



COLLIN COLLEGE

# COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD





## Change Starts With Us

*"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way" -John Maxwell*



This past year has been a crazy one with the many challenges that our nation has had to face. It's important to have the right leaders to help a nation overcome the challenges it faces. With 2020 being an election year Collin College's SGA found it important that the voices of our students be heard.

For many new voters the process can be quite intimidating so we put together a project that would help new voters through the entire process from registering to vote to putting on their "I voted" sticker. Our goal was to make sure that our students were able to piece together a better tomorrow.



## VDR Registration

*"If serving is below you, leadership is beyond you"-Anon*



Many new voters are surprised to find out that they have to register to vote and by the time they've learned they have to register, it's too late to register and vote in the upcoming election. Our first goal we set was to make sure our students had an easy way to register to vote. To achieve our first goal our executive team took a course and exam to become Texas Voter Deputy Registrars. This allowed us to register students to vote any time any place. Any student at anytime could schedule an appointment or visit our offices to get registered to vote.



## Actively being a VDR on campus

*"You may never know the results of your actions by being idle, for you might not achieve anything" -Sean Intiomale*

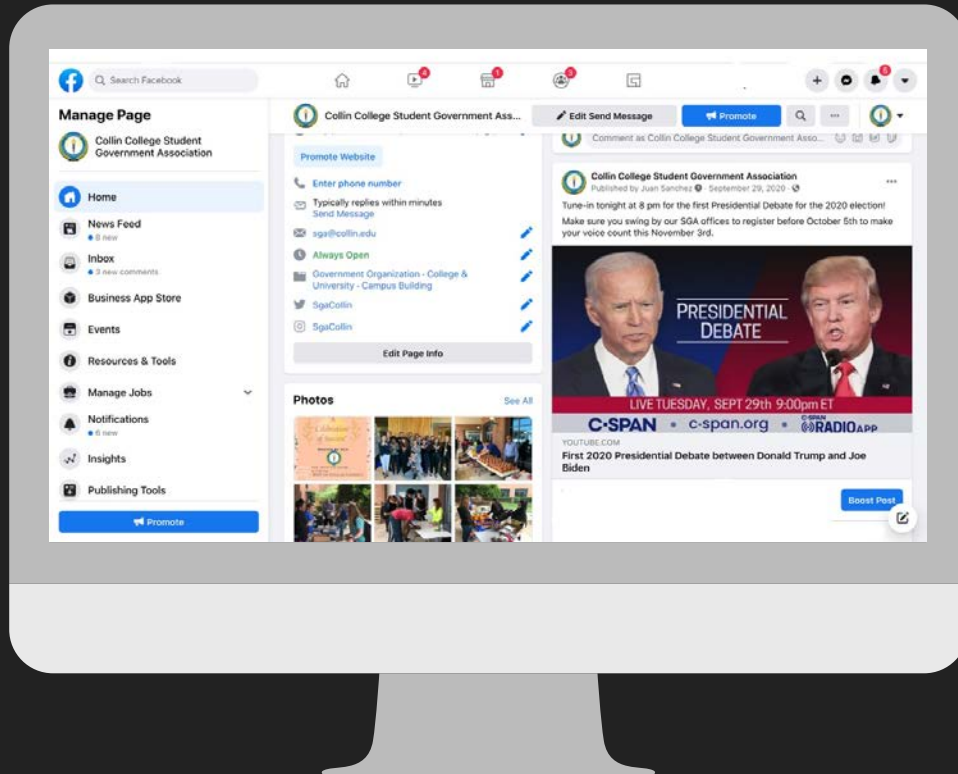
After accomplishing our first goal we knew we had to do more. With COVID restrictions the number of on-campus students had drastically declined and we weren't registering the amount of students that we wanted to. To wait for students to come to us wasn't going to get us to our ultimate goal of giving our students the ability to piece together a better tomorrow. We went out every week to one of our four primary campuses and walked around asking students if they were registered to vote. Many were surprised when they found out that they needed to register to vote. By actively using the skills that we acquired from becoming VDRs we were able to register over 220 students to vote.





# Virtual Debate Watch Parties

*"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."  
-John F. Kennedy*



As leaders in our Student Government we know very well the importance of voting for the right person. We also understand the importance of freely being able to choose which candidates to support. In a nation that seems so polarizing when it comes to politics our SGA Executive Team worked hard to give our students bipartisan ways to learn about the candidates. One way we did this was by hosting debate watch parties on our facebook page so student could gather in a covid friendly way and learn about the presidential candidates. Many students didn't know how they could watch the debate, but with these watch parties any student could watch and listen.



## Training to work the Polls

*"Leaders lead by serving"-Alin Sav*



At this point in our project we had been deputized to register people to vote, registered over 220 students to vote, and hosted debate watch parties. We had accomplished what we set out to do! But President Sanchez knew that there was more we could do. He reached out to county officials and leaders on how we can continue in our project. The next step was to become trained to work the election polls. Working the election polls was important to us for a few reasons:

- 1) we wanted our students to be able to have the option to go to a polling location where they would know someone, as well as provide them with somewhere they would feel comfortable to ask questions.
- 2) We wanted to not only lead by example for our students, but also to the youth of Collin County. many parents walked in with their kids. We wanted to be there to inspire the next generation to get involved and to show the importance of getting involved in your community.



# Working the Polls

*Every vote matters*

On November 3, 2020 SGA executives and some general members woke up before the sun to make their way to Melissa First Baptist Church to embark on the long day of working the polls. Election day was finally here the day that all of our work had led up too and man were we excited for it.

Our SGA Executive Team created this project to piece together a better tomorrow. To do that it means more than helping our students. Working the election is exhausting especially if you are an assistant election judge. A older man walked in to vote. At check-in he was told that he received a mail in ballot which meant he could only vote if he surrendered his ballot. The election clerk tried to communicate this with the man, but his English was not very good. Intimidated and scared he kept saying "I cant vote ok no worries" Assistant Election Judge and President Sanchez saw this and immediately dropped what he was doing and ran after him. President Sanchez who is bilingual in English and Spanish spoke with the man and explained to him the situation the man came back an hour latter with his mail in ballot which he surrendered and voted in person. "I remember the smile on his face when he was putting on his "I voted" sticker"-TGCSGA Region II Rep. Habib. This act by President Sanchez best sums up our project goal. To piece together a better tomorrow we must empower those around us.





## Piecing together a better tomorrow

*"If you want to change the world start with your self"-Mahatma Gandhi*



When our SGA Executive Team set out on this journey little did we know the impact it would have not only on our students and our community, but the impact it would have on us. We spent countless hours working hard on this and learning election turn outs were higher than ever and that we played a role in that is amazing. In working to better our students we grew as servant leaders not only on campus, but in our community. This project was a project that we didn't want to end with us. Our SGA Executive Team created a resolution recommending that every member of the current and future SGA Executive Team, if eligible, become deputized as a VDR. This year not only did we change our community for the better but we ensured that future student leaders have all the tools the need to continue to work towards our goal of piecing together a better tomorrow.

