



**Global Civic Literacy:
A New American Democracy Project Initiative in Partnership
With World101 from the Council on Foreign Relations**

AASCU's American Democracy Project (ADP) is pleased to invite you to participate in **Global Civic Literacy**, a new one-year initiative in partnership with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Using World101, a free multimedia resource from CFR, the program is designed to help students increase their knowledge of our global society and understand how global issues influence lives of everyday citizens. Our democracy requires informed and engaged participants, and the goal of ADP, to equip students with the knowledge, skills and experiences to be engaged citizens, is more important now than ever. As Stewards of Place and ADP participants, our campuses understand the local, regional and national dimensions of civic engagement. More and more, our local communities are influenced by global issues, and our students must navigate the complexities and challenges of an increasingly interdependent world. However, the Global Literacy Survey, commissioned by CFR and the National Geographic Society in 2016, demonstrated the critical gap between the knowledge college-educated students in the United States possessed about the world and the knowledge and skills they need to be informed, engaged citizens able to understand and compete in a global context.¹

To support efforts to build this critical knowledge and understanding among undergraduate students, ADP – a network of 259 public colleges and universities across 46 states nationwide – and CFR are launching this **Global Civic Literacy** initiative, offering faculty and student affairs staff the unique opportunity to collaborate and explore possibilities for providing an engaging and accessible pathway for students to build global civic literacy.

Call for Participation

ADP seeks ten (10) AASCU institutions to join a one-year pilot initiative to improve global civic literacy among U.S. undergraduate students. Each campus will be asked to designate two participants: one from academic affairs and one from student affairs. The pilot initiative will begin in the fall of 2019 and any AASCU ADP-member institution may apply to participate.

¹ Council on Foreign Relations and National Geographic, What College-Aged Students Know About the World: A Survey on Global Literacy (New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2016).

Support and Resources

Participants will have access to the deep library of World101 content and to the CFR Education team. World101 (world101.cfr.org) is free modular content that breaks down the fundamentals of international relations and foreign policy through relatable multimedia content and stories that help students understand what lies at the core of the most important, enduring topics and issues along with why these topics matter and how they are relevant. Designed for the non-specialist, but of value to those with some knowledge as well, World101 is geared toward learners both inside and outside of formal academic settings.

World101 modules are extremely flexible. The videos, charts, essays, timelines, and other multimedia that comprise a module can be accessed and shared individually or reviewed as a whole. Modules can also be grouped in endless combinations. Each module comes with a library of teaching resources for instructors who wish to use World101 in their classrooms or in co-curricular programming.

Participants will also receive a stipend and support for travel.

Expectations

Each participating institution will be asked to designate both a faculty and student affairs staff member who will work together in the development of campus curricular and co-curricular activities – for example, study abroad preparation, new student orientation, RA training, global issues classes, freshmen seminar curriculum, etc. – that utilize World101 to build global literacy. Individuals at the participating institutions will form a community of practice, working together to exchange ideas and develop effective strategies, as well as provide support across institutional roles. Participants will be expected to provide updates and reflections on activities during monthly conference calls with CFR and ADP throughout the project, share materials that showcase how World101 is being utilized on their campuses, and present their work in this project to a wider audience through the 2020 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting (CLDE20) and through publication opportunities, such as publishing a white paper or an article in the *eJournal of Public Affairs*.

The pilot project will launch with a webinar hosted by ADP in collaboration with CFR for participating faculty and student affairs staff. Following the launch, participants will convene over regular video conference calls, culminating in a final in-person meeting at the CLDE20 Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June 2020. Participants from selected institutions will receive a stipend as well as travel support for the in-person meeting at CLDE.

Application

Interested AASCU-member institutions should send a statement of interest to Felice Nudelman nudelmanf@aacu.org and Anna Keegan keegana@aacu.org by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) Friday, September 20, 2019. Selected institutions will be notified no later than Monday, September 30, 2019.

All statements of interests should include:

1. The names, titles and department affiliations of the two designated participants
2. The contact information for the participants
3. A statement of support from the provost or equivalent
4. A few words about why you are interested in participating