initiatives to capture student interest and attention:

1. **Invite your local county elections supervisor** to speak. Columbus State Community College (OH) did this, as did Nova Southeastern University (FL), while Colorado Compact had Denver's supervisor address a state-wide student gathering.
2. **Get students to sign a "Pledge to Vote,"** creating a card for them to sign or sending them to sites collecting online pledges, like [Rock the Vote's](#), where they can commit to showing up at the polls.
3. **Set up mock polling places and hold mock elections, perhaps in the student union, with sample ballots and related information for students to practice voting and consider how they'll vote.** University of St. Francis (IN) did this as part of their registration drives. Such dry runs can assure new voters they're bringing the proper ID and filling out the ballot as they intend. They also encourage them to learn about issues and candidates before November 6th.
4. **Hold rallies leading up to the vote.** North Carolina A&T's 2008 "AGGIES Get Out to Vote" rally included live music, food, and voter registration tables. The school estimated their voter engagement efforts reached 12,000 students, faculty, and community members.
5. In 2008, Community College of Denver ordered **Obama/McCain masks and gigantic blow-up boxing gloves** and used them to hold mock fights and break dancing contests all over campus. The masks are \$7-\$18 each and are orderable [here for Romney](#) and [here for Obama](#). And [here's](#) where you get the \$15 giant boxing gloves. In addition, students at SUNY Plattsburgh & SUNY Cortland have been posing for photos with **life-size cut outs of Romney and Obama** at voter registration and election related events on their campuses.
6. Hold **flash mobs or skits about voting, or to publicize key events.** At Florida State in 2008, students formed a flash mob, gathering in the student union with t-shirts promoting the voting date and slogans like "I vote for education" or "I vote for health care." They froze for five minutes to let the crowd look at them. Then they moved on, did the same thing elsewhere on the campus, and repeated it again. Similarly, Eastern Michigan University students wore orange arm bands listing issues they cared about, using them to start election-related conversations.
7. **Use Halloween to highlight the election:**
 - **Trick or Vote encourages canvassing** on or around Halloween with templates and examples. Take advantage of parties to spread, voter education, voter rights, and get out the vote messages.
 - **Hand out candy messages.** Get some bags of candy and stick or tie small messages to them ("Vote Nov 6", "Bring ID to the polls", "What time are you voting?", or "How are you getting to the polls?" Then put on a costume (or not) and hand them out on campus
 - **Hold Halloween parties with election-related themes--**Minnesota's Anoka-Ramsey Community College held one called "Are You Scared to Vote?"
8. **Display posters, banners, signs and sandwich boards** (as permitted). **To create posters** on your own, by using Campus Compact's [existing templates](#), or hand out [stickers](#) to go on everything from book covers to water bottles to bicycles.
9. **Provide chalk so students can draw messages** and images on campus walkways to encourage voting, share key websites, and announce activities.
10. **Use old and new social media to promote campus events, remind of key deadlines, and connect students with the Twitter and Facebook sites of candidates they might support.**



Share your creative ideas with NY|CC/CEEP by contacting Amanda Stampelis, at nyccintern1@gmail.com