

**Resolution to Suspend the Mandatory Civic Engagement Degree Requirement for Two Years
While Affirming the Importance of Civic Engagement**

Whereas, the college recognizes that civic engagement is an important component of an educated and informed citizenry; and

Whereas, curricula across many academic disciplines already provide students with the knowledge, analytical skills, communication abilities, and ethical perspectives necessary to participate meaningfully in civic life; and

Whereas, higher education plays a crucial role in preparing students to understand social issues, evaluate public information, and make informed decisions about community participation; and

Whereas, students often develop an appreciation for civic engagement through coursework, academic discussions, research, and exposure to diverse perspectives without the need for a specific mandated activity; and

Whereas, students should have the autonomy to determine how and when to apply their education to civic engagement activities in ways that align with their interests, schedules, and personal responsibilities; and

Whereas, opportunities for civic engagement can continue to be offered through voluntary programs, service-learning courses, student organizations, internships, and community partnerships;

Be it **RESOLVED**, that the Curriculum Committee recommends a two-year suspension of the Civic Engagement requirement as a mandatory degree requirement; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, that the college continue to support and promote civic engagement as a valuable educational and community activity through optional courses, co-curricular opportunities, and institutional initiatives; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, that the Civic Engagement requirement shall be permanently discontinued unless the college develops and adopts an institution-wide framework, as outlined/recommended/suggested in the Appendix, intended to support identified Civic Engagement activities and learning outcomes; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, that the institution reaffirm its commitment to equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking necessary to understand civic issues and to choose to participate in civic engagement throughout their lives.

Justification

Civic engagement has always been historically valued at Kingsborough Community College, helping students understand social issues, participate in community life, and develop a sense of responsibility toward society. The college formally adopted the Civic Engagement requirement in 2011, implemented in 2013, mandating that students complete at least one civic engagement experience before graduation, either through a course, course component, or approved activity.

While fostering civic participation remains essential, temporarily suspending the requirement will allow the college to evaluate whether the mandate remains necessary for achieving its intended educational outcomes. The college's curriculum already fulfills its mission to provide students with the knowledge to understand civic issues and the skills to participate meaningfully in civic life. Many students develop this understanding and engagement through coursework, discussions, research, and exposure to diverse perspectives without a

separate mandated activity. In practice, the outcomes the requirement seeks to achieve are already embedded in students' academic experiences.

Students manage multiple responsibilities beyond academics, such as employment, family obligations, and personal commitments. Requiring a specific civic engagement experience can create unnecessary logistical and administrative burdens without substantially enhancing learning outcomes. Providing students the flexibility to decide if, when, and how to participate empowers students to engage in ways that fit their individual circumstances.

Suspending the mandate for two years would not diminish the college's commitment to civic engagement. Voluntary opportunities—through courses, internships, student organizations, and community partnerships—can continue to provide meaningful and impactful experiences. Encouraging rather than requiring participation preserves the college's dedication to preparing students for civic life while offering flexibility and choice.

This proposal also paves the way for future consideration of a different college-wide requirement, should the institution wish to establish a framework that promotes another important but currently under-emphasized educational outcome.

For these reasons, the Curriculum Committee urges the college to temporarily suspend the mandatory Civic Engagement requirement for two years while continuing to support and promote voluntary civic engagement opportunities. Doing so will uphold Kingsborough's historical commitment to civic learning, provide students with the knowledge and skills to engage thoughtfully in their communities, respect student autonomy, and strengthen the overall educational experience for all students.

Appendix

Civic Engagement Framework: Activities, Learning Outcomes, and Oversight

The college recognizes that any college-wide Civic Engagement degree requirement must include ongoing planning, coordination, review, and adequate financial support.

A Civic Engagement framework shall include clearly defined activities, learning outcomes, organized implementation, and appropriate faculty and administrative support necessary for meaningful student participation.

Civic Engagement Activities

- The Civic Engagement Framework shall consist of six organized and coordinated Civic Engagement Activities designed to support Civic Engagement Learning Outcomes.
- Activities shall be developed with a realistic expectation of sustainable external funding and institutional support.
- The framework shall be sufficient to serve approximately 6,000 students across the college community.
- Civic Engagement opportunities shall be available to day, evening, weekend, and online students.
- Activities shall include appropriate coordination, staffing, faculty participation, and procedures for recording and verifying student completion for credit.

Civic Engagement Learning Outcomes

Civic Engagement activities shall support the following learning outcomes:

- Understanding civic and community issues
- Developing informed decision-making skills
- Strengthening communication and collaboration abilities
- Encouraging responsible participation in civic and community life

Civic Engagement Oversight Committee

- The Civic Engagement Framework shall be administered by a Civic Engagement Oversight Committee consisting of six faculty members and appropriate administrative representation as determined by Academic Affairs.
- Committee service shall not include release time unless supported through external funding.
- The committee shall oversee the coordination, implementation, review, and reporting of Civic Engagement activities and learning outcomes.
- The committee shall submit a report every two years to the Curriculum Committee and the Instructional Committee, which shall report to the College Council regarding participation, effectiveness, funding, and outcomes.