

North Lake College



Community Service Award

Small Acts, Transforms the World.

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“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give” -Winston Churchill. Community Service is the basis of humanity; this is the moment we become stewards of our society. For plethora of years, the Student Government Association (SGA) has immensely surpassed expectations by continuously creating hyper-awareness for social and environmental matters. The North Lake College Student Government Association’s primary objectives comprise of positively promoting campus engagement, advocating exemplary demeanor and actively welcoming diverse cultures. This year our major community service was the Voter’s Registration.

Amidst the 2018 senatorial election, the Student Government Association diligently worked on enlightening students as to why voting is important and why their voice needs to be heard. By not voting, people are waving their right as a citizen. This was a point that was emphasized to our students, and ultimately fulfilled their civic duty. Our SGA held Voter’s Registration Week in which our members and officers were dressed in humorous costumes in an effort to grasp the students’ attention and encourage them to vote. Additionally, our SGA collaborated with the League of Women Voters and Inspire U.S to register voters. The League of Women Voters gave out information to students on how to vote, where, and the essential information to cast their vote.

Moving forward, North Lake College hosted the registration party where many members campaigned and even went to classes to persuade their peers. We visited approximately 75 classes, using this strategy and were able to register roughly 700 students to vote. Some of our officers walked around the campus inspiring students to vote, while others tabled to register

those that were eligible to vote. The purpose of the campaigning was to increase awareness of the upcoming election and encourage our peers to research each candidate. It gave them the opportunity to formulate informed opinions and vote accordingly.

Campaigning took place for about three months, during these months, SGA members handed out flyers on the importance of voting. The Student Government Association officer team also made mock campaign posters of the officers to encourage students to vote. To our advantage, early voting took place on campus this meant we were able to push the majority of the students to use their voice. The League of Women Voters explained to students how important their votes were and the difference it can make. Also, we received training by Ryan Drysdale and Barbara Larkin from INSPIRE (a strictly nonpartisan, non-profit organization that's mission is to transform young leaders' inspiration into action). As members of SGA we know that it is important for our school to reflect the needs of our students. With the training received from INSPIRE we were able to take this to a grander scale by not just ensuring that the students needs are reflected in a school but by also moving others to vote and ensure that our needs as U.S Citizens are being reflected in our government. As final efforts due to our campus hosting early voting registration, a week before this dates we created a schedule in which members of SGA would sign up for slots to aid in the voting location. From redirecting lost voters to the correct voting location in our campus, to answering questions that may seem insignificant such as "Where can we park?". This insured the voters a smooth and successful voting process. To our surprise many of the students we had informed and encouraged to vote showed up, and rekindled or initiated their dormant voting habits. Lastly, to finish off our hard work we decided to bring the community together to celebrate on how we used our right to

expression, through voting. So, we hosted an Election watch party. Everyone in the community was invited no matter what candidate they had voted on. We reserved the Student Life Center which held the maximum and safest capacity and because it granted us access to air the election through the Flat Screen TV the room contained. We also offered snacks, drinks, and companionship. Although everyone had different views on the election the atmosphere was an amiable one. One that allowed people in our community to learn from the different and similar views they had about our government. Above all, it is moments like these that make us aware of how fortunate we are to be part of SGA. In that room we saw more than people passionate about politics but we saw how aside from where we all came from, we all had the same goal, the goal to improve our country now and in the future. It was that night after endless days of bringing voting awareness in which we instilled a voting culture in our campus. The Voter's Registration was a long journey and a lot of work, but it was worth it. SGA hopes to prolong this collaboration for years to come.

This project was essential to us because it not only helped us educate our peers on the importance of voting, but it also helped us partake in policy formulation and principles that affect us as citizens of the United States. We worked with our peers, advisors and other stakeholders to increase political efficacy within the community and within our generation. In the long run, this work brought our chapter and our student body closer to one another and we were able to effectively engage in political discourse. Member of our school community were able to share their views on the candidates, political parties and policies while maintaining respect for difference of opinion. They were also able to exercise their voting right without fear or favor. Service to the community is a concern for the public but significantly, for students in an effort to

reach out to the community and do anything within our reach to improve the conditions. As such, we took this as a priority by enhancing our resources to get our students involved. The Voting campaign went a long way in compelling our students to get involved and supported the Student Government Association in executing the project tremendously and successfully.

Ultimately, community service is one of the primary purposes of Student Government at Northlake College. This year, the major Community Service event that SGA collaborated with and helped was the Voter's Registration. We took pride in this event because it showed that we as students, have a voice and we are no longer silenced. As American author and motivational speaker, Leo Buscaglia stated, "May I Suggest that it be creating joy for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of person kind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely." The Student Government Association at North Lake College takes the belief that the sole purpose is to be servant leaders where everyone's voice is to be heard.