

CENTENNIAL INSTITUTE

COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FAITH • FAMILY • FREEDOM • FUTURE

2017 Year In Review



Faith ★ Family ★ Freedom ★ Future

Director's Message



What a fantastic year! In many ways, the Centennial Institute is one of the most important conservative voices in the nation. Fully conservative, we fight on economic, social, and foreign affairs issues. Boldly conservative, we're willing to take on the most controversial liberal organizations. The Honorable John Andrews and U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong had a vision for the Centennial Institute, and it is becoming a reality because of your support.

Out of all the work we do, raising up the next generation of conservative leaders is the most important. While younger generations may lean liberal on many issues, the Centennial Institute's 1776 Scholars are promoting the conservative values we know will make America successful. We must inspire a generation of young conservative leaders to take back our institutions; to promote Christian conservative values in business, church, family, politics, and the community. Liberal, atheist, and humanist influences have weakened our country, and it is time to fight back. We owe it to future generations to proclaim Christ and His redeeming work for our nation.

While other universities and think tanks may proclaim political correctness, we are boldly proclaiming Truth. Moreover, we're doing it as Christ commanded us — boldly with love and compassion.

We have a big vision for the Centennial Institute, but we need you. We want to hire more fellows to do expert research on important public policy issues such as life, traditional marriage, religious freedom, energy, education reform, national defense, and marijuana. We want to have a larger conservative voice on radio, television, and online. We want to continue to grow the Western Conservative Summit, one of the nation's largest gatherings of conservatives. And we want to empower future, up-and-coming generations to embrace conservative Christian values.

We can do this in 2018 but only with your help. I hope that upon examining the Centennial Institute's Year in Review, you will choose to support our important work in partnership with Colorado Christian University. We are so grateful for your friendship.



For faith, family, and freedom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hunt".

Jeff Hunt
Vice President of Public Policy, Colorado Christian University
Director, Centennial Institute

Front Cover: Centennial Institute director Jeff Hunt surrounded by students attending CCU's Young Christian Conservatives Leadership Conference and Western Conservative Summit 2017.

Centennial Institute Leadership

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and B.S. Business Administration
Katie Kellett '21, B.A. Political Science
Rachel Saunders '21, B.S. Business Administration

1776 SCHOLARS

Michaela Burrow
Jessica Dixon
Ashley Glasgow
Ben Lindstrom
Luke Martin
Abby Realsen
Courtney Reanier
Ethan Van Buskirk
Winston Ives

FELLOWS

Jay Ambrose, Fellow in Media and Journalism
John Andrews, Fellow in American Thought
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David Flaherty, Fellow in Political Data Analysis
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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
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Dr. Gary Steward, Assistant Professor of History, School of
Humanities and Sciences
Dr. Earl Waggoner, Dean, Biblical Studies and Theology Division
Dr. William Watson, Professor of History, School of Humanities
and Sciences
Dr. John Wind, Assistant Professor of Theology,
School of Theology

Impacting Culture by Engaging Community

December '16

Business Council Christmas Celebration honoring Denver's Archbishop Samuel Aquila with the John K. Andrews Award for Colorado Leadership in Fidelity to Biblical and Conservative Principles



February '17

Issue Monday: CCU philosophy professor Michael Plato on transgenderism



April '17

CCU Distinguished Speaker Series with Congressman Ken Buck on "Drain the Swamp"



May '17

CCU Day at the Capitol to honor the memory of former CCU president, Senator Bill Armstrong



January '17

Issue Monday: Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, advocating for the preborn and the pro-life movement



March '17

Issue Monday: Religion and Politics with Michael Wear, the Obama Administration's director of Faith Outreach



April '17

Debate on Religious Liberty with Alex McFarland, Theresa Sidebotham, Scott Moss, and Michael Weinstein

July '17

Western Conservative Summit with Tim Scott, U.S. Senator (R-SC)



September '17

President's Lecture Series:
The Closing of the Liberal Mind: How Groupthink and Intolerance Define the Left, with The Heritage Foundation's Dr. Kim Holmes



October '17

Distinguished Speaker Series with Hudson Institute fellow Rebecca Heinrichs on national security



May '17

Policy Advocacy: Marijuana 4/20 rally banned in Denver for three years



August '17

Town Hall with Cory Gardner, U.S. Senator, (R-CO)



October '17

Marijuana's True Impact on Colorado: A Symposium with leaders from law enforcement, education, medicine, public policy, and family health



November '17

Religious Freedom Rally for Jack Phillips featuring Barronelle Stutzman, Carl Larsen, Blaine Adamson, and Jack Phillips

Impacting Culture by Tackling the Issues

Primary Media Highlights

The Centennial Institute stands boldly conservative on public policy issues. During 2017, Centennial's fellows, faculty, summer interns, and director were more prominent in the media than ever before.

Total National TV Audience	Total Local TV Audience	Total Estimated Online News Visitors
383,005	133,372	99,329,760



The Centennial Institute engaged in the following public policy areas:

- 2nd Amendment
- Bioethics
- Crime
- Defense
- Economics
- Education
- Energy
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Family and Marriage
- Foreign Affairs
- Healthcare
- Immigration
- Limited Government
- Marijuana
- Original Intent of the Constitution and the Supreme Court
- Personal Freedom and Ordered Liberty
- Poverty and Opportunity
- Religious Freedom
- Sanctity of Life
- Trade



 **USA TODAY™**

THE
HUFFINGTON
POST

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

POLITICO

THE DENVER POST

The Washington Times

WASHINGTON
Examiner

The Star-Ledger

The Detroit News


TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THE  HILL

By the Numbers

Centennial Institute's combined reach across all forms of social media topped 7 million impressions, a 13% increase over 2016.

Total Fans
53,946


72.4%

Total Engagements
125,707


56.2%

 **2,887**
Twitter
Followers


15%

 **50,710**
Facebook
Likes


154%

 **1,636,566**
YouTube
Views


26%

 **1,642**
YouTube
Subscribers


28%

 **663**
YouTube
Videos


38%

 **6,967,407**
Total Lifetime
Minutes Watched


26%

This is equivalent to 13 Years and 90 Days

1776 Scholar Spotlight



JAIMIE ERKER '18
B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY
LONGMONT, COLORADO

It was the summer of 2014. I had just completed my junior year of high school and was beginning to look at colleges and universities with the intent of studying politics. The day I returned home from a college inquiry trip to California, I received a postcard in the mail for the first-ever Young Christian Conservatives Leadership Conference to be held at CCU. It was this experience and my experience at the Western Conservative Summit that solidified my decision to attend Colorado Christian University, study political science, and pursue an internship with the Centennial Institute.

My goals were achieved the second semester of my freshman year when I was recommended to be hired as a student intern at the Centennial Institute. Between having the opportunity to meet numerous prominent political leaders and the invaluable

mentorship I have received from Centennial fellows, I can say with confidence that my years in college have been enriched because of my engagement with the Centennial Institute. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to gain real-world work experience and further develop my writing and leadership skills so that I can become a strong conservative voice in the American landscape.

The Centennial Institute has acted as a springboard for me in my pursuit of a career in politics. This past summer, I had the opportunity to serve as an intern in Congressman Ken Buck's office in Washington, D.C. because of the encouragement and connections afforded me by Centennial Institute, its fellows, and its vast network of 1776 Scholars. Through my experience at the Centennial Institute, my convictions have been strengthened to preserve and protect the great ideals our Founders outlined over two centuries ago. ★

Scholar in the World



NATE GRASZ '16
B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Hanging on the walls of my office, just blocks away from the Nebraska State Capitol building, are photos of some of America's most influential leaders standing beside me — leaders such as Dr. Ben Carson, Hugh Hewitt, Lt. Col. Allen West, and former Vice President Dick Cheney. While these photos capture a glimpse of my experiences at CCU and the Centennial Institute, the immeasurable amount of critical knowledge and worldview training instilled in me during my time as a student and 1776 Scholar have impacted me far beyond mere memories in a photograph.

As a weekly radio show host and policy director for the Nebraska Family Alliance — a state-based affiliate of Focus on the Family, I have used my experiences at CCU and Centennial Institute to impact culture and politics in my home state.

Whether I am testifying in front of legislative committees, helping craft legislation, or speaking with the media and elected officials at every level of government, all of these endeavors seek to advance the values championed at the Centennial Institute: faith, family, and freedom.

The Centennial Institute not only trains and equips students to engage the culture and government, but prepares them to be leaders who think critically and stand for the truth. At a time when people of faith who have strong biblical values are increasingly being undermined, your investment in the Centennial Institute is crucial — you are investing in the future of our country and the advancement of the gospel. ★

Centennial Institute Summer Interns Impacting the World



(from left to right) – Tegan Truitt, Mikaela Myers, Branden Yeates, Maggie Tynan, Adam Densmore, Ellen Densmore, Dixon Yonan

Centennial Institute provides summer internships for recent high school graduates and current college students. Interns are fully immersed in all aspects of the planning and execution of the Western Conservative Summit. Additionally, interns are asked to think critically about issues confronting society and construct a blog post addressing a public policy area, Christian value, or founding principle. Here are some selections from these blog posts.

TEGAN TRUITT, FRESHMAN AT GROVE CITY COLLEGE, GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

How Good Intentions Crippled Economic Justice

The famed observer of democracy, Alexis de Tocqueville, writes that, though democratic nations love freedom, “for equality they have an ardent, insatiable, eternal, invincible passion; they want equality in freedom, and, if they cannot get it, they still want it in slavery. They will tolerate poverty, enslavement, barbarism, but they will not tolerate aristocracy.” And it is this hatred of aristocracy — this predilection against the wealthy — that threatens the American democratic experiment today.

MIKAELA MYERS, SENIOR AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Women and the Wage Gap

As women, we should be proud and ambitious in the workplace but also equally proud to be entrusted with the upbringing of the next generation. If I must endure a pay decrease so that I may raise and teach a child who has the potential to change the world, the tradeoff doesn’t seem quite as detrimental. I

am a proud and well educated woman with goals and dreams that transcend the typical college senior. Yes, this systematic discrimination is hard to accept, but when viewing the problem with a secular understanding of both how the economy and familial responsibility contribute to this divide, the gap seems much smaller. I will continue to fight for equal representation in the workplace and strive for the best, but with respect to the honor and privilege it is to be a traditional woman.

BRANDEN YEATES, SENIOR AT COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Irresistible? Romans and the Right to Resist

Paul’s command in Romans 13 to “be subject to the governing authorities” can stir up a lot of internal conflict in the mind of a Christian patriot. The Church often assumes that Romans 13 demands pacifistic submission, but this is totally incompatible with America’s revolutionary origins. An American Christian might struggle with the thought, just like I struggled, that they must therefore choose either their faith or their freedom. However, properly read and understood in the complete context of scripture, Romans 13 actually empowers Christians to choose both.

MAGGIE TYNAN, FRESHMAN AT BENEDICTINE COLLEGE, ATCHISON, KANSAS

The Death of Western Culture

Nothing about the human condition has changed. Our social and technological progress have largely been for the better. Yet we break as people, because our culture has collapsed. Our



culture has accepted subjectivity. We are nothing more than the product of the existentialists and postmodernism. Now, to the mind of Western man, truth is relative. There can be no good, no evil. There can be no purpose, or meaning. While the average person would not claim to live a meaningless existence, they inevitably find meaning solely in the things of this world. And any purpose, which is not transcendent — eternal — is no purpose at all.

ADAM DENSMORE, FRESHMAN AT GROVE CITY COLLEGE, GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Secular Argument for Traditional Marriage

It is almost universally agreed that children should be protected from parental abuse or endangerment. Abortion seems to be a glaring exception to this nearly unanimously accepted principle, but that atrocity must be saved for another article. For example, the adoption process includes exhaustive vetting of prospective parents; why? Because the state has a vested interest in ensuring that children have a nurturing and instructive home. So, from this standpoint, if it could be (as it already is) well established through science and observation that civil unions are institutions incapable of raising children as well as traditional marriages, and it is accepted that marriage is a partnership primarily formed around the ability to raise children, there is no reason a rational secularist would advocate civil unions being legally equal to traditional marriages.

ELLEN DENSMORE, SENIOR AT COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

The Cult of Education

Educator and social activist John Dewey, known as the “father of American education,” had arguably the greatest influence over the modern public school system in America. He recognized that education is not value-neutral — no matter how “secular” the system claims to be. Values of some kind are always imparted — and sought to exploit that fact. He viewed education as the primary tool of social and political reform. In taking control of the schools, the Progressives could infiltrate malleable young minds with their beliefs, and thereby shape the future of the nation and the world.

To search and read full blog posts, go to ccu.edu/centennial/blog

FORTIFYING FREEDOM



WESTERN
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