

Office of the President

September 17, 2020

Daemen College Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

Every year on September 17th our country recognizes Constitution Day commemorating the signing of the U.S. Constitution and celebrating those who have become American citizens through naturalization or coming of age. This day encourages many to reflect on the history made when this document was signed, but also to consider its impact on daily life, such as eligibility to vote in the United States, established both through the United States Constitution and by state law.

That is why today feels like the most appropriate day to help our colleagues in the History and Political Science departments, members of the Daemen Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), the Division of Institutional Advancement, and the Division of Student Affairs to get the word out about an important and consequential collaborative effort taking place this month and next.

In preparation for Election Day on Tuesday, November 3, Daemen College has launched a college-wide effort, "Get Civically Fit at Daemen," to promote voter registration, provide information on the voting process, and help increase voting.

Voter registration stations and kiosks, which will follow Daemen's COVID-19 protocols for the health and safety of the college community, will be set up around campus in September and October to encourage Daemen Community members to register to vote. In addition to the on-campus registration stations, Daemen has created a "Get Civically Fit" website that provides helpful and up-to-date information on ways to register to vote online or through the DMV, outlines options for voting, how to become an Election Day poll worker, and much more.

The "Get Civically Fit" initiative is an opportunity for members of our college community to work together to provide help, guidance, and important resources to help people navigate this election cycle that has been complicated this year by the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank Dr. Lisa Parshall, professor of political science, who is overseeing this important voting initiative again this year. Dr. Parshall has led this effort at the college for many years and we are grateful for her continued leadership and expertise.

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As we celebrate Constitution Day, I encourage you to explore the "Get Civically Fit" website and take part in related campus activities. A healthy democracy is built on the foundation of free and fair elections ensuring that the government derives its authority from the will of the people. Your vote can be your voice and I encourage you to be heard.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson President