



The Steamboat Institute

Inspiring Americans to Greatness

CELEBRATING

15 *Years* ★★★★★
2008 – 2023

Our Mission

The Steamboat Institute promotes America's first principles and inspires active involvement in the defense of liberty. We stand for the following five founding principles:

LIMITED GOVERNMENT

LIMITED TAXATION AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

FREE MARKET CAPITALISM

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

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Mary Millben performs at the 2023 Freedom Conference

Here at The Steamboat Institute, we are Defenders of Freedom and Advocates of Liberty. We believe that America is a great nation because of our people not because of our government.

The Steamboat Institute promotes America's first principles and inspires active involvement in the defense of liberty. Though we were founded in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in 2008, The Steamboat Institute is not a place ... it's an idea — an idea that provides educational tools, information and inspiration to those who hold our founding principles dear.

Limited government, limited taxation and free market capitalism, individual rights and responsibilities, and strong national defense — these are the principles which have made America the greatest nation on Earth!

We take seriously the concept that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction, and we intend to make sure that America grows stronger during our watch.

We create programs and initiatives to ensure America's freedom for future generations. Our Annual Freedom Conference brings Americans together to discuss the top issues facing the nation.

Our Campus Liberty Tour and Emerging Leaders Council allow us to reach the next generation with common sense ideas and the tools to be advocates of liberty in their communities. Our Tony Blankley Fellows are fighting the mainstream narratives in the media to reach millions of Americans with a message of hope for the future of our country.

Our events are tremendously popular because they 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 in our fight for freedom.

When we started The Steamboat Institute in 2008, it was out of genuine concern for the future of our country. The Steamboat Institute has succeeded beyond anything we could have imagined. We have found that there is a tremendous desire by many Americans to make a difference in their communities, their states and our nation.

A Message From Our Chairman



1.74 billion viewers and listeners.

This amazing statistic describes the powerful reach of Steamboat Institute's **Tony Blankley Fellows**, fearless young journalists who relentlessly pursue the truth, in 2023.

2023 was a year of remarkable growth for Steamboat Institute, as we expanded our **Campus Liberty Tour** debate program from 3-4 debates per year to eight debates in 2023 – and not even one was cancelled or shouted down by protestors! Our debate program has never been more relevant, providing a vital platform for students to engage in civil discourse on complex and contentious issues. Amid the heightened tensions and campus protests surrounding today's political and academic environment, our debates offer a space for reasoned argument and principled discussion, reinforcing our dedication to the values of free speech and open dialogue.

As we reflect on 2023, it is impossible to overlook the profound impact of the global events that have shaped our nation and our mission. The Israel-Hamas War igniting on October 7, 2023, not only rekindled longstanding geopolitical tensions but also stirred passionate and polarizing responses in the media, on college campuses, and in communities across America. This conflict has underscored the importance of Steamboat Institute's work in fostering thoughtful dialogue, defending liberty, and upholding the principles that enhance freedom and human flourishing.

We were proud to award two **Tony Blankley Fellowships** in 2023 to Kaylee McGhee White, "Restoring America" editor with the *Washington Examiner*, and George E. Bogden, world history scholar and Olin Fellow at Columbia Law School. Our fellows have been at the forefront of covering the Israel-Hamas conflict and the ensuing campus protests, providing insightful journalism that upholds the highest standards of integrity and truth.

The highlight of our year was undoubtedly the **15th Annual Freedom Conference**, held again in the beautiful mountain setting of Beaver Creek, Colorado, in August 2023. This milestone event brought together an extraordinary array of speakers, conservative thought leaders, and hundreds of engaged citizens from across America – including 38 scholarship recipients and members of our **Emerging Leaders Council**. This inspiring program included former White House Press Secretary and Fox News political commentator **Dana Perino**, the dazzling musical talent of **Mary Millben**, the fearless advocate for fairness in women's sports **Riley Gaines**, and many others. This quote from one of our attendees sums up the impact of the Freedom Conference experience:

“ You knocked it out of the park with the 2023 Freedom Conference! I arrived on Thursday very discouraged by the madness of the Left, but today I am so encouraged! Thanks for showing us all that we can hope and, through Steamboat Institute, have a way to help.”

– Margo McCombs, attendee from Steamboat Springs, CO

As we reflect on our 15th anniversary – and look ahead to America's 250th anniversary in 2026 - we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our freedom-loving supporters across the country. With our nation and the world engulfed in chaos, Steamboat Institute is more committed than ever to advancing the principles that have allowed America to flourish for 247 years.

Remember, Steamboat Institute is not a think tank – we're a battle tank! We are proud to lead the way for those who love freedom and are fearless in defending it. We invite you to join us.

JENNIFER SCHUBERT-AKIN

Chairman, CEO and Co-founder
The Steamboat Institute

2023 Year at a Glance



The Steamboat Institute

CAMPUS LIBERTY

— T O U R —

Elevating the Debate



The Steamboat Institute

FREEDOM
CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL

8

debates



32,000

Online Views

800+ In-Person
Attendance

31 Watch Parties
Hosted

300+

In Attendance

Including

38 Scholarship
Recipients

Representing

25 States
and Washington, D.C.

13,000+
Online Views



ELC
EMERGING LEADERS COUNCIL

**TONY BLANKLEY
FELLOWSHIP
FOR PUBLIC POLICY
AND AMERICAN
EXCEPTIONALISM**

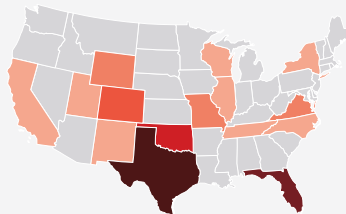
Increased from

30 to 39

Members

Representing

**15
States**



and Washington, D.C.



Launched

**Outspoken Roundtables
Debate Series**

Blankley Fellows completed

450+

Media hits on

Major networks



Reaching

1.7B Viewers and
listeners

**With an advertising
value equivalency of**

\$15.9M

Campus Liberty Tour



*Former U.S. Ambassador to China, Max Baucus (left), and Former Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Kelley Currie (center), debate whether "A Cold War between the U.S. and China is inevitable."
— Pepperdine University, November 2023*

Since 2018, Steamboat Institute has fearlessly entered the lion's den of college campuses with compelling debates on the most important issues facing our nation today, engaging conservatives, liberals, and centrists. Our focus is teaching students – and all who attend – how to think, not what to think.

Steamboat Institute's Campus Liberty Tour is a shining example of robust and civilized debate, with an emphasis on critical thinking skills. We cannot maintain our democratic republic without a populace capable of critical thinking and civilized discourse. With our Campus Liberty Tour debates, Steamboat Institute aims to address this problem.

In 2023, Steamboat Institute hosted eight debates on college campuses around the country on a range of important issues. While finding a debater to advocate for freedom and limited government is easy, finding an opponent has become increasingly difficult. Steamboat Institute applauds those who are willing to engage in robust civil debate and will continue to give both sides a fair and balanced platform to make their case.

After each debate Steamboat Institute publishes pre- and post-debate polling data. This data clearly shows that student minds are changed to favor freedom after attending these debates.

2023 Spring Tour

MARCH 15

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NY

RESOLUTION DEBATED: Climate science compels us to make large and rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

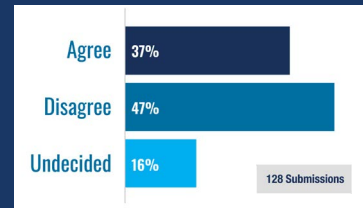
IN PERSON ATTENDANCE: 100

MODERATED BY: Sarah Bedford – Investigative Reporter, *Washington Examiner*; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute

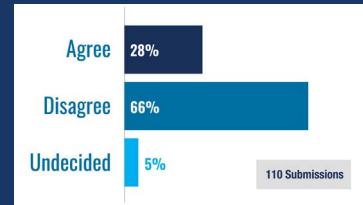
FEATURING:

- » Steven Koonin, Ph.D. – Author of *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters*; Former Undersecretary for Science, U.S. Department of Energy in the Obama Administration
- » Robert Socolow, Ph.D. – Professor Emeritus of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Senior Scholar, Princeton University

Pre-debate Poll



Post-debate Poll



APRIL 13

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER, BOULDER, CO

RESOLUTION DEBATED: Illegal crossings of the U.S.- Mexico border are increasing at record levels; the U.S. government must secure the border immediately.

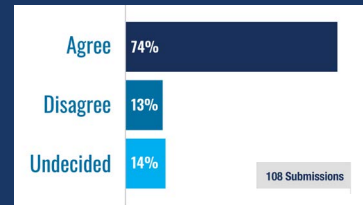
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 64

MODERATED BY: Hadley Heath Manning – Vice President for Policy, Independent Women's Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

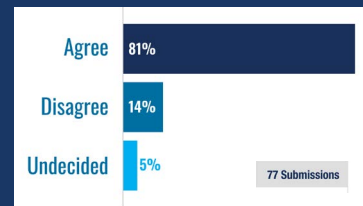
FEATURING:

- » Julio Rosas – Senior Writer, Townhall.com
- » Michael Anton – Lecturer in Politics and Research Fellow, Graduate School of Government, Hillsdale College
- » Benjamin Waddell, Ph.D. – Associate Professor of Sociology, Fort Lewis College
- » Jose Antonio Vargas – Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist, Filmmaker, and Immigration Advocate

Pre-debate Poll



Post-debate Poll



CAMPUS LIBERTY TOUR WATCH PARTIES

In 2022, Steamboat Institute saw an increased demand for debates across the country. Because we are unable to reach every campus in person, we launched Watch Parties to reach more students and audiences with each debate. Watch Party participants receive a private viewing link to screen the debate, can participate in the pre- and post-debate polling, and are able to ask the debaters questions via QR code.

In 2023, a total of 31 watch parties were hosted by groups across the country and 250 individuals attended. All attendees received complimentary SI swag, including posters, stickers, and buttons.



2023 Fall Tour

OCTOBER 3

THE DEBATE CHAMBER AT OLD PARKLAND, DALLAS, TX

RESOLUTION DEBATED: The risks of academic engagement with China outweigh the benefits, and the U.S. government and universities must take action to address this risk.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 75

MODERATED BY: George Bogden, J.D. – Olin Fellow, Columbia Law School; Senior Visiting Researcher, Bard College; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Opening Remarks by Michael R. Pompeo – 70th U.S. Secretary of State
- » Miles Yu, Ph.D. – Professor of East Asia and Military and Naval History, U.S. Naval Academy; Senior Fellow and Director of the China Center, Hudson Institute
- » Yasheng Huang, Ph.D. – Epoch Foundation Professor of International Management; Professor Global Economics and Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

OCTOBER 11

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, LEXINGTON, VA

RESOLUTION DEBATED: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives do more harm than good in higher education and should be abolished.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 105

MODERATED BY: Patrice Onwuka – Director of the Center for Economic Opportunity, Independent Women’s Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Carol Swain, Ph.D. – Former Professor of Political Science and of Law, Vanderbilt University; Founder and CEO, Carol Swain Enterprises
- » Marc Lamont Hill, Ph.D. – Professor, Temple University; Host of *BET News* on Black Entertainment TV

OCTOBER 17

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TX

RESOLUTION DEBATED: Climate science compels us to make large and rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

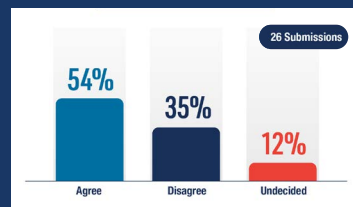
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 115

MODERATED BY: Tom Rogan – Foreign Policy/National Security Writer, *Washington Examiner*; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

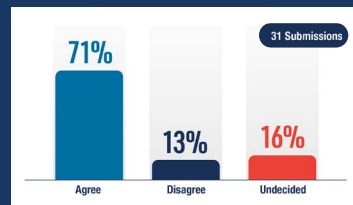
FEATURING:

- » Steven Koonin, Ph.D. – Author of *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters*; Former Undersecretary for Science, U.S. Department of Energy in the Obama Administration
- » Daniel Schrag, Ph.D. – Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering, Harvard University; Director, Harvard University Center for the Environment

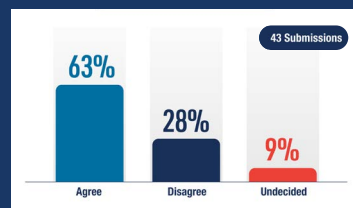
Pre-debate Poll



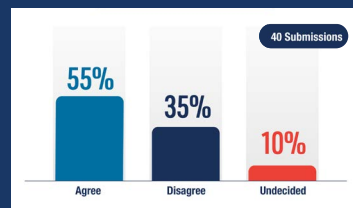
Post-debate Poll



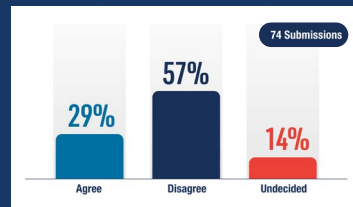
Pre-debate Poll



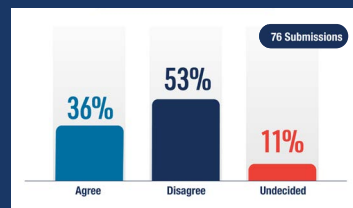
Post-debate Poll



Pre-debate Poll



Post-debate Poll



OCTOBER 24
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MD

RESOLUTION DEBATED: Environmental, Social, and Governance practices are harmful to the economy.

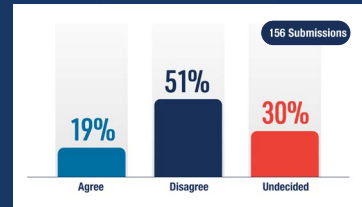
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 163

MODERATED BY: Gerard Baker – Editor at Large, *The Wall Street Journal*

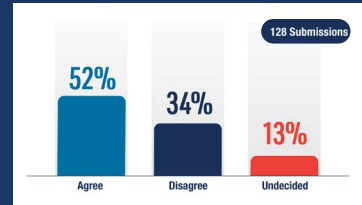
FEATURING:

- » Michael Faulkender, Ph.D. – Professor of Finance, University of Maryland; Former Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the US Department of Treasury in the Trump Administration
- » Desiree Fixler – Sustainable Finance Professional and ESG Expert

Pre-debate Poll



Post-debate Poll



NOVEMBER 1
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL, NC

RESOLUTION DEBATED: 'Net Zero by 2050' is both achievable and necessary to address climate change.

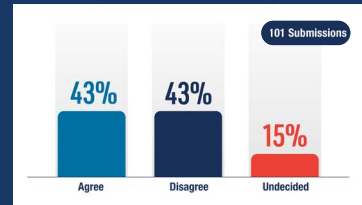
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 121

MODERATED BY: Chris Clemens, Ph.D. – Provost, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

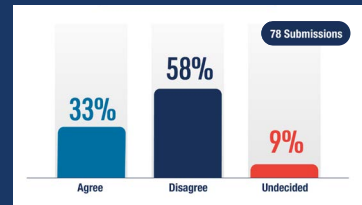
FEATURING:

- » Steven Koonin, Ph.D. – Author of *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters*; Former Undersecretary for Science, U.S. Department of Energy in the Obama Administration
- » Roger Pielke – Professor, Environmental Studies Center, University of Colorado, Boulder

Pre-debate Poll



Post-debate Poll



NOVEMBER 15
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY, MALIBU, CA

RESOLUTION DEBATED: A Cold War between the U.S. and China is inevitable.

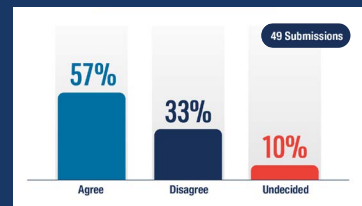
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 69

MODERATED BY: Robert Kaufman, Ph.D. – Robert and Kathryn Dockson Professor of Public Policy, Pepperdine School of Public Policy

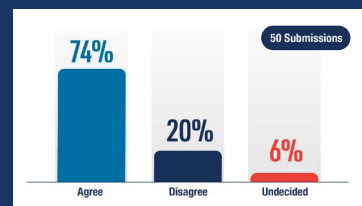
FEATURING:

- » Kelley Currie – Founding Partner of Kilo-Alpha Strategies; Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council; Former Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and the U.S. Representative at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- » Max Baucus – Former U.S. Senator from Montana; 11th U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China

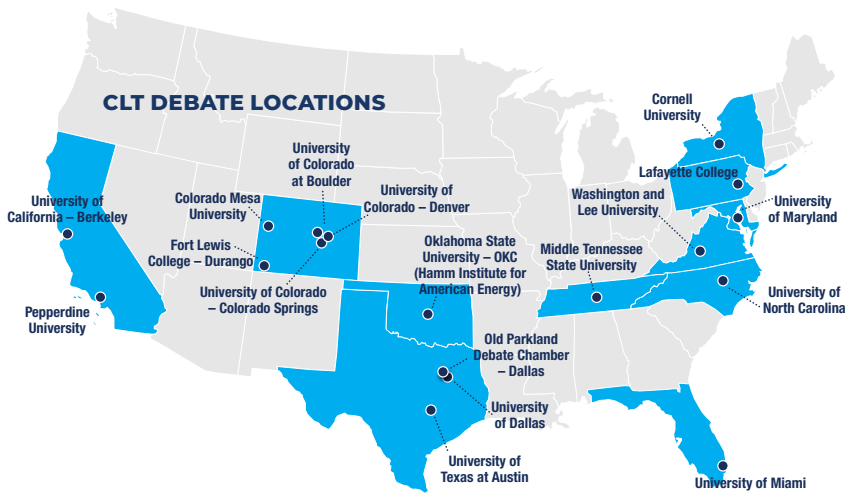
Pre-debate Poll



Post-debate Poll



Campus Liberty Tour Highlights



“Colorado’s Steamboat Institute – a respected convener of public policy debates on some of the superheated issues of our time – has been doing its part to bridge gaps rather than burn bridges. The Institute’s signature debates showcase some of the keenest and most informed minds; instead of inciting a riot, they provoke thought.”

– Denver Gazette Editorial Board, July 2023



NUMBER OF DEBATES HELD IN 2023: **8**



TOTAL ONLINE VIEWS: **32,000**



Former Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the US Department of Treasury in the Trump Administration, Michael Faulkender, Ph.D., (left) and Sustainable Finance Professional and ESG Expert, Desiree Fixler (center), debate whether “ESG investment practices are harmful to the economy.” Moderated by Gerard Baker, Editor-at-Large, The Wall Street Journal. – University of Maryland, October 2023



Elevating the Debate



ENGAGING AND
ACTIVATING THE
NEXT
GENERATION

70th U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo delivers the opening remarks at the October 2023 debate in Dallas, Tx.

Campus Liberty Tour Advisory Board

- » Rajshree Agarwal – Director, The Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland
- » William B. Allen – Emeritus Dean and Professor, Michigan State University
- » Brian Domitrovic – Senior Associate, Laffer Center for Supply-Side Economics
- » Joshua Dunn – Executive Director, Institute of American Civics, University of Tennessee Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
- » Christina Elson – Executive Director, Center for the Study of Capitalism, Wake Forest University
- » Lauren Golem – J.D., University of Colorado Boulder School of Law, 2020
- » Robert Kaufman – Professor, Public Policy, Pepperdine University
- » Hadley Heath Manning – Vice President for Policy, Independent Women’s Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute
- » Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill – Director, Campus Free Expression Project, Bipartisan Policy Center
- » Judi Newman – Board of Trustees, University of Miami
- » Jason Riley – Member of *The Wall Street Journal* Editorial Board; Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute
- » Ilya Shapiro – Senior Fellow and Director of Constitutional Studies, The Manhattan Institute
- » Tina Snider – Executive Director, Tina Snider Foundation; Advisory Board, Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization, University of Colorado, Boulder
- » Matthew Spalding – Kirby Professor, Constitutional Government; Dean, Van Andel Graduate School of Government, Hillsdale College, Washington D.C.; Board of Directors, Steamboat Institute
- » Ted Trimpa – Principal and CEO, Trimpa Group
- » Brandon Van Dyck – Associate Director of the Princeton Initiative in Catholic Thought at Aquinas Institute, Princeton University
- » Derek Wagner – Vice President, Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, Colorado Mesa University
- » Randy Wayne – Associate Professor, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

15th Annual Freedom Conference



Former White House Press Secretary and Fox News political commentator Dana Perino during the keynote dinner address.



Freedom Conference attendees meeting Gov. Kristi Noem after her delivery of the closing keynote luncheon address.



Park Hyatt • Beaver Creek, Colorado
August 25-26, 2023

In 2023, Steamboat Institute celebrated its 15th Annual Freedom Conference in the beautiful mountain setting of Beaver Creek, Colorado. The retreat-like setting encourages collaboration and meaningful conversations among speakers and guests on such topics as national and global security, economic concerns, climate change and energy policies, media and culture wars, civil discourse and more.

This signature event is not just another conference! The spectacular mountain setting, featuring our nation's leaders in conservative, free market thought and policy, along with live music and videos, creates a high-energy, inspiring environment! And, of course, no Freedom Conference would be complete without the annual Coyote Gold Margarita Party, a favorite of speakers and guests alike. It's no wonder that many people plan their summer vacations around this popular destination event!

2023 SPEAKERS

Featured speakers at the 15th Annual Freedom Conference included:

- » Dana Perino – Former White House Press Secretary; Co-anchor, “America’s Newsroom”; Co-host, “The Five” on Fox News
- » Kristi Noem – Governor of South Dakota
- » Riley Gaines – Former NCAA championship swimmer; advocate for fairness in women’s sports
- » Kevin Roberts – President of the Heritage Foundation
- » Pete Sessions (R-TX) – U.S. Representative for Texas’s 17th Congressional District
- » Steve Moore – Distinguished Fellow in Economics at The Heritage Foundation

Riley Gaines, a former Division 1 swimmer and advocate for fairness in women’s sports, shared her experience of being forced to compete against a biological male and inspired attendees to step up to protect women’s sports.



Dana Perino, former White House Press Secretary and co-host of *The Five*, was interviewed by Mandy Connell, host of *The Many Connell Show* on KOA Radio Denver.

For the 15th consecutive year, Freedom Conference guests enjoyed the Coyote Gold Margarita party.



In 2023, Steamboat Institute hosted the largest number of scholarship recipients to date at the annual Freedom Conference, bringing together young leaders from across the country in fields such as aerospace engineering, digital communications, public policy, and the entertainment industry. These young leaders are the future of our country, and providing these opportunities to nurture and develop their skills is a valuable investment that is imperative to the preservation of our nation.

Emerging Leaders Council



ELC members and scholarship recipients meet former White House Press Secretary and Fox News host Dana Perino.

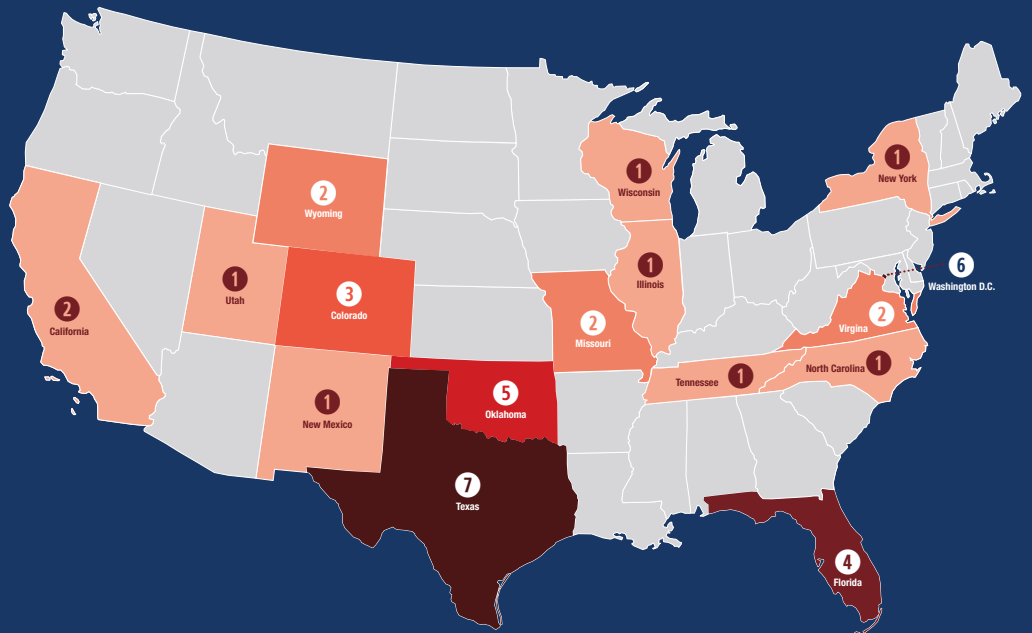


Members of the ELC speaking to Freedom Conference attendees on the Next Generation of Leaders panel.

The Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) is a select group of young professionals from across the U.S. who are rising thought leaders, influencers, and policymakers.

In 2023, the invite-only Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) grew to 39 members. These young leaders are aspiring writers, educators, business leaders, lawyers, filmmakers, and even elected officials. With the support of Steamboat Institute, ELC members are trained and educated on founding principles, media and journalism, persuasion, and leadership, equipping them with resources and support that opens the door for them to inspire their peers and create a chain reaction of engaged, liberty-minded citizens.

OUR MEMBERS REPRESENT 15 STATES AND WASHINGTON, D.C.





Scholarship recipients and ELC members attending the kickoff reception at the 2023 Freedom Conference.



“There is no other conference opportunity in America that gives young conservatives access to some of the brightest political thinkers while also surrounding them with such experienced advocates for freedom. I left feeling equipped to carry the conservative message into my local community and stand up for the truth regardless of convenience or popularity. I can’t wait to go back next year!”

– Anthony Jones, Political Science Ph.D. Candidate at Baylor University

New in 2023 - Outspoken Roundtables Launched!

Outspoken Roundtables, an initiative created and led by ELC member Carter Mateer, is a debate group dedicated to discussing and debating vital policy issues. The program aims to empower young leaders to articulate ideas persuasively, navigate complex policy challenges, explore ideas in a constructive environment, and hone debate and public speaking skills. This initiative cultivates active citizenship and civic engagement, a vision that strongly aligns with Steamboat Institute’s commitment to America’s first principles by encouraging meaningful discussions on limited government, free markets, strong national defense, individual rights, and more.



Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism

George and Kaylee onstage with Lynda Davis, Tony Blankley's widow, at the 2023 Freedom Conference



Kaylee McGhee White

In 2023, Steamboat Institute awarded two rising young journalists with the Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism.

Kaylee McGhee White is the Restoring America editor for the *Washington Examiner*, where she focuses on religion, politics, and culture. Additionally, she serves as a visiting fellow at the Independent Women's Forum and is a graduate of Hillsdale College, holding degrees in politics and journalism.



Dr. George E. Bogden

Dr. George E. Bogden is an Olin Fellow at Columbia Law School, Senior Visiting Researcher at Bard College, and former Kennan Fellow at the Kennan Institute. Dr. Bogden's commentary has appeared in the GMFUS's *Paper Series*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The American Interest*, *The Wavell Room*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, and the *Marine Corps University Press*. He earned his J.D. from New York University School of Law, his D.Phil. from the University of Oxford, and is an alumnus of Yale University.

**PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE
TONY BLANKLEY FELLOWSHIP FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND AMERICAN
EXCEPTIONALISM**



Tom Rogan
Commentary Editor and foreign
policy reporter, the *Washington
Examiner*
Awarded 2014



Jillian Kay Melchior
London-based member of *The
Wall Street Journal* Editorial
Board
Awarded 2015



Hadley Heath Manning
Vice president for policy at the
Independent Women's Forum and
Independent Women's Voice
Awarded 2016



Kelsey Harkness Bolar
Senior Policy Analyst,
Independent Women's Forum;
Editor of the BRIGHT newsletter
Awarded 2017



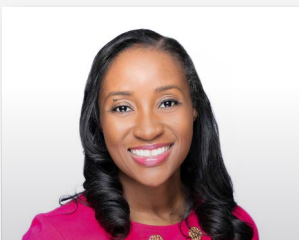
Philip Wegmann
White House Correspondent,
Real Clear Politics
Awarded 2018



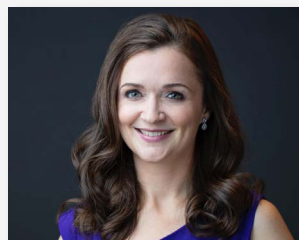
Amber Duke
Washington Editor, *Spectator
USA*; host of "Unfit to Print"
podcast
Awarded 2019



Saagar Enjeti
Co-host, *Breaking Points* on
YouTube
Awarded 2019



Patrice Onwuka
Political commentator; Director
of the Center for Economic
Opportunity, Independent
Women's Forum; Co-host, WMAL
AM in Washington, D.C.
Awarded 2020



Carrie Sheffield
Senior Fellow, Independent
Women's Forum; columnist
and broadcaster in
Washington, D.C.
Awarded 2021



Sarah Bedford
Political and investigative
reporter, *Washington
Examiner*
Awarded 2022

Media and Reach

Tony Blankley Fellows are dedicated, truth-seeking journalists and reporters who constantly strive to bring to light the realities often overlooked by the left-leaning mainstream media. Committed to uncovering and pursuing truth, our fellows achieved unprecedented levels of national visibility and impact in 2023 with a total of 480 media appearances, including major outlets such as Fox News, CNN, and MSNBC. The fellows' relentless pursuit of truth continues to challenge prevailing narratives and drive meaningful conversations across the media landscape, amplifying the core principles of Steamboat Institute, advancing the discourse on essential issues, and fostering a more informed public dialogue.

IN 2023, STEAMBOAT INSTITUTE'S TONY BLANKLEY FELLOWS REACHED APPROXIMATELY

1.74 billion

VIEWERS/LISTENERS

with an advertising value equivalency of \$15.9M



About the Tony Blankley Fellowship



The Steamboat Institute established the Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism to honor the memory of our dear friend, Tony Blankley, and to build on his legacy. Tony Blankley was a master journalist and communicator and acted as the Moderator for our first three Freedom Conferences (2009, 2010 and 2011). His insights and good humor were indispensable. Tony's grasp of public policy, the proper role of government, and the concept of American Exceptionalism is beyond dispute. It is our intention to build on Tony's substantial legacy by nurturing and supporting the careers of outstanding young journalists and emerging conservative thought leaders who share the principles and values espoused by the late Tony Blankley and Steamboat Institute.

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

- » Lynda Davis, Ph.D. – Widow of Tony Blankley
- » Steve Hofman – Consultant; former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor
- » Lauren Maddox – Senior Policy Advisor, Holland & Knight LLP; former Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
- » Hadley Heath Manning – Tony Blankley Fellow and Policy Director at the 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, and international political consultant.
- » Tom Rogan – Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, host of The McLaughlin Group, and columnist for *Washington Examiner*.
- » Matthew Spalding – Associate Vice President and Dean of Educational Programs, Hillsdale College

Media Coverage

In 2023, Steamboat Institute's programs, op-eds and Blankley Fellows received media coverage in Colorado and nationally. This coverage amplified Steamboat Institute's message, reaching billions of readers, viewers and listeners, with a publicity value of \$15.9M.

OUR 2023 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Fox News: 95 appearances by SI's Tony Blankley Fellows

122 radio interviews, including **Fox Radio**, **WMAL** in Washington, D.C., **SiriusXM** and **iHeart Radio**

NewsNation: 21 appearances by SI's Tony Blankley Fellows

CNN and **MSNBC:** multiple appearances by SI's Tony Blankley Fellows

Real Clear Politics covered the 15th Annual Freedom Conference

The College Fix and the **Boulder Daily Camera** covered the Campus Liberty Tour debates

Watts Up With That, the world's most viewed site on global warming and climate change, covered SI's Campus Liberty Tour debates on energy and climate policy

OP-EDS WERE PUBLISHED IN COLORADO AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS ON TOPICS INCLUDING:

- » The importance of Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights
- » Common-sense energy policies
- » The negative impact of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies on schools and businesses
- » How progressive state income taxes are driving people to low-tax states
- » The 1994 nuclear disarmament of Ukraine and its impact on the current situation in Ukraine
- » Free speech on college campuses
- » A preview of Steamboat Institute's Summit on Foreign Policy and Global Security, published in December 2023 in advance of the January 2024 Summit

THE DENVER GAZETTE EDITORIAL BOARD FEATURED THE CAMPUS LIBERTY TOUR IN AN OP-ED PUBLISHED ON JULY 19, 2023:

Colorado's Steamboat Institute — a respected convener of public-policy debates on some of the most superheated issues of our time — has been doing its part to bridge gaps rather than burn bridges. The Institute's signature debates showcase some of the keenest and most informed minds; instead of inciting a riot — they provoke thought.

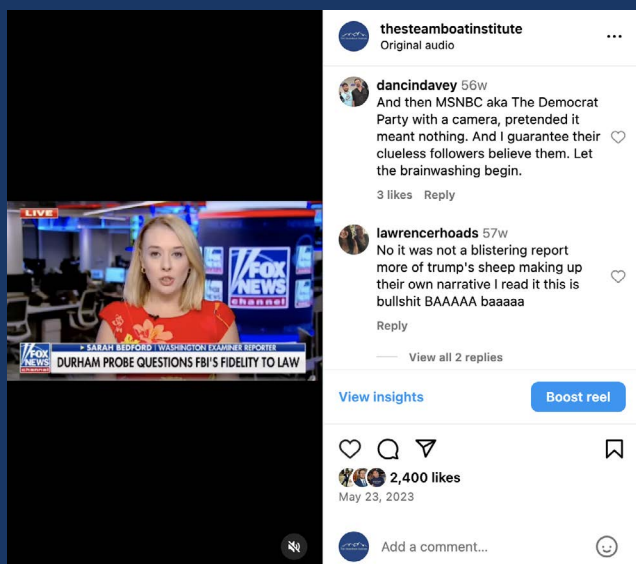
**COMBINED REACH: 1.7 BILLION VIEWERS, LISTENERS AND READERS,
WITH AN ADVERTISING VALUE EQUIVALENCY OF \$15.9M**



Social Media

The Steamboat Institute's social media presence has experienced a steady growth in audience, with a dramatic rise in both viewership and engagement over the past year. Our content is reaching a broader audience more frequently, and the consistent quality and enhanced production value have resonated strongly with our viewers.

In 2023, Steamboat Institute focused on three main platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and X (formally Twitter).



This post of Blankley Fellow Sarah Bedford, discussing the Durham probe into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, was our highest performing post on Facebook in 2023, generating some creative commentary from Facebook users!



Instagram

Followers:	3,400 (+15%)
Reach:	120,000
New accounts reached:	6,000
Highest-performing reel:	35,000 reach, 2,700 engagements



Facebook

Followers:	5,500 (+1%)
Reach:	Average 50K per month
Engagement:	Average 400 per month
Highlights:	217,600,000 accounts reached 3,400 short-video views



YouTube

Subscribers:	9,411 (+134%)
Highest viewed video:	Climate/Energy debate at University of Texas, Austin
Total views in 2023:	776,500



The Steamboat Institut @Steamboat_In · Oct 27, 2023 Promote

Can we reach Net Zero without destroying our economy? We'll discuss @UNCPPD with @RogerPielkeJr and Steve Koonin. Register to attend at steamboatinstitute.org

The Steamboat Institute is proud to present a compelling debate on the following question:

Is 'Net Zero by 2050' both achievable and necessary to address climate change?

WEDNESDAY NOV 1
5:30 - 7:00 PM ET
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Debate featuring
ROGER PIELKE JR. and STEVEN KOONIN, PH.D.

Moderated by **CHRIS CLEMENS, PH.D.**



photo/1

The Steamboat Institute CAMPUS LIBERTY | UNC | Carolina Liberty | SOUTH COAST | DIANA DAVIS SPENCER



Followers:	6,800 (+4%)
Impressions (av per month):	2,400
Engagement rate (av per month):	2.60%
Highest performing post:	28,000 impressions

Courage in Education Award



Cornell professor Randy Wayne is presented with the Courage in Education Award by SI Chairman Jennifer Schubert-Akin at the 2023 Freedom Conference.

The Courage in Education Award is granted each year to an institution or member of academia who demonstrates a commitment to open inquiry, free speech, and intellectual diversity – traditional ideals of higher education that have been usurped in recent years in favor of identity politics and free speech restrictions.

2023 COURAGE IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENT

Randy Wayne

Associate Professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University

Professor Wayne is a courageous and tireless advocate for free speech and intellectual diversity. Because of his unwavering support and leadership, and despite efforts by other faculty to prevent student attendance, Steamboat Institute successfully hosted a robust debate on energy and climate change at Cornell University in March 2023.

Additionally, when Cornell University mandated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies on campus, Professor Wayne fought back, proposing to the department chair an “alternative idea to mandatory critical race theory training, one grounded in what some call a ‘merit, fairness and equality’ framework.”

In an op-ed published by The College Fix, Professor Wayne said, “Conversations, difficult or otherwise, require a respect for objective truth, and if anyone is going to learn from the conversation, the pro-human approach of open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement is essential.”

“But I will continue to be the squeaky wheel — for students, and for sanity.”

PAST RECIPIENTS

- » 2022: Ilya Shapiro – Senior Fellow and Director of Constitutional Studies, The Manhattan Institute
- » 2021: Jameson Broggi – Second Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps; Advocate for South Carolina REACH Act; Member of Steamboat Institute’s Emerging Leaders Council
- » 2020: Hillsdale College – Hillsdale, Michigan
- » 2019: Samuel J Abrams – Professor, Sarah Lawrence College
- » 2018: Wallace D. Loh – President of the University of Maryland
- » 2017: Brandon Van Dyck – Assistant Professor of Government & Law, Lafayette College
- » 2016: Bruce D. Benson – President of the University of Colorado

Legacy Circle

Legacy Circle

To make permanent our Mission and Founding Principles, Steamboat Institute launched the Legacy Circle in 2020. Legacy Circle members pledge to include Steamboat Institute in their estate and deferred giving plans.

STEAMBOAT INSTITUTE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ITS LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS:

Rick Akin and Jennifer Schubert-Akin
Kristine and William Bensler
Roger and Patricia Burton
Cheri Carsten
Lynda Davis
John and Ruth Denton
Roger and Sandy Dorf

William H. and Susan Friesell
Cathy Grawe
Gary and JoAnne Hofmeister
Irene Johnson
Douglass Loring
Virginia and Richard Srednicki
Joanna and Otis Wragg

ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBERTY

Thanks to a generous challenge grant from Ron and Chenza Lazof, Steamboat Institute launched the Endowment for the Future of Liberty in 2023. This endowment ensures the continuation of our work in educating and inspiring Americans to defend liberty for years to come.

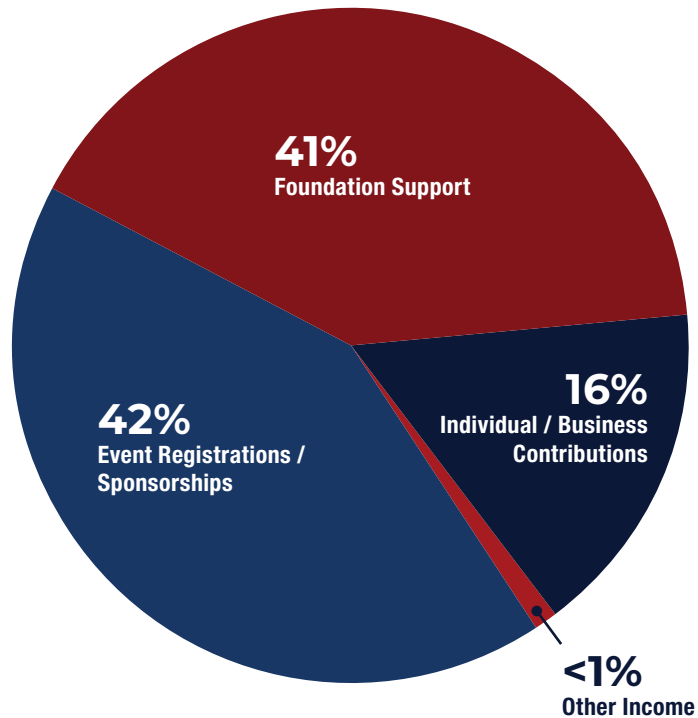
For more information about the Legacy Circle or the Endowment, please contact Jennifer Schubert-Akin: jsa@steamboatinstitute.org.

Revenue and Expenses

	2023	2022
REVENUE CATEGORIES		
Foundation Grants	\$785,863	\$430,133
Individual/Business Contributions	\$201,145	\$272,671
Endowment Gifts	\$106,000	-
Legacy Gifts	-	\$61,532
Freedom Conference Registrations/Sponsorships	\$568,877	\$549,816
Winter Policy Summit	\$64,409	\$179,944
Campus Liberty Tour	\$175,690	\$46,920
ELC Leadership Summit	-	\$4,918
Other Income	\$8,386	\$2,382
Total Revenue	\$1,910,370	\$1,548,316
EXPENSE CATEGORIES		
Payroll Expenses	\$293,939	\$210,157
Freedom Conference	\$458,802	\$430,433
Campus Liberty Tour	\$540,172	\$325,797
Tony Blankley Fellowship	\$152,129	\$51,066
Winter Policy Summit	\$63,904	\$209,731
Emerging Leaders Council	\$25,435	\$58,140
Fundraising expenses	\$66,684	\$73,494
General operating expenses	\$174,758	\$142,575
Total Expenses	\$1,775,823	\$1,501,393
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$134,547	\$46,923

Funding Sources

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



2023 FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Adolph Coors Foundation
The Anschutz Foundation
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Considine Family Foundation
The Deason Foundation
Diana Davis Spencer Foundation

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Jack Roth Charitable Foundation
PEMA Foundation
Springview Foundation
Tina Snider Foundation
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Financial, Inc.; Facilitator of
"Defenders of Capitalism" program for
Leadership Program of the Rockies

In Loving Memory:
William J. "Bill" Thomson, II

Our Team



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Steamboat Springs, CO

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Graphic Designer
Lakewood, CO

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

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



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.



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Praise for Steamboat Institute

“The event’s organization, content, distinguished guests and student engagement were flawless. I really enjoyed exchanging insights on the topic with folks afterwards as well. I feel honored to have participated.”

– Desiree Fixler
Debater at University of Maryland ESG debate, October 2023

“Thank you a million times over. Amy and I were blessed to become part of the Steamboat family – now a cherished part of our identities. The conference itself, and the people there, were a testament to America and American values.”

– Randy Wayne
Associate Professor at Cornell University; Recipient of the 2023
Courage in Education Award

“The Steamboat Institute’s Campus Liberty Tour brings diverse perspectives and civil debate to some of the most politically important issues of our time. The Benson Center is pleased to partner with the Steamboat Institute to promote free inquiry and intelligent debate on crucial topics of public policy to the CU community.”

– Daniel Jacobson
Director of the Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western
Civilization, CU Boulder

“The Freedom Conferences have taught me about critical policy issues and allowed me to hear from leading voices in the movement. The debates I’ve attended have demonstrated how to civilly engage with opposing viewpoints, a skill sorely lacking in our times. Participating in Steamboat’s Emerging Leaders Council every month (and its annual leadership summits) has brought me into a strong community stretching across the United States, refined my media skills, allowed me to publish op-eds, and provided simple but profound encouragement in life, such as when I started a new job.”

– Anthony Jones
Emerging Leaders Council Member