



Citizenship and Democracy in America Projects

Overview

The Honors College at ETSU is launching a new initiative called Citizenship and Democracy in America Projects (CADIA Projects). The main goals of these projects are to facilitate understanding of democracy in America—past, present, and future; to examine how, when, and where democracy in America succeeds and how, when, and where it does not function as it should; and to explore how citizens can best work together through democratic practices to shape the future collectively. All CADIA Projects involve collaboration among ETSU students, faculty, and staff, and they conclude in an event or public presentation open to anyone from ETSU and the broader community.

How the CADIA Projects Work

Each academic year, the Honors College will sponsor a CADIA Project that leads to a public event or presentation open to the ETSU community and region. The Honors College will provide the specific goals, framework, and timeline of each CADIA Project and invite eligible ETSU students to apply to become a CADIA Student Fellow, whose collaboration with faculty and staff is integral to the development and success of the project. The number of CADIA Student Fellows will vary from project to project based on specific needs and resources. CADIA Projects will generally last about 7-12 months from time of application to end of the event, depending on the scope and nature of the project.

Eligibility to Become a CADIA Student Fellow and Selection Process

Any full-time ETSU undergraduate student in good standing is eligible to become a CADIA Student Fellow (though GPA requirements may exist in some cases). The selection process involves an application and a 15-20 minute interview with the CADIA Project Committee. Selected CADIA Student Fellows will be required to enroll in a one-credit honors independent study course during the semester in which the CADIA event takes place. Note: the ETSU Honors College will pay for this one-credit course if the selected student does not have scholarships or the financial means to do so. However, the Honors College will not provide funding that results in a credit on student accounts.

Citizen and Democracy in America: Project One
Democratic and Republican National Conventions 2020: Student Insiders and Faculty Insights
Event Date October 20, 2020, tentatively

Overview

The first CADIA Project, titled “The Democratic and Republican National Conventions 2020: Student Insiders and Faculty Insights,” centers on the upcoming Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in July 2020, and the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Charlotte, North Carolina, in August 2020. This project seeks to provide greater understanding of the role of the National Conventions in Presidential politics, including a brief look at how the conventions have changed since their inception in the United States during the 1830s as well as a look at the complicated rise of the two-party system in the United States that manifests itself in the National Conventions.

To explore these topics, this CADIA Project revolves around a series of talks by faculty and students on (tentatively) October 20, 2020. Dr. Frederick Gordon, Director of the Master of Public Administration Program at ETSU, will open the event with a talk, “Unifier or Divider? What the National Conventions Nomination Process Should Mean to You.”

Following Dr. Gordon’s talk, two CADIA Student Fellows will present an overview of their experiences at the National Conventions in summer 2020 through the Washington Center’s “Campaign 2020 National Conventions Seminars.” These are two-week seminars led by faculty experts from around the country that engage students in traditional academic learning, experiential learning activities, and individualized field assignments at the National Conventions themselves. One CADIA Student Fellow will attend the Washington Center’s DNC seminar and another will attend the RNC seminar. CADIA Student Fellows’ presentations focus on the conventions and their learning experiences there, not on partisan politics or political viewpoints. In other words, the goal of CADIA Student Fellow presentations is not to espouse a particular political viewpoint but instead to provide insights into the National Conventions by way of their unique experiences there. A question-and-answer period will conclude the event.

The public presentation will last about 90 minutes and conclude with a reception.

CADIA Student Fellows and the Washington Center Seminars

The two CADIA Student Fellows will each attend a respective Washington Center seminar, where participants spend twelve days in the host city before and during the National Conventions to engage in various learning experiences structured by Washington Center faculty leaders. Not only do students learn about the current presidential campaigns, the national conventions, and the host cities, but they also take on individualized fieldwork experiences related to their own personal and professional interests. Fieldwork may involve work with media outlets, advocacy groups, host committees, or state delegations, among other possibilities.

During the seminars student participants have the opportunity to network with prominent officials, members of the media, distinguished educators, and other students from across the

country. They will observe leaders from diverse industries and organizations as well as gain insights into careers related to media, politics, and advocacy.

The dates for the Washington Center's "Campaign 2020 National Conventions Seminars" are as follows:

- Democratic National Convention Seminar: July 5-17 (Milwaukee, WI)
- Republican National Convention Seminar: August 16-28 (Charlotte, NC)*

* Please note that the last few days of the Republican National Convention Seminar overlap with the first week of the Fall 2020 semester at ETSU. Participants will be provided with documentation that they are attending a university-sponsored event, but they should also make arrangements with course instructors to make up any missed assignments.

For detailed information, see <https://twc.edu/programs/campaign-2020-national-conventions-seminars>. Students selected to participate in the Washington Center's National Conventions Seminars will be fully funded to attend, including the \$4,250 registration fee (that includes housing) and travel costs to and from the host city.

Responsibilities to the Citizenship and Democracy in America Project at ETSU

The two selected CADIA Student Fellows have various obligations that they must agree to fulfill as part of this first CADIA Project:

- (1) They agree to fully participate in all Washington Center Seminar activities during their time in Charlotte or Milwaukee.
- (2) They agree to take part in some briefing activities at ETSU prior to departing for the National Convention host cities as a means to prepare for their experiences.
- (3) They agree to enroll in a one-credit honors independent study course in Fall 2020. The purpose of this course is to help students prepare their CADIA presentations, to provide structured reflection activities related to the students' time in the Washington Center Seminar, and to help students develop coherent and compelling stories about their experiences with this project.
- (4) They agree to speak with campus and community media sources about their experiences at the Washington Center Seminars (i.e., they agree to be interviewed, showcased, and/or share materials related to the seminars).

Student Fellow Application Procedures

Students interested in becoming a CADIA Student Fellow for "Project One: Democratic and Republican National Conventions 2020: Student Insiders and Faculty Insights" will complete an application and submit it by Sunday, February 23rd, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST. The application can be found below.

CADIA Project One Timeline

December 06, 2019	Student Fellows Application Open
February 23, 2020	Student Fellows Applications Due
March 02-06, 2020	Student Fellows Interviews
March 20, 2020	Student Fellows Selected and Announced
May 01, 2020	Student Fellows Briefing Workshop
July 05-17, 2020	Democratic National Convention Seminar
August 16-28, 2020	Republican National Convention Seminar
August 24, 2020	Beginning of Fall Semester
October 20, 2020	Project Presentations to Campus and Community
December 11, 2020	End of Fall Semester: Final CADIA Reflections Due

For additional questions, please email Dr. Christopher Keller at kellercj@etsu.edu.

To apply, please fill out the application found here: [CADIA Application Link](#)