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Constitution Day and the 2020 Census on Campus

On Constitution Day, held Sept. 17, Inver Hills Community College kicked off our campus year-long campaign about Census 2020.

All educational institutions that receive Federal funds are required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students on or around Constitution Day. We are committed to our public purpose, which includes educating our students and others on information critical to our democracy.

Understanding the Constitution and the Census are complicated endeavors. It is a critical time for us to take these obligations seriously and carry them out with the weight and importance they bring.

The next census count is April 1, 2020.

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person in the United States, including everyone living in Minnesota. The resulting count will guide the distribution of billions of dollars to Minnesota’s communities, determine political representation for the next decade, and provide data that shapes how Minnesota’s policymakers and business leaders decide to invest public and private resources.

College students are at heightened risk of going uncounted for a number of reasons. For one, being a renter is the number one risk factor for going uncounted. This matters because the census determines how much money each state gets for programs that matter to students like Pell grants, school lunches, special education, contracts for small businesses, and Medicaid. It also determines how many congress members each state has.

It’s predicted that Dakota County is at risk of being the most undercounted county in Minnesota.

We are not alone in this effort. Inver Hills joined 12 campuses in 10 different cities and towns across Iowa and Minnesota, will cover a variety of dialogue forms and methods.

This one day is part of a larger effort by campuses to support the 2020 Census. It is critical that we support a complete count of our students and our communities in order to guide future public policy and resource decisions.

Inver Hills Student Senate
About Inver Hills Community College
Inver Hills Community College (Inver Hills) is a place where students can get an affordable, high-quality education to launch their college degree in a supportive environment. With an enrollment of more than 5,000 full- and part-time students, the Inver Hills experience is defined by small class sizes and an engaged and active community that prepares students to succeed at a four-year college or to enter the workforce. Founded in 1970, the campus is located in Inver Grove Heights, less than 10 miles from Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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