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Case Study Competition Project Summary Document

Video #1: Civic Engagement

For video #1, we chose to create a TikTok promoting Civic Engagement within the department of Student Life at the University of Vermont. We believe that voter engagement is an important aspect of students' growth as citizens of the university and the greater community. Often, students may have an interest in participating in their civic duties but are unaware of where to start or where to find resources to do so. Further, we chose this topic in an effort to strengthen the connection between the University of Vermont and the greater Burlington area through helping engage our students in conversation around their role to contribute to their community in meaningful ways.

With our video, we hope to strengthen the connection between civic engagement and student affairs practices at the University of Vermont and within the field broadly. We also hope to spread the word about the mission of UVM's Civic Engagement Office, embodying their mission: "UVM's Civic Engagement Office is committed to helping register all eligible UVM students, faculty, and staff to vote - and support an informed engagement in voting, political issues, civic engagement among our community, regardless of political beliefs or affiliation." Young adults between the ages of 18-29 make up about 21% of the voting-eligible population, and catering this mission to college students is critical.

Video #2: Unity Lounge

For video #2, we created a TikTok to promote the University of Vermont's new Unity Lounge in the Davis Center, UVM's main student center on campus. Efforts to create a new Unity Lounge have been ongoing, spearheaded by members of the University's Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The lounge was initially created after student activists from UVM's class of 2007 advocated for a central space on campus where BIPOC students and other students who hold minoritized identities could gather. The initial Unity Lounge space was relocated in 2023 to another room in the Davis Center that has a larger capacity and also includes a workspace and a prayer & meditation room.

The new Unity Lounge opened to students in February 2023. UVM's four identity centers have been promoting use of the space to the students they serve. Collaboratively, graduate assistants from the Prism Center, the Mosaic Center for Students of Color, the Women and Gender Equity Center, and the Interfaith Center developed an event to "bring life to the Unity Lounge". The graduate assistants hosted an art-making event, the first of hopefully many events of this sort, to showcase student art in the space. Seven students created artwork on mini canvases that we hung on the Unity Lounge walls. Most of the students in attendance had not yet been in the new Unity Lounge and were excited to see the space. We hope students will feel comfortable to utilize the Unity Lounge on campus to relax, meditate, pray, study, and gather together in community!

Civic Engagement Video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10a_oa9JMr3ZZChBkY6bnBYZni9GZIDgX/view?usp=share_link

Unity Lounge Video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10a_oa9JMr3ZZChBkY6bnBYZni9GZIDgX/view?usp=share_link

References: <https://www.uvm.edu/studentlife/ce/voters>