



**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 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.<sup>1</sup>

To support efforts to build this critical knowledge and understanding among undergraduate students, ADP – a network of 276 AASCU institutions, serving 2.7 million students across 47 states nationwide – and CFR are launching this **Global Civic Literacy** initiative, offering faculty and International Program 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 twenty-five (25) 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 one or two participants: ideally faculty, or staff from your international program. The initiative will begin in October 2020 and any AASCU ADP-member institution may apply to participate.

<sup>1</sup> 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).



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### **Support and Resources**

Participants will have access to the deep library of World101 content and to the CFR Education team. World101 ([world101.cfr.org](http://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.

### **Expectations**

Each participating institution will be asked to designate one or two participants, ideally a faculty and International Education 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 Webinars in 2021 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 staff on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Following the launch, participants will convene over regular video conference calls, culminating in a final in-person meeting at the CLDE21 Meeting in



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Boston, Massachusetts in June 2021. Participants from selected institutions will receive a stipend for participation.

### **Application**

Interested AASCU-member institutions should send a statement of interest to Felice Nudelman [nudelmanf@aascu.org](mailto:nudelmanf@aascu.org) and Cathy Copeland [copelandc@aascu.org](mailto:copelandc@aascu.org) by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) Thursday, September 17, 2020. Selected institutions will be notified no later than Thursday, September 24, 2020.

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

We hope you will consider participating in this special initiative.

All best,

Felice

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