

Director's Message



FAITH • FAMILY • FREEDOM • FUTURE

A think tank that trains the next generation of conservative leaders, hosts the largest annual gathering of conservatives in the western United States, shapes laws at the Colorado state capitol, empowers dozens of policy experts to speak into the local and national media, and welcomes the nation's top conservative leaders to Colorado...this is the Centennial Institute.

2021 was another banner year for Colorado Christian University's conservative think tank. The Western Conservative Summit introduced the nation to western public policy issues, such as land management, oil and gas development, wildfires, wolves, and the 2nd Amendment. Over one hundred thousand viewers from across the country and around the world tuned in to watch the Western Conservative Summit.

The Centennial Institute sought to provide clear conservative teaching on the nation's most pressing issues: COVID-19 vaccine mandates, transgenderism, parental rights in education, critical race theory, Antifa, the sanctity of life, religious freedom, rising crime, America's withdrawal from Afghanistan, and much more.

Now beginning its thirteenth year, our work needs your support more than ever. The Centennial Institute provides the intellectual depth of an elite university with the grassroots activism to bring about change in our culture; all while being grounded in a firm foundation of faith in Jesus Christ.

Please consider a year-end gift to the Centennial Institute to continue our work in 2022. Your support will allow us to bring conservative thought leaders to our communities, shape the nation's thought life, fight for Christian conservative values at the Colorado state capitol, and most importantly, prepare students for significant leadership in government.

We believe a future President of the United States, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Senator, and Congressional Representative will come from Colorado Christian University.

Please support our work.

Here's to a wonderful 2022!



Del -

Jeff Hunt Director, Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University Co-Chairman, Western Conservative Summit

Colorado Christian University seeks to provide Christ-centered higher education transforming students to impact the world with grace and truth.

Front Cover: Dr. Victor Davis Hanson presenting the keynote address at the 2021 Western Conservative Summit. Photo: JeffreyGrounds Photography.

Highlights from 2021







Students worship during the March for Life Candlelight Vigil.



Representatives Lauren Boebert, Doug Lamborn, and Ken Buck speaking at the Western Conservative Summit



Jack Phillips speaking at the Western Conservative Summit.



Jeff Hunt meets with a Business Council member.



Colorado Christian University's 9/11 Flag Memorial.



Jeff Hunt and Dr. Don Sweeting present the John K. Andrews Award to Doug and the late Linda McDonald.

Centennial Institute

The Centennial Institute is led by Director Jeff Hunt, who guides the think tank in its mission to heighten public understanding of the most challenging issues facing Colorado and the nation. He is supported by others who share his commitment to bringing a message of Christian conservative values to the public square.

CCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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STAFF

Jeff Hunt, Director

Dr. Tom Copeland, Director of Research

Jaimie Erker '18, Director of Communications

Staci Holt, Director of Events

STUDENT STAFF

Rivers Nordquist '24, B.A. Communications

Damon Sidur '23, B.A. Politics, Minor in Public Relations

Dani Strock '22, B.A. Music Production & Engineering;

Music Composition

The Centennial Institute welcomed Jaimie Erker, '18, in January as the new Director of Communications.



After graduating from CCU in 2020, Margo Radach was hired by Square State Strategy Group as one of Centennial Institute's lobbyists at the Colorado state capitol.



Centennial Institute

POLICY FELLOWS

Jay Ambrose, Fellow in Media and Journalism
The Hon. John Andrews, Fellow in American Thought
Aubrey Bettencourt, Fellow in Water, Agriculture,

and Sustainability

David Flaherty, Fellow in Political Data Analysis

Jenna Ellis, Fellow in Constitutional Law and Policy

Frank Francone, Fellow in Law and Politics

Tina Francone, Fellow in Local Government and Infrastructure

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Dr. Biff Gore, Fellow in Life

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The Hon. Mike Kopp, Fellow in State Policy

Samuel Lourie, Fellow in Middle East Policy

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Michael Norton, Fellow in Legal Thought

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Kelly Sloan, Fellow in Energy and Environment

The Hon. Ken Summers, Fellow in Faith Engagement

Dr. Jill Vecchio, Fellow in Healthcare Policy

Brittany Vessely, Fellow in Education Reform

Greg Walcher, Fellow in Natural Resources

FACULTY FELLOWS

- Dr. Tom Copeland, Professor of Politics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr. Isaac Chilima, Assistant Professor of Economics and Business, School of Business and Leadership
- Christian Finnigan, Assistant Professor of History and Politics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr. Bolek Kabala, Assistant Professor of American Politics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr. Peter Kerr, Dean and Professor, School of Business and Leadership
- Dr. Charles King, Professor of Business, Law and Ethics; Dean Emeritus, School of Business and Leadership
- Dr. David Kotter, Dean and Professor of New Testament Studies, School of Theology
- Kevin Miller, Executive in Residence, Distinguished Professor of Business and Leadership, School of Business and Leadership
- Michael Plato, Assistant Professor of Intellectual History and Christian Thought, School of Theology
- Dr. Stephen Shumaker, Professor of Politics, School of Humanities and Social SciencesDr. Gary Steward, Associate Professor of History, School of
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr. Earl Waggoner, Dean, School of Biblical and Theological Studies, College of Adult and Graduate Studies
- Dr. John Wind, Assistant Professor of Theology, School of Theology

Distinguished Lecture Series

The Centennial Institute, Colorado Christian University's public policy think tank, was founded in 2009 under then-university president, former U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong. To direct the Institute, President Armstrong appointed John Andrews, former president of the Colorado Senate, and a leading conservative voice in Colorado and across the nation. Since then, the Centennial Institute has worked to influence culture in support of traditional Christian values through public policy and community engagement.

The Ethics of the COVID-19 Vaccines, January 13, 2021. Dr. Ryan Anderson, former Senior Research Fellow at The Heritage Foundation, examined the ethical questions of the COVID-19 vaccine's development and implementation.



The Ethics of the COVID-19 Vaccines, Dr. Ryan Anderson

Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters, February 15, 2021. Abigail Shrier of the Wall Street Journal discussed her new book, the rise of gender dysphoria among young women, and how they are making life-altering decisions as a result.

COVID-19 Didn't Break the Public School System.
It Simply Exposed the Problems that Already Existed,

the American Federation for Children.

March 22, 2021. Presented by Dr. Corey DeAngelis, Adjunct

Supreme Disorder: Judicial Nominations and the Politics

Director of the Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies

at The CATO Institute, discussed his new book examining the

of America's Highest Court, April 19, 2021. Ilya Shapiro,

politicization of the judicial nomination process.

Fellow at The CATO Institute and the Director of Research for



Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters, Abigail Shrier



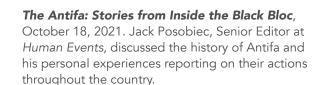
COVID-19 Didn't Break the Public School System. It Simply Exposed the Problems that Already Existed, Dr. Corey DeAngelis



Supreme Disorder: Judicial Nominations and the Politics of America's Highest Court, Ilya Shapiro

Distinguished Lecture Series

20TH Anniversary of 9/11 and the Legacy of the Afghan War, September 10, 2021. A memorial service dedicated to the lives lost on September 11, 2001 and an examination of the chaotic ending of the Afghan War with remarks by Dr. Donald Sweeting, President of Colorado Christian University, and Dr. Kiron Skinner, Visiting Fellow at The Heritage Foundation and former Senior Adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. CCU English Professor Susan Spear presented an original poem titled "9/11: A Long Lament."



Christianity and Wokeness: How the Social Justice Movement is Hijacking the Gospel – and the Way to Stop It, November 15, 2021. Dr. Owen Strachan of Grace Theological Seminary and the Family Research Council lectured about his new book, examining the impact the social justice movement has had on Christianity and how to preserve the integrity of the Gospel.

America's Under Incarceration Problem,

December 6, 2021. Michael Knowles of The Daily Wire discussed the threat rising crime poses to our communities and the importance of strong criminal justice policies. Hosted in partnership with Young America's Foundation.



20[™] Anniversary of 9/11 Memorial Service



The Legacy and Meaning of the Afghan War, Dr. Kiron Skinner



The Antifa: Stories from Inside the Black Bloc, Jack Posobiec



Christianity and Wokeness: How the Social Justice Movement is Hijacking the Gospel – and the Way to Stop It, Dr. Owen Strachan



America's Under Incarceration Problem, Michael Knowles

March for Life Candlelight Vigil

Due to uncertain circumstances in Washington, D.C. following the COVID-19 pandemic and political unrest, the organizers of the national March for Life opted to limit March participation. That did not stop the Centennial Institute and CCU for Life from hosting their own March for Life commemoration! A candlelight vigil was hosted on January 22, as students and community members joined together for an evening of prayer and worship. **



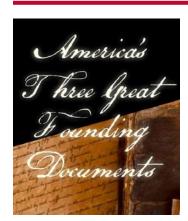


Albert Frei Quarry Tour in Idaho Springs

After a year of virtual Business Council meetings, the Centennial Institute hosted a field trip to the Albert Frei & Sons Quarry in Idaho Springs, CO. Meeting with Al Frei Jr., President of Al Frei & Sons Inc., and Tom Peterson, Executive Director of the Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association, our Business Council members had the opportunity to learn more about the rock processing and asphalt industries in Colorado. Al also took everyone on a tour of one of the quarries in Idaho Springs and allowed us to see a blast occur in real-time. **



America's Three Great Founding Documents

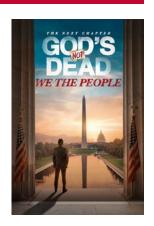


In honor of Constitution Day, the Centennial Institute and Colorado Christian University published America's Three Great Founding Documents. This unique publication includes the U.S. Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and quotes from our Founding Fathers and Presidents about the importance of the Bible and Christianity in the formation of our nation. It was mailed to numerous households with the goal to distribute millions of booklets across the country. *

God's Not Dead film screening

On October 5, 2021, the Centennial Institute hosted a private screening of the new movie in the God's Not Dead film franchise: *God's Not Dead: We the People*. In this installment, Reverend Dave must defend a group of Christian homeschool families who are threatened with legal action by progressive local and state officials if they do not return their children to public schools. Traveling to Washington, D.C., the families and Rev. Dave testify about the right to educate children and the importance of school choice.

Bringing together CCU students and faculty, as well as concerned community members, we sold out of tickets within days of announcing the screening. ★



Studying Politics in a Time of Crisis



In partnership with the Politics Department at Colorado Christian University, the Centennial Institute hosted an evening event to promote the study of politics and examine what makes CCU's program a robust option for students seeking to pursue a college degree. At a time when there is an open hostility towards Christianity in both politics and culture, how can believers be trained to actively engage in government? And how is CCU raising up the next generation of statesmen and stateswomen to impact local, state, and federal politics and culture for the Kingdom?

The CCU Politics faculty, Jeff Hunt, and Dr. Donald Sweeting addressed the uniqueness of CCU's politics program and former Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin delivered a keynote address regarding the importance of Christian statesmanship. ★

Dobbs Rally

In December 2021, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* — a case with the potential to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and restore authority to the states to implement their own abortion legislation. In the days leading up to the oral arguments, the Centennial Institute hosted a rally in support of the case. Bringing together pro-life leaders from around the state, we called for the Right to Life to finally prevail in America's highest court. *



Western Conservative Summit



Since 2009, the Western Conservative Summit has become one of the largest gatherings for conservatives outside of the nation's capital. This year, as the country began its slow recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, we created a unique hybrid event. With tickets limited to 500 attendees and a virtual audience in the hundred thousands, we premiered six documentaries and hosted twelve speakers. Incorporating the Biff Gore Band and "Tonight Show" feel, Jeff served as the quintessential talk show host, allowing speakers to not only deliver their remarks, but also engage in a dialogue on the main stage.

Hearing from a wide range of speakers, we discussed the major issues facing our country — ranging from Antifa, Critical Race Theory, the border crisis, police brutality, and

religious liberty. Both Andy Ngo's and Jack Phillips' books sold out within minutes of their presentations. Dr. Victor Davis Hanson's keynote address was highly received, with over 134,000 views on our YouTube channel and counting. ★



Our Thanks to Our 2021 WCS Sponsors

































Western Conservative Summit





Biff Gore Band







Photos: JeffreyGrounds Photography







Mike Gonzalez

Rick Santorum

Dr. Victor Davis Hanson

William L. Armstrong Award



This year, we awarded the 2021 William L. Armstrong Award for national conservative leadership to Kay Coles James, former president of The Heritage Foundation and founder/chairman of The Gloucester Institute. Her leadership and contributions at the local, state, and federal level, as well as throughout the higher education, corporate, and nonprofit sectors, are immense. Kristy and Wil Armstrong traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Ms. James and present her award.

We were also pleased to honor the winner of the 2021 Under 30 Speech Contest, Melissa Woodford. A young professional from Florida, Woodford spoke on the Western ideals of freedom and patriotism. Since the contest was co-sponsored by Turning Point USA (TPUSA), she traveled to the TPUSA Headquarters in Phoenix, AZ to professionally record her speech. Additionally, she got to sit down with Jeff Hunt on the mainstage of the Western Conservative Summit and discuss the future of conservatism in America. ★



KAY COLES JAMES The Heritage Foundation 2021 William L. Armstrong **Award Winner**

MELISSA WOODFORD 2021 Under 30 **Speech Contest Winner**



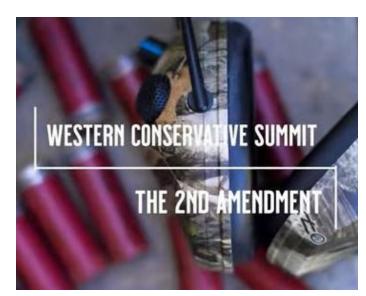
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Western Conservative Summit













Western Conservative Summit

In an effort to create a unique virtual component, we teamed up with McFarland Productions to produce six 30-minute documentaries examining some of the major issues facing the West. We traveled throughout the western United States talking with some of our nation's top leaders about land management, 2nd Amendment rights, education and school choice, energy policy, family values, patriotism, and the future of conservatism. When asked about their partnership with the Centennial Institute, McFarland Productions wrote: "We are proud to be able to work on a project that feels much bigger than us and follows directly with our mission: We have a passion for the western lifestyle and [want to promote] that heritage and tradition." The documentaries premiered throughout the 2021 Western Conservative Summit.



All six documentaries can be viewed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/CentennialInstituteCCU ★



Hollywood has done a really bad job of representing what the ranching lifestyle is and what the cowboy is. McFarland Production's goal is to set the record straight—to promote that lifestyle and to show it for what it really is."

 Natalie McFarland, owner of McFarland Productions



Natalie McFarland is the owner of McFarland Productions and Director of all six WCS documentaries.



Antonia Okafor Cover, Rep. Lauren Boebert, and Bobbie Daniel filming *The Second Amendment* documentary.



Dr. Donald Sweeting on-location for *The Grace and Truth in Education* documentary.



Jeff Hunt and Rep. Louie Gohmert talking at The American Rodeo for the *Rodeo and* Western Way of Life documentary.



Jeff Coors, Isabel Brown, Benny Johnson Jeff Hunt, and CJ Pearson filming the Skiing in the Rockies documentary.



Lt. Col. Allen West being interviewed for the Rodeo and Western Way of Life documentary.



Jennifer Fielder of the American Lands Council talking with Jeff Hunt during the filming of Western Lands.

Engaging Colorado's Legislature

Engaging Colorado's Legislature

It is a strategic priority of Colorado Christian University to impact our culture in support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, Biblical view of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets, natural law, original intent of the Constitution, and Western civilization. We work with a team of lobbyists at the Colorado state capitol to advance these issues in our state law.

During the 2021 legislative session, the Centennial Institute scored legislators on 15 bills related to our strategic priorities listed above. *



Bills that were tracked:

OPPOSED:

Senate Bill 21-009 Reproductive Health Care Program Senate Bill 21-070 County Authority to Register Businesses

Senate Bill 21-111 Program to Support Marijuana Entrepreneurs

House Bill 21-1103 Media Literacy Implementation

Colorado Option

House Bill 21-1108 Gender Identity Expression Anti-Discrimination

House Bill 21-1232 Standardized Health Benefit Plan

SUPPORT:



Senate Bill 21-005 Business Exempt from Public Health Order to Close

Senate Bill 21-007 Improve Public Confidence Election Validity

House Bill 21-1243 Wolf Reintroduction Funding with No License Fees

House Bill 21-1317 Regulate Marijuana Concentrates

House Bill 21-1017 Protect Human Life at Conception House Bill 21-1032 Local Government Authority Statewide

Disaster Declarations

House Bill 21-1081 Disaster Emergency Duration Limits House Bill 21-1191 Prohibit Discrimination COVID-19 Status

Centennial Institute Takes Direct Action in Latest Marijuana Bill

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Centennial Institute played a key role in the passage of House Bill 21-1317, "Regulating Marijuana Concentrates." This bill, passed and signed over the summer, takes significant steps to research how marijuana is affecting our youth and fills dangerous loopholes that allow purchasing over the daily legal limit. This is the first significant change to Colorado's liberal drug policy, providing greater protection for Colorado's youth. ★



2021 Faith, Family, and Freedom Awards

Of the 508 laws passed during the 2021 Colorado legislative session, many reflected an anti-biblical, anti-Christian worldview. The legislature often takes a position opposed to Colorado Christian University's strategic priorities. These include the support of traditional family values, sanctity of life, compassion for the poor, biblical view of human nature, limited government, personal freedom, free markets, natural law, original intent of the Constitution, and Western civilization.

While the Christian, conservative worldview faces challenges in our state, there are brave men and women at the Colorado Legislature who believe that laws reflecting the teachings of the Bible are best to lead our state forward. Each year, these legislators are bestowed with the Faith, Family, and Freedom Award from the Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University because of their strong convictions.

Winners from the Colorado State Senate include John Cooke, Bob Gardner, Dennis Hisey, Chris Holbert, Barbara Kirkmeyer, Paul Lundeen, Bob Rankin, Ray Scott, Jerry Sonnenberg, and Rob Woodward.

Winners from the Colorado House of Representatives include Mark Baisley, Rod Bockenfeld, Mary Bradfield, Terri Carver, Marc Catlin, Tim Geitner, Ron Hanks, Richard Holtorf, Colin Larson, Stephanie Luck, Mike Lynch, Hugh McKean, Rod Pelton, Andres Pico, Kim Ransom, Janice Rich, Shane Sandridge, Matt Soper, Tonya Van Beber, Kevin Van Winkle, Perry Will, Dave Williams, and Dan Woog. ★

2021 FAITH, FAMILY, AND FREEDOM AWARD

★ CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU! ★



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Centennial Institute's Reach

The Centennial Institute engages television, print, radio, and social media to advance Christian conservative principles in the public square. On a daily basis, our fellows are in the media guiding our nation's thinking.

Traditional Media

Potential Audience Size

184,900,000

Value Of Coverage

\$3,900,000

58,570

Facebook Likes

4,038

Twitter Followers

Instagram Followers

14,145

YouTube Subscribers

4,278,447 — YouTube Views

Media Highlights



Freedom's First Domino: COVID-19





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Troubled about income inequality? Globalization fuels it

ocolorado politics

Conservatives gather in Denver to talk 'Frontier Freedom' and the battles ahead

DAILY CALLER

OPINION

Vaccinations

COPELAND And GRAHAM: Marine Who Called For Afghanistan Accountability In Viral Video **Should Have Resigned First**

NEWS · OPINION · SHOWS · SECTIONS · NEWSLETTERS PATRIOTS · MY ACCOUN







GUEST COLUMN: Keep online cheating, gambling off campus



American decline: Perception or reality?

Washington - Examiner

Videos show leftist mob harassing and attacking conservative conference attendees

America's Three Founding Documents: The Bible, The Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution



DeSantis Beats Trump In 2024 Straw Poll At **Top Conservative Summit**

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Frontier-themed Western Conservative Summit lineup features Lauren Boebert, Rick Santorum, Andy Ngo

Media Highlights



Media Highlights

