

Annual Report 2019-20

# Inspiring Americans to Greatness



The Steamboat Institute  
*Inspiring Americans to Greatness*



*Attendees of the 2019 Freedom Conference raise their hands in solidarity with Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters*

## **The principles espoused by The Steamboat Institute are:**

**Limited taxation and fiscal responsibility • Limited government • Free market capitalism**

**Individual rights and responsibilities • Strong national defense**

# Contents

## **INTRODUCTION**

---

About the Steamboat Institute	2
Letter from the Chairman	3

## **OUTREACH AND EVENTS**

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Campus Liberty Tour	4
Freedom Conferences and Film Festival	8
Additional Outreach	10

## **TONY BLANKLEY FELLOWSHIP FOR PUBLIC POLICY & AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM**

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About the Tony Blankley Fellowship	11
2019 and 2020 Fellows	12
Past Fellows	14

## **COURAGE IN EDUCATION AWARD**

---

Recipients	16
------------	----

## **EMERGING LEADERS COUNCIL**

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Meet Our Emerging Leaders	18
---------------------------	----

## **MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

---

Media Coverage	20
Social Media Analytics	21

## **FINANCIALS**

---

2019-20 Revenue & Expenses	22
----------------------------	----

## **FUNDING**

---

Funding Sources	23
-----------------	----

## **MEET OUR PEOPLE**

---

Board of Directors	24
National Advisory Board	24
Our Team	24

# About The Steamboat Institute

Here at the Steamboat Institute, we are Defenders of Freedom and Advocates of Liberty. We are admirers of the bravery and rugged individualism that has made this country great. We are admirers of the greatness and wisdom that resides in every individual. We understand that this is a great nation because of its people, not because of its government. Like Thomas Jefferson, we would rather be, “exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it.”

**“The Steamboat Institute promotes America’s first principles and inspires active involvement in the defense of liberty.”**

The Steamboat Institute is an educational organization recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code—and we are here to educate. We are here to help provide tools, information, and inspiration to those who hold the Founding Principles of the nation dear.

When we started The Steamboat Institute in 2008, it was out of genuine concern for the future of our country. We take seriously the concept that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.

The Steamboat Institute has succeeded beyond anything we could have imagined when we started in 2008. We have found that there is a tremendous desire by many Americans to be more...to do more...to make a difference in their communities, their states and our nation.

Our annual Freedom Conferences, as well as our Campus Liberty Tour throughout the year, are tremendously popular and provide unique opportunities for people to have direct and personal contact with nationally recognized leaders in conservative thought and policy. This is an essential component of our fight for our freedom.

# Message from Our Chairman



Hall of Fame Coach Lou Holtz once said, *“Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.”*

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit and the shutdowns started in March 2020, Steamboat Institute leadership did not panic, nor did we ever contemplate laying off staff or cutting programs. Not only did we survive the shutdowns and lockdowns, we actually thrived and emerged from this challenging year with increased donor and foundation support, increased staffing, and realistic plans to expand our programs in 2021.

In the face of these immense and ever-changing obstacles, Steamboat Institute stayed the course, holding a successful and entertaining **12th Annual Freedom Conference** in Beaver Creek, Colorado, in August, with 200 people attending in person, and resuming our **Campus Liberty Tour** debates in person in the Fall.

But it wasn't just business as usual. Pivoting to adapt to new restrictions on in-person gatherings, Steamboat Institute successfully leveraged virtual media to expand our audiences from hundreds to tens of thousands for each debate or program we hosted. And, with our interactive Q&A platform, we were able to engage audiences across America in live Q&A with our speakers.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, Steamboat Institute has experienced exciting growth, as we expanded our **Tony Blankley Fellowship**

to include eight promising young journalists and conservative thought leaders. In 2020 alone, our Blankley Fellows reached nearly 17 million people with their original published articles, TV appearances, and social media networks.

Our **Emerging Leaders Council**, a select group of rising young leaders who are fearless in defending liberty, are making an impact with their published op-eds and blog posts, creative videos, and a new bi-weekly podcast series, **Liberty Chats**. We are building the bench for leadership roles in business, politics and academia. This is how you protect and preserve freedom for future generations.

In this time of national and global crises – with attacks on law enforcement, active efforts to erase and rewrite our nation's history, and elected officials who trample our Constitutional rights – Steamboat Institute's mission of promoting first principles and inspiring active involvement in the defense of liberty is more important than ever.

As we look to the 250th anniversary of America's founding in 2026, Steamboat Institute is committed to fearlessly defending freedom. As our 40th President, Ronald Reagan, famously stated:

*“The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted. It belongs to the brave.”*

**Jennifer Schubert-Akin**

Chairman, CEO and Co-founder  
The Steamboat Institute

# Outreach and Events

## Campus Liberty Tour

Launched in 2018, Steamboat Institute's Campus Liberty Tour brings respectful, robust and reasoned debates to college campuses across America, encouraging critical thinking skills. To combat blatant attacks on free speech and open discourse of ideas, our Campus Liberty Tour teaches students – and all who attend - how to think, not what to think.

In 2019-20, we visited eleven campuses and communities with our Campus Liberty Tour debates and discussions, reaching more than 2,000 people attending in person and more than 40,000 viewing online.

While our 2020 events were limited due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were extremely proud that Steamboat Institute pivoted seamlessly to live streaming of our events to expand our reach to tens of thousands of people.

Our university hosts included:

- » University of California – Berkeley
- » University of Colorado - Denver
- » Colorado Mesa University
- » Colorado Mountain College – Steamboat Springs
- » Fort Lewis College
- » University of Maryland – College Park
- » Middle Tennessee State University
- » Pepperdine University
- » University of Texas at Austin



*Jennifer Schubert-Akin introduces moderator Robert Kaufman and Professors Alan Dershowitz and Amy Wax – Pepperdine University, 2019.*

**“My daughter, who is a college sophomore, appreciated that two very different extremes were being debated in a respectful, productive manner. Her teachers in high school, and now in college, discourage debate, especially if you lean toward freedom and individual accountability.”**

*– Brian Madison, attendee at Steamboat Institute's Socialism vs. Capitalism debate, University of Colorado Denver*

## ARE AMERICAN COLLEGE CAMPUSES 'FREE SPEECH ZONES'?

January 30, 2019 | Attendance: 200

Berkeley Law, University of California | Berkeley, CA

Moderated by: Janice Rogers Brown – former U.S. Circuit Judge,  
United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia

January 31, 2019 | Attendance: 400

Pepperdine University | Malibu, CA

Moderated by: Robert Kaufman – Robert & Katheryn Dockson  
Professor of Public Policy, Pepperdine School of Public Policy

### Featuring:

- » Alan Dershowitz – Professor of Law Emeritus, Harvard Law School
- » Richard A. Epstein – Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law, NYU School of Law
- » Amy Wax – Robert Mudheim Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Our two California events featured robust discussions of professors being criticized and marginalized because of views they expressed in academic research and writing. Professors Dershowitz, Wax and Epstein made compelling cases for defending free speech of both faculty and students.



Trent England and Patrick Rosenstiel debate the national popular vote vs. the electoral college at CMU in Grand Junction, CO.

## HOW SHOULD WE ELECT OUR PRESIDENT? A DEBATE ON NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE VS. ELECTORAL COLLEGE

July 8, 2019 | Attendance: 110

Colorado Mountain College | Steamboat Springs, CO

Moderated by: Jennifer Schubert-Akin – Steamboat Institute

July 9, 2019 | Attendance: 65

Pitkin County Library | Aspen, CO

Moderated by: David Krause – Editor, *Aspen Times*

October 9, 2019 | Attendance: 100

Colorado Mesa University | Grand Junction, CO

Moderated by: Jay Seaton – Publisher, *The Daily Sentinel*

October 10, 2019 | Attendance: 100

Fort Lewis College | Durango, CO

Moderated by: Paul DeBell, PhD, Assistant Professor of Political  
Science, Fort Lewis College

October 27, 2020 | Attendance: 50

YouTube Viewers: 275 | Facebook Viewers: 2,200

The Dome at AMG | Greenwood Village, CO

» Moderated by: Dan Njegomir – Editorial Page Editor, *Denver Gazette*

### Featuring:

- » Trent England – Executive Vice President, Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs
- » Patrick Rosenstiel – Senior Consultant to the National Popular Vote Campaign
- » Dr. Benjamin Waddell – Associate Professor, Fort Lewis College
- » Kyra Ward – Debate Champion and Graduate of University of St. Andrews

One of the most fundamental aspects of our republic is how we decide who our President will be every four years. This series of debates explored the arguments in favor of and against both the electoral college and the national popular vote.

## **SOCIALISM VS. CAPITALISM**

**September 17, 2019 | Attendance: 300**

**University of Maryland | College Park, MD**

Moderated by: Jillian Melchior – Editorial Page Writer, *The Wall Street Journal*

**September 18, 2019 | Attendance: 400**

**University of Texas | Austin, TX**

Moderated by: Tom Rogan – Commentary Desk, *Washington Examiner*; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

**September 19, 2019 | Attendance: 200**

**University of Colorado | Denver, CO**

Moderated by: Hadley Heath Manning – Policy Director, Independent Women’s Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

### **Featuring:**

- » Yaron Brook – Chairman of the Ayn Rand Institute
- » Bhaskar Sunkara – Publisher of the online socialist magazine *Jacobin*

A 2019 Gallup poll showed that **“since 2010, young adults’ overall opinion of capitalism has deteriorated to the point that capitalism and socialism are tied in popularity among this age group.”** With our Socialism vs. Capitalism debate tour, Steamboat Institute attracted students on both sides of this issue to hear robust, but reasoned, debates on how both socialism and capitalism affect prosperity, opportunity, individual liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



Moderator Hadley Heath Manning with Bhaskar Sunkara and Yaron Brook, on capitalism v. socialism in 2019.

“I came because I wanted to hear a new perspective, because I’ve always thought one way.... I loved hearing their back-and-forth commentary, because it taught me a lot about both sides. I definitely became more moderate from the debate.”

– Jheel Patel, Student at The University of Texas at Austin, following Steamboat Institute’s Campus Liberty Tour “Socialism vs. Capitalism” debate

## **WILL A WEALTH TAX AND HIGHER INCOME TAX RATES INCREASE OR DIMINISH PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA?**

**October 5, 2020 | Attendance: 50**

**YouTube Viewers: 500 | Facebook Viewers: 35,000**

**Middle Tennessee State University | Murfreesboro, TN**

Moderated by: Hadley Heath Manning – Policy Director, Independent Women’s Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

### **Featuring:**

- » Arthur B. Laffer, PhD – Founder and Chairman, Laffer Associates
- » Leslie Marshall – Democratic Strategist, National Talk Radio Host, Fox News Contributor

Throughout the 2020 Presidential campaign, leading Democratic candidates proposed a wealth tax and higher income tax rates as a path to increasing opportunity and prosperity for more Americans. In contrast, leading free market economists, including Dr. Arthur Laffer, inventor of the “Laffer Curve,” argue that reductions in income tax rates lead to increases in both tax revenue and personal income.



## Steamboat Institute’s Campus Liberty Tour Advisory Board

- Rajshree Agarwal – Director, Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets – University of Maryland
- William Allen – Chief Operating Officer, Center for Urban Renewal and Education
- Brian Domitrovic – Senior Associate, Laffer Center for Supply-Side Economics
- Joshua Dunn – Director, Center for the Study of Government and the Individual – University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Christina Elson – Executive Director, Wake Forest University Center for the Study of Capitalism
- Lauren Golem – Judicial Clerk; Recent graduate of CU Boulder School of Law
- Robert Kaufman – Professor of Public Policy, Pepperdine University
- Hadley Heath Manning – Policy Director, Independent Women's Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute
- Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill – Director, Campus Free Expression Project, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Judi Newman – Director on Board of Trustees, University of Miami
- Jason Riley, Member of Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal
- Ilya Shapiro – Director, Cato Institute's Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies
- Tina Snider – Director, The Snider Foundation; Member of Advisory Board, University of Colorado's Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization
- Matthew Spalding – Vice President of Washington Operations and Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government, Hillsdale College; Member of Steamboat Institute's Board of Directors
- Ted Trimpa – Principal and CEO, Trimpa Group LLC
- Brandon Van Dyck – Assistant Professor of Government & Law, Founder of The Mill Series, Lafayette College
- Derek Wagner – Vice President for Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, Colorado Mesa University

# 11th Annual Freedom Conference & Film Festival

August 22-24, 2019 | Steamboat Grand

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Attendance: 330 | YouTube & Facebook views: 26,000

Steamboat Institute's 11th Annual Freedom Conference & Film Festival attracted a capacity audience from across the U.S. to the beautiful Rocky Mountain resort setting of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. All sessions are available for viewing on SI's YouTube channel.

The keynote dinner, held outdoors on the lawn at the beautiful Catamount Ranch & Golf Club, featured remarks by Harvard Law Professor Emeritus Alan Dershowitz, moderated by Hadley Heath Manning, and was televised on C-Span.



Keynote speaker Alan Dershowitz with Tony Blankley Senior Fellow Hadley Heath Manning at the 2019 Freedom Conference

The intimate, retreat-like atmosphere of Steamboat Institute's Freedom Conference provides guests with an unparalleled opportunity to meet and mingle with the speakers, who include nationally recognized leaders in conservative thought and policy. And, when combined with music, videos, a film festival, Coyote Gold Margarita Party, and live outdoor music, there is truly nothing like it anywhere in America!

In addition to Professor Dershowitz, featured speakers at the 11th Annual Freedom Conference included:

- » David Bernhardt, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
- » NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine
- » Jim DeMint, Chairman of the Conservative Partnership Institute
- » Stephon Ferguson, with his historical re-enactment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech
- » Asra Nomani, Co-founder of the Muslim Reform Movement
- » Ilya Shapiro, Director of Constitutional Studies – The Cato Institute
- » Kevin and Sam Sorbo, actors and film producers
- » And many others

Demonstrating our commitment to civilized debate and discourse on hot-button issues, our 11th Annual Freedom Conference also featured two robust debates: **"Socialism vs. Capitalism"** featuring Bhaskar Sunkara (author of *The Socialist Manifesto*) vs. Stephen Moore (economic advisor to President Trump); and **"National Popular Vote vs. Electoral College"** featuring Ted Trimpa (Democratic strategist, Trimpa Group) vs. Trent England of Save Our States.

Rounding out the experience, our Film Festival included an entertaining mix of films, including Kevin Sorbo's "Miracle in East Texas" and Sara Carter's compelling documentary on the opioid crisis, "Not in Vein."



Interior Secretary David Bernhardt at the 2019 Freedom Conference

# 12th Annual Freedom Conference

**August 28-29, 2020 | Park Hyatt**

**Beaver Creek Resort, Colorado**

**Attendance: 200 | YouTube & Facebook views: 25,000**

For the first time in our history, Steamboat Institute's annual Freedom Conference was held outside of Steamboat Springs. In the midst of an avalanche of shutdowns, lockdowns and cancellations related to Covid-19, Steamboat Institute steadfastly forged ahead and held our successful, entertaining and well-attended 12th Annual Freedom Conference in the spectacular Rocky Mountain setting of Beaver Creek, Colorado. And there were no reports of illness following our event!

All sessions are available for viewing on SI's YouTube channel.



Our new location was met with rave reviews by speakers and guests alike, who enjoyed robust discussions of liberty vs. security, the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, "America First" foreign policy, and much more. And, of course, our conference weekend ended with our signature Coyote Gold Margarita Party and live music, featuring Dave Bray USA.

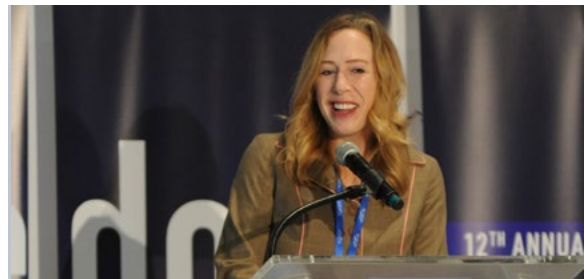
Featured speakers at the 12th Annual Freedom Conference included:

- » Heather Mac Donald of the Manhattan Institute: "America in Crisis"
- » Richard Grenell, Acting Director of National Intelligence: "America First Foreign Policy"

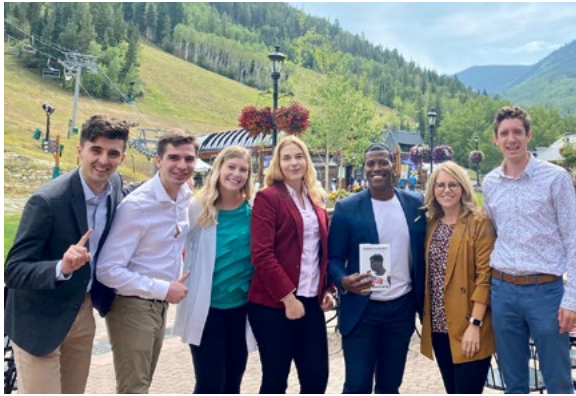


*Tony Blankley Senior Fellow Jillian Kay Melchior talks with keynote speaker Heather Mac Donald at the 2020 Freedom Conference*

- » Aurelia Skipwith, Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: "Conserving Our Nation's Wildlife Heritage for All Americans"
- » Kimberley Strassel of *The Wall Street Journal*: "The Risks of the Progressive Agenda to Liberty and Markets"
- » Scott Atlas, M.D., Member of President Trump's Coronavirus Task Force
- » Charlie Kirk, Founder of Turning Point USA: "Restoring Free Speech and Ideological Diversity on College Campuses"
- » And many others!



*Kimberley Strassel of The Wall Street Journal speaks at the 2020 Freedom Conference*



*Emerging Leaders Marko Sukovic, Haley Supergan, Juliet Lucas, Lindsey Martin and Carter Mateer and Freedom Conference Speakers Rob Smith and Jorge Galicia pose for a photo at the 2020 Conference.*



*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director Aurelia Skipwith speaks at the 2020 Freedom Conference.*

## **Additional Outreach**

### **TALKING POLITICS, PERSUASIVELY AND WINSOMELY**

October 26, 2020 | Attendance: 50  
Steamboat Springs, CO

Steamboat Institute hosted this workshop, featuring Melanie Sturm of Engage to Win, to help people develop the skills to discuss politics and other potentially contentious issues in a non-confrontational, engaging manner – and just in time for the 2020 election and holidays following.

### **STOPPING THE STAMPEDE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES**

In response to the widespread government-mandated lockdowns and shutdowns related to Covid-19, Steamboat Institute launched “Stopping the Stampede on Civil Liberties,” to educate people about their constitutional rights. Our “Stopping the Stampede” toolkit, available for download at [www.steamboatinstitute.org](http://www.steamboatinstitute.org), includes a pocket guide, templates for writing letters and emails to elected officials, and tips for writing op-eds that will get published.

# Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy & American Exceptionalism



## About the Tony Blankley Fellowship

The Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism was established by the Steamboat Institute to provide high-profile recognition and financial support to emerging conservative thought leaders who share the principles and ideals espoused by the late Tony Blankley and the Steamboat Institute. Those principles are limited taxation and fiscal responsibility, limited government, free market capitalism, individual rights and responsibilities, and strong national defense.

Tony Blankley (1948-2012) was editorial page editor of *The Washington Times*. He served as press secretary for Newt Gingrich during his tenure as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1990s. He was also a regular panelist on *The McLaughlin Group* and later served as Executive Vice President with Edelman public relations in Washington, D.C. Mr. Blankley served as Conference Moderator for the Steamboat Institute's first three Freedom Conferences (2009, 2010 and 2011)

### SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE TONY BLANKLEY FELLOWSHIP ARE:

- Lynda Davis, Ph.D. – widow of Tony Blankley
- Steve Hofman – Consultant; former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor
- Lauren Maddox – Senior Advisor, Holland & Knight, LLP; former Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
- Hadley Heath Manning – Tony Blankley Senior Fellow; Public Policy Director, Independent Women's Forum
- Thomas P. McDevitt – Chairman, Board of Directors, *The Washington Times*
- Ed Meese – 75th Attorney General of the United States
- John O' Sullivan – British commentator and former speechwriter for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Senior Fellow with *National Review*
- John B. Roberts II – Author, former Reagan White House and Reagan-Bush '80 and '84 campaign senior staff; international political consultant
- Tom Rogan – Tony Blankley Senior Fellow and columnist for *Washington Examiner*; Host of *The McLaughlin Group*
- Matthew J. Spalding – Vice President of Washington Operations and Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government for Hillsdale College in Washington, D.C.

## 2019 Tony Blankley Fellows



### **AMBER ATHEY**

*2019 Tony Blankley Fellow*

Amber Athey is the Washington Editor at *Spectator USA* and the host of the “Unfit to Print” podcast, which regularly reaches 1 million viewers/listeners. Prior to joining the *Spectator USA* team, Amber was White House Correspondent at *The Daily Caller* and covered bias and abuse in the university system for Campus Reform. She graduated from Georgetown University in 2016 with a B.A. in Government and Economics. Amber is an Orioles fan, country music lover, and proud cat mom to Bentley.



### **SAAGAR ENJETI**

*2019 Tony Blankley Fellow*

Saagar Enjeti is a Washington Correspondent and host of “Rising” at TheHillTV.com, which has 800,000 viewers daily. Saagar is also a Media Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington DC where he co-hosts The Realignment podcast. Saagar previously served as White House Correspondent for *The Daily Caller* and Foreign Affairs Correspondent for The DC News Foundation. Saagar received his Masters degree in US National Security Policy from Georgetown University and his bachelors in Economics from The George Washington University. Saagar has studied extensively across the globe spanning 3 continents and has visited over 40 countries.

## 2020 Tony Blankley Fellow



### **PATRICE ONWUKA**

*2020 Tony Blankley Fellow*

Patrice Onwuka is a political commentator and Senior Policy Analyst at the Independent Women's Forum. Along with being Steamboat Institute's 2020 Tony Blankley Fellow, Patrice is also a senior fellow with the Alliance for Charitable Excellence, a project of The Philanthropy Roundtable.

Patrice has worked in policy, advocacy, and communications roles for more than a decade on issues related to the economy, employment, technology, and the criminal justice system. Previously, she worked for Generation Opportunity, The Philanthropy Roundtable and The Fund for American Studies. She was a Charles Koch Associate from 2008-

2009. Prior to moving to Washington, Patrice served as a speechwriter for a United Nations spokesman.

Patrice is a frequent guest on Fox News, Fox Business News, and PBS programs. She hosts a column called the New Agenda for Black Women on Newsmax.com and is a contributor to the *Washington Examiner* and *The Hill*. Her opinions have also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *CNBC*, *Bloomberg*, the *New York Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and other prominent outlets.

Born in the Caribbean, Patrice immigrated with her family to Boston where she grew up and completed her education. Patrice holds a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Tufts University and a master's degree in international relations from Boston College.

Patrice resides in Maryland with her husband and three children.

## Previous Recipients of The Steamboat Institute's Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism



**Tom Rogan, awarded 2014**

Commentary Desk, *Washington Examiner*;  
Host, *The McLaughlin Group*



**Jillian Melchior, awarded 2015**

Editorial Page Writer, *The Wall Street Journal*



**Hadley Heath Manning, awarded 2016**

Policy Director, Independent Women's Forum



**Kelsey Harkness, awarded 2017**

Senior Policy Analyst, Independent Women's Forum



**Philip Wegmann, awarded 2018**

White House Correspondent, *Real Clear Politics*



## The High Points



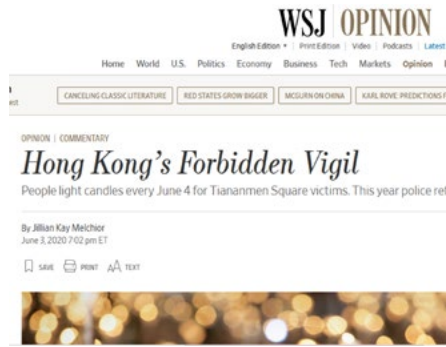
**Amber Athey**, Washington Editor, *Spectator USA*: A 2020 high point for Amber Athey was when she served as moderator for a main stage panel at CPAC about Big Tech's censorship of conservatives with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Missouri Sen Josh Hawley, and Donald Trump Jr. The panel was featured in the *Washington Post* and on Fox News.



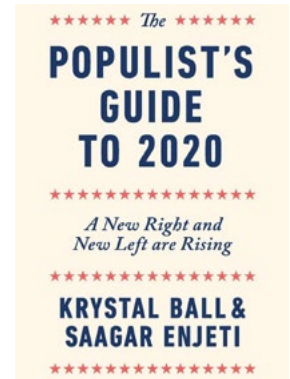
**Hadley Heath Manning**, Director of Policy, Independent Women's Forum: On January 28, 2020, Hadley, a prolific writer and frequent expert guest on TV news shows, gave her first Congressional Testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee on family and medical leave.



**Philip Wegmann**, White House Reporter, RealClearPolitics.com: Phil's high points for 2020 include an Oval Office interview with president Trump, an interview with Vice President Pence on Air Force 2, and an interview with senior advisor to the president Ivanka Trump.



**Jillian Kay Melchior**, Editorial Page Writer, *The Wall Street Journal*: Throughout 2019-20, Jillian made multiple trips to Hong Kong, providing in-depth analysis of China's crackdown on freedom and democracy in Hong Kong, where she started her career as a Bartley Fellow for *The Wall Street Journal's* Asia-Pacific bureau.



**Saagar Enjeti**, Washington Correspondent, *The Hill*: Saagar's high point for 2020 was co-writing the best-selling book: *The Populist's Guide to 2020: A New Right and a New Left are Rising*.

# Courage in Education

The Steamboat Institute established the "Courage in Education" award to recognize courage and leadership in promoting intellectual diversity and free speech on campus and in advancing conservative thought and policy.

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## Recipients



### SAMUEL J. ABRAMS

The 2019 award was presented to Samuel J. Abrams, Professor at Sarah Lawrence College in recognition of his courage and leadership in promoting intellectual diversity and free speech on the Sarah Lawrence College campus. Professor Abrams has steadily fought for viewpoint diversity, the promotion of free speech and open-discourse. His research and advocacy around free speech has at times made him unpopular among some of his peers and colleagues.



### HILLSDALE COLLEGE

The 2020 award was presented to Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan in recognition of the courage and leadership displayed by the College in educating students on America's founding principles and in standing strong for justice and equality. Matthew Spalding, Ph.D., accepted the award on behalf of Hillsdale President Larry Arnn and Hillsdale College at our 2020 Freedom Conference. Hillsdale's recent statement on the principles of equity and justice, upon which the College was founded, is an example for other universities to follow. Rather than cave to public demands for cheap virtue-signaling, Hillsdale College has set a standard for staying true to its principles, which provide the best opportunity for solving the grave problems facing our nation.

## Previous Recipients of The Steamboat Institute's Courage in Education Award



**Wallace D. Loh**

President of the University of Maryland  
2018



**Brandon Van Dyck**

Assistant Professor of Government & Law, Lafayette College  
2017



**Bruce D. Benson**

President of the University of Colorado  
2016

# Emerging Leaders Council

Steamboat Institute's Emerging Leaders Council is a select group of students and young professionals who are leaders on campuses and in communities across America. They represent the next generation of free-market leadership, with expansive social media followings which give them a platform to defend individual liberty and free enterprise.

Steamboat Institute prepares these young leaders to defend liberty by providing leadership training, networking opportunities, one-on-one mentoring, experience in writing op-eds and producing videos and podcasts, and speakers for campus events.

We also offer an **online scholarship application** to allow students and young professionals to attend our annual Freedom Conference in Colorado each August. Scholarships include travel, lodging, meals and registration fees. Criteria for awarding the scholarships include the potential of each recipient to become a leader in business, politics and academia, where they will be fearless advocates for individual liberty and free enterprise.

To provide the most meaningful experience possible for our scholarship recipients, we give them the opportunity to meet and mingle with our speakers, including then-Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, Kimberley Strassel of *The Wall Street Journal* editorial board, and Charlie Kirk of Turning Point USA. **Imagine the impact on these young leaders when they have the opportunity to visit one-on-one with our nation's leaders in conservative thought and policy!**



## Meet our next generation of leaders



**Brandon Borke**  
*Director of Strategic Partnerships,  
Young Americans for Liberty*



**Jameson C. Broggi**  
*2020 Graduate of Antonin Scalia Law School,  
George Mason University*



**Solomon Chen**  
*Research Associate,  
Cato Institute*



**Domine Clemons**  
*Operations Manager,  
Florida Citizens Alliance*



**Christina Eastman**  
*Analyst,  
American Philanthropic*



**Amelia Hetfield**  
*Project Manager,  
Wisconsin Vision Inc.*



**Karl Honeggar**  
*Senior Treasury Accountant,  
Antero Resources*



**Juliet Lucas**  
*Founder,  
Red Dress Productions*



**Lindsey Martin**  
*Project Director,  
Volunteers for Youth*



**Carter Mateer**  
*Analyst,  
Deloitte*



**Matt Melchior**  
*Sales Executive,  
Denver Broncos*



**Zachary Rogers**  
*Program Officer,  
American Council of Trustees  
and Alumni*



**Braedon Sorbo**  
*Social media influencer,  
co-host of "Mindset with  
Braeden & Vitt"*



**Marko Sukovic**  
*Co-founder of SurusDH, LLC.*



**Charlotte Whelan**  
*Policy Analyst,  
Independent Women's Forum*

Steamboat Institute's Emerging Leaders Council has ambitious plans for 2021, including:

- » Hosting Inaugural ELC Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., in Fall 2021: "Developing and Inspiring Young Leaders to Defend Liberty," a 2-day immersion into founding principles and leadership development.

» Launching "**Liberty Chats**," a bi-weekly series of entertaining, thought-provoking, 15-minute interviews, with the theme of preserving freedom and enhancing opportunity and prosperity. Listeners will hear from:

- Sitting members of Congress
- White House press reporters
- Film producers, actors and others in the entertainment industry
- Political strategists and more!

# Earned Media



Los Angeles Daily News



Miami Herald



POLITICO

VailDaily

The Washington Times

The Steamboat Institute's media coverage in 2019-20 rivaled and, in many cases, exceeded the nation's largest and most established state think tanks.

Overall, Steamboat Institute had more than 125 media hits, amplifying its message to reach millions of readers, viewers, and listeners, with a publicity value of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Our 2019-20 media highlights included:

- » **C-Span** covered the 2019 Campus Liberty Tour debates and Freedom Conference, reaching its 28 million weekly viewers.
- » Freedom Conference coverage included: **Politico** (26 million unique monthly readers); **The Miami Herald** (10.5 million unique monthly users); **Denver Post** (6 million unique monthly readers); **FoxNews.com** (65 million unique monthly readers); as well as **The Washington Times**, **Vail Daily**, **Colorado Politics**, **CBS Denver**, and **Colorado Springs Gazette**, reaching hundreds of thousands more people across Colorado and beyond.
- » In 2020, **The Associated Press**, the most trusted name in print media, covered the 12th Annual Freedom Conference in Beaver Creek, one of the few large, in-person events to take place in 2020.
- » Our CEO, Jennifer Schubert-Akin, published regular op-eds in Colorado and national newspapers, influencing the public dialogue on hot-button issues. These op-eds included the fight

for free speech on college campuses and the consequences of a wealth tax in the **Los Angeles Daily News** and **Orange County Register**, and Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and the National Popular Vote issue for the **Colorado Springs Gazette** and **Colorado Politics**.

- » Jennifer's op-ed in the **Denver/Colorado Springs Gazette**, highlighting the harm of Covid-induced restaurant closures and her follow-up appearance on the **Ross Kaminsky Show**, directly led to Colorado Governor Jared Polis reopening Routt County restaurants just in time for the holidays. Jennifer also placed another impactful op-ed in the Gazette about stopping the government stampede on civil liberties.
- » Steamboat Institute was regularly featured on talk radio shows with reach throughout the Rocky Mountain states. Top Colorado radio hosts Ross Kaminsky and Mandy Connell co-hosted the 12th Annual Freedom Conference and featured numerous speakers on their programs. **The Mandy Connell Show** on KOA is the 46th most listened-to talk radio show in the country, with a daily audience of more than 100,000 people.
- » In 2020 alone, Steamboat Institute's **Tony Blankley Fellows** reached nearly 17 million people with their original published articles, TV appearances, and social media networks.

This earned media has helped broaden Steamboat Institute's message to reach a much wider audience and influence the national conversation on hot-button issues which affect our freedom.

# Social Media Analytics

2019

2020



Likes:	<b>4,557</b>
Impressions/Reach:	<b>907k</b>
Engagements:	<b>81k</b>
Post link clicks:	<b>13.4</b>
Engaged audience breakdown:	<b>63% men</b> <b>36% women</b>

Likes:	<b>5,008</b> (10% growth)
Impressions/Reach:	<b>1 million+</b> (33% growth)
Engagements:	<b>98,332</b> (40% growth)
Post link clicks:	<b>17,552</b> (57% growth)
Engaged audience breakdown:	<b>57% men</b> <b>42% women</b>



Followers:	<b>4,900</b>
Impressions:	<b>660k</b>
Total posts:	<b>858</b>

Followers:	<b>5,813</b>
Impressions:	<b>1.2 million</b>
Total posts:	<b>974 (17%)</b>



Impressions:	<b>&lt; 1,500</b>
Average daily reach:	unavailable
Total engagements:	<b>10.5k</b>

Impressions:	<b>253,000</b>
Followers:	<b>2,206</b>
Average daily reach:	<b>300-500</b>
Total engagements:	<b>100% increase</b>



Subscribers:	<b>950</b>
Gained in 2019:	<b>428</b>
Views in 2019:	<b>62,906</b>

Subscribers:	<b>1,409</b>
Gained in 2020:	<b>749</b>
Views in 2020:	<b>106,220</b>

# Financials

	2020	2019
<i>Revenue Categories</i>		
Foundation Grants	\$200,175	\$130,458
Individual/Business Contributions	\$160,472	\$158,289
Freedom Conference Registrations/Sponsorships	\$303,416	\$347,890
Campus Liberty Tour Sponsorships	\$36,000	\$64,849
Other Income	\$51,937	\$1
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$752,000</b>	<b>\$701,487</b>
<i>Expense Categories</i>		
Payroll Expenses, including consultants and contract staff	\$297,428	\$247,452
Freedom Conference	\$216,467	\$269,181
Campus Liberty Tour	\$34,040	\$88,993
Tony Blankley Fellowship	\$30,022	\$28,293
Other program expenses	\$1,273	\$1,957
Fundraising expenses	\$12,989	\$6,414
General operating expenses	\$24,327	\$58,254
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$616,546</b>	<b>\$700,544</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$135,454</b>	<b>\$943</b>

NOTE: 2020 expenses were reduced due to limits on events and travel because of Covid-19.



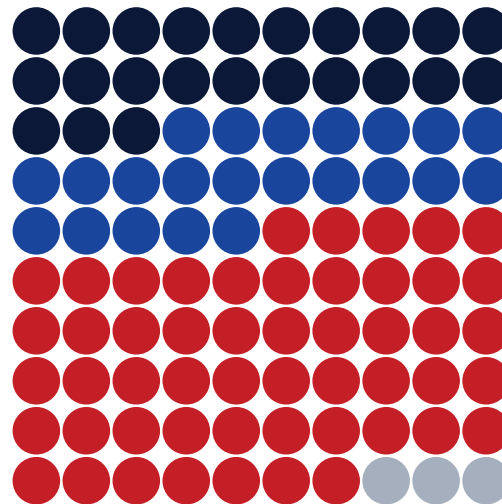
# Funding

The Steamboat Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of individuals, organizations and foundations in carrying out our mission:

## 2019-20

### FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Adolph Coors Foundation  
The Anschutz Foundation  
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation  
Community First Foundation  
Donors Trust  
El Pomar Foundation  
Hatton Summers Foundation  
Jack Roth Charitable Foundation  
Roe Foundation  
The Snider Foundation  
Strake Foundation  
Woodford Foundation for Limited Government



**23%**  
Foundation Support  
\$330,633

**22%**  
Individual & Corporate Contributions  
\$318,761

**52%**  
Event Registrations & Sponsorships  
\$752,155

**3%**  
Other Gifts, Grants, Misc. Income  
\$51,938

# Meet Our People

## Board of Directors

Jennifer Schubert-Akin  
*Chairman & Co-founder*

Rick Akin  
*Vice Chairman & Co-founder*

Kristine L. Bensler

Christopher Cummings

Roger Dorf

William H. Friesell

Charles S. McNeil

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Gary Hofmeister (Emeritus)

Chenza Lazof (Emeritus)

Ronald C. Lazof (Emeritus)

Anne A. Lowe (Emeritus)

Jean Pierre Sagouspe (Emeritus)

## National Advisory Board

Kelsey Alexander

Debra Burlingame

Steve Hofman

Irene Johnson

Ed MacArthur

Hal Scherz, M.D.

Ginni Thomas

Randy Thornton

Bill Thomson

Michael J. Williams

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## Our Team

Jennifer Schubert-Akin  
*CEO*

Ericka Andersen  
*Senior Digital Consultant*

Erica Arguello  
*Special Events Coordinator*

Jordan Bruneau  
*Communications Director*

Amanda Cordsen  
*Graphic Designer*

Susan Mangels, Ph.D.  
*Senior Development  
Consultant*

Marie T. Oates  
*Head of Programs*

Teresa Querciagrossa  
*Executive Assistant/  
Development Associate*

Kelly Seim  
*Special Events Coordinator*



## **The Steamboat Institute promotes America's first principles and inspires active involvement in the defense of liberty:**

- » Limited taxation and fiscal responsibility
- » Free market capitalism
- » Limited government
- » Strong national defense
- » Individual rights and responsibilities

**Please consider making a donation to the Steamboat Institute.  
Your support helps us defend liberty and promote our nation's first principles.**

*The Steamboat Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization.  
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Steamboat Institute**  
P.O. Box 883037  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80488  
970-846-6013

**[www.steamboatinstitute.org](http://www.steamboatinstitute.org)**



## Praise for The Steamboat Institute

“I remember when you started The Steamboat Institute back in 2008. What an amazing success! Congrats!”

– Stephen Moore – Project for Economic Growth, The Heritage Foundation; Former member of The Wall Street Journal editorial board

“The Steamboat Institute’s Freedom Conference is hands down the best policy conference in the country. A wide variety of topics are covered by national figures with incredible knowledge to share. It’s like finally having a seat at the table at the highest levels of government.”

– Mandy Connell, Host of The Mandy Connell Show, KOA Radio and iHeart Media

“The excellent Tony Blankley Fellows that you have supported over the past several years have been outstanding advocates for common sense and sound policies. Your leadership of The Steamboat Institute has been a great asset to the Country and the conservative movement.”

– Edwin Meese, 75th Attorney General of the United States

“Every serious leader should be connected with The Steamboat Institute.”

– Bob Schaffer, Principal of Liberty Common High School (Fort Collins, CO); former U.S. Congressman