

KEEPING THE REPUBLIC through chaotic times

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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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Or 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 that 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 our communities, our states, and our nation.

A MESSAGE

2024 was a watershed year for The Steamboat Institute and for America. Just 85 days after the brutal Hamas attacks on Israel in October 2023, we turned the calendar to 2024. Chaos and uncertainty prevailed. Antisemitic demonstrations – some violent – rocked America's college campuses and major cities. A critical U.S. Presidential election loomed in November, with major implications for not only the U.S. but for the world. Then, in July 2024, a deranged gunman nearly assassinated former President Donald J. Trump, the 2024 GOP candidate for President, in Butler, Pennsylvania.

To those born before 1960, this brought back memories of 1968, a similarly chaotic, violent, unsettling year in America. We survived 1968, but how would 2024 turn out?

The Steamboat Institute was founded on the belief that America is a great nation because of its people, not because of its government. Our Founders – courageous and wise – created a U.S. Constitution that has stood the test of time, including the violent division of the Civil War, the chaos of 1968, and the chaos of 2024.

On November 5, 2024, Americans elected a new President, and the peaceful transfer of power took place, as provided in our Constitution, on January 20, 2025. Several university presidents stepped down or were forced to resign as alumni rose up and demanded that the antisemitic rhetoric and violence stop and that universities return to their core mission of educating and teaching critical thinking skills. Our newly elected President vowed to take prompt action to end the chaos at the U.S.-Mexico border and restore the rule of law.

Throughout all the chaos of 2024, Steamboat Institute thrived because we stayed true to our core principles and continued to staunchly promote civil debate and discourse of our nation's most pressing problems.

We began 2024 by addressing the attack on Israel and other global threats by hosting a **Summit on Foreign Policy and Global Security** in Steamboat Springs. This Summit featured a powerhouse line-up of respected experts, including America's 70th Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Dennis Prager, Professor Gad Saad, Mary Kissel, and many more. We were proud that, during such a volatile time, our **Campus Liberty Tour** featured twelve debates on college campuses across America, and not a single one was shouted down or cancelled!

With the launch of "**Steamboat Institute Digital**" in Spring 2024, we experienced exponential growth in our online audience, with **tens of thousands of new subscribers and followers** and **millions of views** of SI's content. We are meeting young people where they are – on college campuses and on social media – and winning hearts and minds for freedom!

Our **13 Tony Blankley Fellows**, principled young journalists and policy influencers, reached **2.2 billion viewers**, **listeners and readers** with their fair and honest reporting – always searching for the truth, wherever it might lead.

In 2024, we expanded our **Emerging Leaders Council** to 45 members representing 18 states and Washington, D.C. These fearless, principled young leaders (ages 20-29) are stepping up in leadership roles all over the country – as civic leaders, State representatives, nonprofit leaders, and even in Washington, D.C. as appointees in the new Administration.

In August, we hosted our 16th Annual Freedom

Conference in the spectacular Rocky Mountain setting of Beaver Creek, Colorado. We are proud that this retreat-like setting continues to draw hundreds of people from across America, including 35 outstanding young leaders who receive scholarships after a very competitive application process.

As he departed the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked if the framers had created a monarchy or a republic. "A republic," he famously replied, "if you can keep it."

The Steamboat Institute is committed to doing our part to keep our republic. We invite you to join us!

JENNIFER SCHUBERT-AKIN

Co-founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer The Steamboat Institute





1,671

2,315 LIVESTREAM VIEWS

438,090

OF FULL DEBATE VIDEOS



16 TH FREEDOM CONFERENCE

> 340 REGISTRANTS

> > Including



96,200 ONLINE VIEWS

YEAR AT A GLANCE







TONY BLANKLEY FELLOWSHIP FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM



Including



Representing

18 STATES AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

> **5** OUTSPOKEN ROUNDTABLE DEBATES

BLANKLEY FELLOWS COMPLETED

426

227 of these were hits on major networks (fox news, msnbc, cnn, etc.)

 ${}^{\text{MEDIA HITS}}_{\text{REACHED}} 2.2B$

VIEWERS AND LISTENERS, WITH AN ADVERTISING VALUE EQUIVALENCY OF

\$21.2M

13TH BLANKLEY FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO Brad Polumbo

CAMPUS LIBERTY



Steamboat Institute's Campus Liberty Tour is changing the culture on college campuses. Our debates, featuring high-profile experts on hot-button topics, are enthusiastically welcomed by students and other audience members, who are hungry for civil, substantive conversations (and tired of groupthink, censorship, or the cursory "debates" or talking-point volleys we see on TV). As always, our focus is on critical thinking and on showing students – and all who attend – *how* to think, not *what* to think.

2024 was a banner year for the Campus Liberty Tour. We hosted a record twelve debates - with our largest online audiences ever - and not a single one was shouted down or cancelled! Our excellent, high-profile debaters, our collaborative relationships with partner organizations and campuses, and our selection of in-demand topics are all important factors in our success. But the single most important factor is our insistence that every Campus Liberty Tour debate be respectful, fair and substantive.

We believe so strongly in pro-liberty ideas that we are willing – and eager – to subject them to debate. As you can see in the following pages, our pre- and post-debate polls indicate that, at nearly every debate we host, audience support for pro-liberty ideas grows when people have a chance to hear a compelling debate. But even audience members who don't change their minds on the resolution still leave with a richer understanding of their fellow Americans' perspectives.

In every post-debate survey, *overwhelming majorities* of our audiences say that our debates have given them more confidence to continue the conversation about the debate topic after the event and that they are inspired to learn more about the debate topic. While our debates only last 90 minutes, it is clear that their impact lasts much longer.



"Even though you may disagree at moments, you can also agree sometimes as well; I feel like the whole point [of the debate] was to bring everybody together."

- University of South Florida student



Richard Corcoran, President of New College of Florida, and Ameshia Cross, MSNBC political analyst, debating "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" policies at University of South Florida

2024 SPRING TOUR

MARCH 6

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA | TAMPA, FL

RESOLUTION: be it resolved, public funds should not be used for "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" programs in higher education.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 105

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 1,610

MODERATED BY: Carrie Sheffield – Senior Policy Analyst, Independent Women's Voice; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Richard Corcoran (affirmative) President, New College of Florida; Former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
- » Ameshia Cross (negative) Director of Communications, The Education Trust; Cable News Political Contributor



MARCH 21 UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE | KNOXVILLE, TN **TOPIC:** Be it resolved, the American Dream is dying.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 95

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 1,538

MODERATED BY: Kaylee Mcghee White – Editor and Commentator, *Washington* Examiner; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute FEATURING:

» David Leonhardt (affirmative) - Pulitzer Prize-winning Senior Writer for The New York Times: author of Ours Was the Shining Future: The Rise and Fall of the American Dream

» Michael Strain, Ph.D. (negative) – Director of Economic Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; author of The American Dream is Not Dead (But Populism Could Kill It)



APRIL 9

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO | BOULDER, CO

TOPIC: Be it resolved, AI poses a threat to our democracy.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 58

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 1,954

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

FEATURING:

The Steamboat Institute CAMPUS LIBERTY

O U R

Elevating the Debate

- » Katie Pavlich (affirmative) Fox News Contributor & Editor, Townhall.com
- » Brent Orrell (negative) Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute



Elevating the Debate

CAMPUS LIBERTY WATCH PARTIES

The Steamboat Institute continues to offer watch party packages upon request! Our livestream audience soared this year. Why not watch with friends? With a simple setup of your smart TV, our YouTube livestream can make your home party central. We also partner with student organizations and think tanks to offer watch parties as well. Our watch party viewers get Steamboat Institute "swag" as well as access to QR codes to participate in the debate polls and submit questions directly to our moderators.

CAMP

HELLO, I AM

a Critical Thinker



APRIL 10

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY | GRAND JUNCTION, CO

TOPIC: Be it resolved, the U.S. needs more Nuclear Energy. **IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE:** 72

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 1,610

MODERATED BY: Carrie Sheffield – Senior Policy Analyst, Independent Women's Voice; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Jessica Lovering, Ph.D. (affirmative) Co-Founder and Executive Director, Good Energy Collective; Fellow, Energy for Growth Hub; Senior Visiting Fellow with the Fastest Path to Zero Initiative, University of Michigan
- » Mark Z. Jacobson, Ph.D. (negative) Director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University; Senior Fellow of the Woods Institute for the Environment and of the Precourt Institute for Energy





APRIL 23

CORNELL UNIVERSITY | ITHACA, NY

TOPIC: Be it resolved, universities are failing to provide a culture of free speech and open inquiry.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 48

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 1,111

MODERATED BY: Amber Duke – Washington Editor at *The Spectator*; Cohost of *Rising* at The Hill TV; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute **FEATURING:**

- » Ilya Shapiro (affirmative) Senior Fellow and Director of Constitutional Studies, Manhattan Institute
- » Mary Anne Franks, Ph.D. (negative) Professor in Intellectual Property,
- » Technology, and Civil Rights Law, George Washington University Law School



Agree

Undecide

2024 FALL TOUR

SEPTEMBER 26

BROWN UNIVERSITY | PROVIDENCE, RI

TOPIC: Be it resolved, electric vehicles are good for the planet.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 45

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 3.9 million

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

- » Kim Cobb, Ph.D. (affirmative) Lawrence and Barbara Margolis Director, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society; Professor, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences & Environment and Society, Brown University
- » Benji Backer (negative) Executive Chairman and Founder of the American Conservation Coalition; Author of *The Conservative Environmentalist: Common Sense Solutions for a Sustainable Future*



a the Debate

Ilya Shapiro of Manhattan Institute and George Washington Law Professor Mary Anne Franks debate, "Are Universities Failing to Promote a Culture of Free Speech and Open Inquiry?" at Cornell University John Bolton and Vivek Ramaswamy at our debate at Virginia Military Institute, debating the question, "Should the US Use its Diplomatic and Military Power Around the Globe to Ensure America's Security?"



OCTOBER 3

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE | LEXINGTON, VA

TOPIC: Be it resolved, the U.S. should use its diplomatic and military power around the globe to ensure America's national security.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 525

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 513,136

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

- » John Bolton (affirmative) Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; Former U.S. National Security Advisor
- » Vivek Ramaswamy (negative) Founder of Roivant Sciences, a biotech pharma company; New York Times best-selling author





OCTOBER 9 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS | AUSTIN, TX

TOPIC: Be it resolved, open borders benefit humanity by reducing poverty and boosting the economy.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 90

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 3,056

MODERATED BY: Kaylee Mcghee White – Editor and Commentator, *Washington Examiner*; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Bryan Caplan, Ph.D. (affirmative) Professor of Economics, George Mason University; *New York Times* Bestselling Author
- » Sohrab Ahmari (negative) Founder and Editor of Compact; Contributing Writer for *The New Statesman*



OCTOBER 17

HARVARD UNIVERSITY | CAMBRIDGE, MA

TOPIC: Be it resolved, Harvard supports free speech and intellectual diversity. **IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE:** 168

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 10,249

MODERATED BY: Amber Duke – Washington Editor at *The Spectator*; Cohost of *Rising* at The Hill TV; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Randall Kennedy (affirmative) Michael R. Klein Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- » Jonathan Turley (negative) J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of Public Interest Law, George Washington University Law School.





106 Submissions 45% 30% 25% Poll Agree Disagre Undecide 99 Submission 51% Post-47% Poll 2% Agree Disagre

OCTOBER 22

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND | COLLEGE PARK, MD

TOPIC: Be it resolved, taxing unrealized capital gains will create a fairer economy.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 200

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 20,696

MODERATED BY: Patrice Onwuka – Director, Center for Economic Opportunity, Independent Women's Forum; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute **FEATURING:**

- » Ben Harris, Ph.D. (affirmative) Vice President and Director of Economic Studies, and Director of the Retirement Security Project at The Brookings Institution
- » Steve Moore (negative) Senior Visiting Fellow in Economics, The Heritage Foundation

OCTOBER 30

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA | CHAPEL HILL, NC

TOPIC: Be it resolved, the U.S. needs more democracy. IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 215

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 14,499

MODERATED BY: Hadley Heath Manning – Executive Vice President and Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » Hélène Landemore (affirmative) Professor of Political Science and Director of Graduate Studies, Yale University; *Author of Open Democracy: Reinventing Popular Rule for the Twenty-First Century*
- » Jason Brennan, Ph.D. (negative) Robert J. and Elizabeth Flanagan Family Professor of Strategy, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy at the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University; Author of Against Democracy



NOVEMBER 14

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA | SARASOTA, FL

TOPIC: Be it resolved, the U.S. should reinstate a draft for mandatory military service.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 50

TOTAL LIVESTREAM AND ONLINE VIEWS: 1,897

MODERATED BY: Brad Polumbo – Independent Journalist and Co-Founder of BASEDPolitics; Tony Blankley Fellow, Steamboat Institute

FEATURING:

- » General Stan McChrystal (affirmative) Co-Founder of the McChrystal Group; Best-Selling Author of *Risk: A User's Guide, Leaders: Myth and Reality, Team of Teams and My Share of the Task*; Former Commander of U.S. and International Forces in Afghanistan
- » William Ruger, Ph.D. (negative) President of the American Institute for Economic Research; Veteran of the Afghanistan War and recipient of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal







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
- » 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
- » Robert Kaufman Professor of Public Policy, Pepperdine University
- » Hadley Heath Manning Executive Vice President, Steamboat Institute
- » Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill Director, Campus Free Expression Project, Council of Independent Colleges
- » 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 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

16TH ANNUAL FREEDOM CONFERENCE





The Steamboat Institute

PARK HYATT • BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO

Freedom Conference has drawn freedom-loving people from across America to our retreat-like setting in Colorado's spectacular Rocky Mountains each August. Our guests meet and hear from our nation's top experts on national security, the economy, energy and climate policies, media and culture wars, civil discourse, and many more topics. But the Freedom Conference is much more than a download of important information; it's a chance to unite with kindred spirits and reignite our hope for the future of our great country. Intellectually robust and uniquely enriching in the liberty movement, the Freedom Conference is renowned for inspiring citizens to have a deeper appreciation of the principles, policies, values and vision upon which America was founded and our precious freedom depends.



FEATURED SPEAKERS AT THE 16TH ANNUAL FREEDOM CONFERENCE INCLUDED:

- » Michael B. Oren Israel's Ambassador to the United States (2009-13), Member of Knesset and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office
- » Sage Steele Host of the Sage Steele Show on YouTube; long-time co-host of ESPN's SportsCenter
- » Jonathan Turley Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School; Fox News legal analyst
- » Catherine V. Herridge Emmy Award-winning veteran investigative correspondent covering national security and intelligence
- » Mary Millben Award-winning singer and actress
- » Daniel J. Mitchell Author, The Greatest Ponzi Scheme on Earth: How the US Can Avoid Economic Collapse
- » Jennifer Sey Founder and CEO, XX-XY Athletics; author; filmmaker; 7-time member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics National Team
- » Michelle Bekkering National Engagement Director for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- » Elya Baskin Member of the Cast in "Reagan" premiering August 30th



Freedom-lovers enjoying our 16th Annual Coyote Gold Margarita Party, following the conference



Long-time ESPN SportsCenter cohost Sage Steele gave the closing luncheon address



SUMMIT ON FOREIGN POLICY AND GLOBAL SECURITY

STEAMBOAT GRAND 😚 STEAMBOAT SPRINGS. COLORADO

JANUARY 20, 2024



State, kicked off the Summit with a speech on "The State of the World"

spoke on "Countering Antisemitism with Education"

with a powerful message on "Still the Best Hope: Why American Values Must Triumph"

 ${\cal T}$ n the aftermath of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, Steamboat Institute's leadership unanimously agreed that we must take a strong stand against antisemitism and provide information and education on the global chaos which is threatening U.S. national security. Our Summit on Foreign Policy and Global Security. held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in January 2024, addressed the growing threat of the "Axis of Evil" (Russia, Iran, China), as well as the horrifying rise in antisemitism across the U.S. and the globe. In addition to the 140 guests who attended in person, videos of speakers and panels drew 18,000+ views on YouTube. The Summit was also featured in The Daily Mail of London, which attracts millions of online readers per month.

The Summit featured nationally recognized experts who addressed:

- » U.S. military readiness/funding/capacity
- » U.S. leadership and the 2024 election
- » Rewiring our critical supply chains to lessen dependence on our adversaries
- » The root causes of the rise in antisemitism and how we can counter this dangerous trend
- » The terrorism threat on American soil posed by lack of control of our borders

Members of our ELC and students from CU Boulder joined SI Chairman Jennifer Schubert-Akin at the Summit



Other featured speakers at Steamboat Institute's Summit on Foreign Policy and Global Security included:

- » Elaine Dezinski of Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- » Kelley Currie, former U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the U.N.
- » George Bogden, Olin Fellow at Columbia Law School and Tony Blankley Fellow with Steamboat Institute
- » James Carafano of the Heritage Foundation
- » Daniel Flesch, former Senior Advisor for the Permanent Mission of Israel to the U.N. and paratrooper in the Israel Defense Force



Mary Kissel, Senior Advisor to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (2018-21) interviews author/reporter Julio Rosas on national security implications of the chaos at the U.S.-Mexico border

EMERGING



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 2024, the invite-only Emerging Leaders Council grew to a record 45 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. Their impact in their states and communities creates a chain reaction of engaged, liberty-minded citizens.



"The Freedom Conference was a breath of fresh air. It's always great to be in a room with people who love our country but, more importantly, it was great to see panels with competing ideas and ideologies battle for the truth."

- Corey Stevens, ELC Member

"The Freedom Conference was a robust weekend of dynamic speakers discussing a wide variety of relevant topics. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet other young leaders who care about the future of our country."

 Daniel Pae, Oklahoma House Rep. for District 62 & ELC Member

"Unlike other large events, the Freedom Conference had an intimate feel where the speaker seemed to be talking to only you."

- Tyler Linnebur, ELC Member

OUTSPOKEN ROUNDTABLES

Outspoken Roundtables, an initiative created and led by ELC member Carter Mateer, is a participatory training program that sharpens critical thinking and debate skills, as well as knowledge of critical public policy issues.

Launched in 2023, the Outspoken Roundtable program really hit its stride in 2024, with five total roundtables on the following issues: birthright citizenship, U.S. involvement in foreign affairs, regulation of AI development, nuclear energy, and healthcare regulations. The program aims to empower young leaders to articulate ideas persuasively, navigate complex policy challenges, and explore ideas in a constructive but friendly environment. These debates are held both in-person and virtually, giving all ELC members the opportunity to participate, no matter where they live across the country. This initiative helps cultivate active citizenship and civic engagement, a vision that strongly aligns with Steamboat Institute's commitment to America's first principles. Not only that, but these roundtables are fun! Our ELC members love the challenge of guickly answering guestions "on the spot" with substantive points and a polished delivery.



Emerging Leaders Council members with SI Chairman and CEO Jennifer Schubert-Akin at the 3rd Annual ELC Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., where members spent a weekend developing their public speaking skills, networking, and gaining a deeper understanding of our nation's first principles



Economist Daniel J. Mitchell spoke at the 2024 ELC Leadership Summit on the threat posed to our economy by unsustainable levels of debt and government spending



Our Emerging Leaders participating in the "Outspoken Roundtables," an Oxfordstyle debate where they hone their public speaking and critical thinking skills in a mock debate.

TONY BLANKLEY FELLOWSHIP FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM



The 2024, Steamboat Institute awarded the 13th Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism to Brad Polumbo, an independent journalist, YouTube host and co-founder of BASEDPolitics.

Brad's daily YouTube show, "Brad Versus Everyone," reaches millions of Americans – many of them in Gen-Z – with the message of free markets and limited government. Brad is also a contributor at *Washington Examiner* and has been published in Newsweek, the New York Post, National Review, USA Today, the Daily Beast, the Daily Mail, and many other outlets. Brad appears regularly on network TV, including on CNN, Fox News, Fox Business, Sky News, and many other national programs including Dr. Phil. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in economics and political science. "It is an honor to receive the Tony Blankley Fellowship. I'm incredibly excited to work with The Steamboat Institute to advance the causes of free-market capitalism, limited government, and individual rights. If we want to preserve freedom for future generations, we have to bring these ideas to the masses and, in particular, to the next generation of Americans—and no one is doing that more impactfully than The Steamboat Institute."

- Brad Polumbo

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



Tom Rogan Foreign/National Security Writer, Washington Examiner Awarded 2014



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



Hadley Heath Manning Executive Vice President, The Steamboat Institute 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, *Daily Calle*r; Cohost of *Rising* at The Hill TV 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; Cohost, 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



Kaylee McGhee White Political and investigative reporter, Washington Examiner Awarded 2023



George E. Bogden Executive Director, Office of Trade Relations at the Department of Homeland Security Awarded 2023



2024 Blankley Fellow Brad Polumbo moderates Campus Liberty Tour debate at New College of Florida

IN 2024, SI'S BLANKLEY FELLOWS COMPLETED

at 2024 Freedom Conference

426 MEDIA HITS

REACHING

2.2 BILLION VIEWERS AND LISTENERS

> WITH AN ADVERTISING VALUE EQUIVALENCY OF

\$21.2 MILLION

MORE THAN 140 OF THESE HITS WERE ON MAJOR NETWORKS (FOX NEWS, FOX BUSINESS, CNN, MSNBC AND OTHERS)







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. The Steamboat Institute is proud to promote the work of our Tony Blankley Fellows. We value their expert analysis and thoughtful contributions to the national discourse.

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

- » Lynda Davis, Ph.D. Widow of Tony Blankley
- » Lauren Maddox Senior Policy Advisor, Holland & Knight LLP; former Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
- » Hadley Heath Manning Executive Vice President at The Steamboat Institute and Tony Blankley Fellow
- » 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 Senior Foreign Policy Writer at the Washington Examiner; Tony Blankley Senior Fellow, Steamboat Institute
- » Matthew Spalding Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government at Hillsdale College's Kirby Center in Washington, D.C.

MEDIA

In 2024, Steamboat Institute's programs, op-eds and Blankley Fellows received media coverage in Colorado and nationally. This coverage amplified Steamboat Institute's message, reaching 2.2 billion readers, viewers and listeners, with a publicity value of \$21.2M.

OUR 2024 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Fox News/Fox Business: 227 appearances by SI's Tony Blankley Fellows

32 radio interviews, including Fox News, SiriusXM, iHeartRadio, and others

NewsNation: 38 appearances by SI's Tony Blankley Fellows

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

SI's Summit on Foreign Policy and Global Security was featured in **The Daily Mail**

The Campus Liberty Tour debates were featured in Newsweek, The Boston Globe, Washington Examiner, Tampa Bay News 9, The Harvard Crimson, George Washington University Law Professor Jonathan Turley's blog, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, Lexington News-Gazette and more

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

Townhall:Big Tech censoring a Steamboat Institute debate on Artificial IntelligenceWashington Examiner:Journalistic integrityWashington Examiner:The government's failed healthcare modelNewsweek:How the medical establishment is to blame for the decline in public trust

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS:

Feb. 23: The Beat with Ari Melber (MSNBC)FELLOW: Carrie SheffieldTOPIC: News of the day

Feb. 24: Wake Up America Weekend (Newsmax)FELLOW: George BogdenTOPIC: Ukraine

May 15: Fox News at Night (Fox News)FELLOW: Amber AtheyTOPIC: Trump v. Biden debate

Aug. 20: The Faulkner Focus (Fox News)FELLOW: Kaylee McGhee WhiteTOPIC: 2024 DNC

Sept. 19: *The Ingraham Angle* (Fox News) **FELLOW:** Kaylee McGhee White **TOPIC:** Election

Oct. 27: Fox Report (Fox News) FELLOW: Sarah Bedford TOPIC: Election

Nov. 5: Fox News at Night (Fox News) FELLOW: Kaylee McGhee White TOPIC: Election Night Coverage

Dec. 27: Fox News at Night (Fox News) **FELLOW:** Brad Polumbo **TOPIC:** Hunter Biden



SOCIAL MEDIA

In early 2024, Steamboat Institute launched "SI Digital," a campaign to grow our online audience across all social media platforms. Our "shorts" campaign, promoting our Campus Liberty Tour debates by creating short (30 seconds to 2 minutes) video clips, resulted in exponential increases in viewer engagement and follower counts, including two clips that went viral, receiving **more than 4 million views on YouTube**. Our YouTube channel subscriber count jumped from 9,500 in January of 2024 to 20,000+ in December, a **110% increase**. Our channel also saw a **434% increase in views**.

On Facebook, we skyrocketed from 5,789 followers in January of 2024 to 28,987 followers by the end of 2024, an **increase of 400%**. Our Facebook engagement also increased, bringing nearly **2.6 million unique visitors** in 2024. Clips of our Blankley Fellows on Fox News, NewsNation, Fox Business, and others reached record-high numbers across all social media channels, and clips of our Emerging Leaders and scholarship recipients at our annual Freedom Conference also helped grow and engage our social audiences.

Overall, SI Digital resulted in massive online audience growth in 2024, allowing Steamboat Institute to reach millions of Americans with persuasive messages of individual liberty, free markets, limited government, and personal responsibility.



HIGHEST PERFORMERS

Instagram

Followers:	3,616
Reach:	1.2 million
New accounts reached:	400,000
Highest-performing reel:	154,000 views 2,900 engagements

Facebook

Followers:	28,580
Reach:	2.6 million (+1,300%)
Engagement:	144,700
Highlights:	894,000 views
	12 days of watch time
Most viewed:	video received
	35,000+ views

YouTube

Subscribers:	21,900
Views:	4.1 million (+434%)
Highest viewed video:	Benji Backer on EVs at Campus Liberty Tour debate at Brown
Engagements:	189,000

Х

Followers:	7,512
Impressions (avg/month):	227,000
Engagement rate (avg/month):	3.6%
Highest performing post:	132,000 impressions





189,000 engagements



132,000 impressions

COURAGE



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.

2024 COURAGE IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENT

Jay Bhattacharya, M.D.

Professor of Medicine at Stanford University

Jay Bhattacharya is a Professor of Health Policy at Stanford University, a research associate at the National Bureau of Economics Research, and a Senior Fellow by courtesy at the Hoover Institution. He directs Stanford's Center for Demography and Economics of Health and Aging.

Dr. Bhattacharya's research focuses on the health and well-being of vulnerable populations, emphasizing the role of government programs, biomedical innovation, and economics. His recent research focuses on the epidemiology of covid and an evaluation of policy responses to the epidemic.

In October 2020, he co-authored the Great Barrington Declaration, a proposed alternative to lockdowns, expressing grave concerns about the damaging physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing Covid-19 policies. For presenting this scientific evidence, which ran counter to the widespread lockdown policies, Dr. Bhattacharya was thrust into the public eye and subjected to a barrage of criticism, which he later described as "a stress test that I never imagined possible and, at times, thought I would not survive."

PAST RECIPIENTS

- » 2023: Randy Wayne, Associate Professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University
- » 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

SECURING THE FUTURE

The Steamboat Institute

STEAMBOAT INSTITUTE LEGACY CIRCLE

To make permanent our Mission and Founding Principles, Steamboat Institute launched the Steamboat Institute 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 Bruce Carlock Cheri Carsten Lynda C. Davis John and Ruth Denton Roger and Sandy Dorf William H. and Susan Friesell Cathy Grawe Gary and JoAnne Hofmeister Irene Johnson Ronald C. and Chenza Lazof Douglass Loring Cole and Margo McCombs Virginia and Richard Srednicki Joanna and Otis Wragg

ENDOWMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBERTY

To ensure the continuation of our work in educating and inspiring future generations to defend liberty, Steamboat Institute has established "The Steamboat Institute Endowment for the Future of Liberty."

In 2024, SI met the initial challenge to raise \$200,000 to match the \$100,000 challenge gift from long-time SI supporters and Board Members Emeriti Ron and Chenza Lazof.

SI's goal for 2025 is to grow the Endowment to \$1 million.

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

REVENUE and expenses

Freedom Conference Campus Liberty Tour Tony Blankley Fellowship Winter Policy Summit Emerging Leaders Council Fundraising expenses General operating expenses Total Expenses	\$568,065 \$162,059 \$167,386 \$77,284 \$73,933 \$90,840 \$2,102,388	\$458,802 \$540,172 \$152,129 \$63,904 \$25,435 \$66,684 \$174,758 \$1,775,823
Campus Liberty Tour Tony Blankley Fellowship Winter Policy Summit Emerging Leaders Council Fundraising expenses	\$568,065 \$162,059 \$167,386 \$77,284 \$73,933	\$540,172 \$152,129 \$63,904 \$25,435 \$66,684
Campus Liberty Tour Tony Blankley Fellowship Winter Policy Summit Emerging Leaders Council	\$568,065 \$162,059 \$167,386 \$77,284	\$540,172 \$152,129 \$63,904 \$25,435
Campus Liberty Tour Tony Blankley Fellowship Winter Policy Summit	\$568,065 \$162,059 \$167,386	\$540,172 \$152,129 \$63,904
Campus Liberty Tour Fony Blankley Fellowship	\$568,065 \$162,059	\$540,172 \$152,129
Campus Liberty Tour	\$568,065	\$540,172
Freedom Comerence	\$307,923	\$458,802
Freedom Conference	\$507,923	* 1 = 0 0 0
Payroll Expenses	\$454,898	\$293,939
EXPENSE CATEGORIES		
Total Revenue	\$2,358,782	\$1,910,370
Other Income	\$20,833	\$8,386
ELC Leadership Summit	\$2,625	\$-
Campus Liberty Tour	\$245,700	\$175,690
Winter Policy Summit	\$17,485	\$64,409
Freedom Conference Registrations/Sponsorships	\$649,473	\$568,877
Legacy Gifts	-	\$-
Endowment Gifts	\$210,200	\$106,000
Individual/Business Contributions	\$322,147	\$201,145
Foundation Grants	\$890,319	\$785,863
REVENUE CATEGORIES		

FUNDING SOURCES

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



2024 FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Adolph Coors Foundation The Anschutz Foundation The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Daniels Fund The Deason Foundation Diana Davis Spencer Foundation El Pomar Foundation Jack Roth Charitable Foundation Arthur N. Rupe Foundation Tina Snider Foundation Woodford Foundation for Limited Government

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Will Franklin Investor/Civic Leader

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Stacy Sadler Global Travel and Event Coordinator from the Vail Valley

Randy Thornton Non-executive Chairman and board member of Core-Mark International and National Energy & Gas Transmission Michael B. Werner Real Estate Developer

Michael J. Williams Founder and President of ALTIUS Financial, Inc.; Facilitator of "Defenders of Capitalism" program for Leadership Program of the Rockies

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

OUR TEAM

Jennifer Schubert-Akin Chairman and CEO Steamboat Springs, CO

Hadley Heath Manning Executive Vice President Denver, CO

Emma Eisenman Director of Development Littleton, CO

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Alexei Woltornist Communications Consultant ATHOS Media Strategies

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> Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.

Amanda Cordsen 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
- » Free market capitalism

- » Limited government
- » Individual rights and responsibilities
- » 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.



Steamboat Institute

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PRAISE FOR STEAMBOAT INSTITUTE

"I had high expectations, and your conference surpassed them. The audience was super engaged and the speakers over delivered."

 Catherine Herridge, Emmy Award-winning veteran investigative correspondent; speaker at 2024 Freedom Conference

"It was so refreshing to hear an actual debate instead of the circus we see on the news. Thank you for what you do."

 Attendee at Campus Liberty Tour debate at Virginia Military Institute, featuring Vivek Ramaswamy and John Bolton debating U.S. foreign policy

"Your opening remarks were quite touching. To begin the day by immediately referring to the rise of antisemitism as the impetus for a conference on foreign policy and global security was noteworthy. As you said to the Jewish college students, we are not alone and have great friends and allies in the conservative movement standing alongside us."

 Daniel Flesch, former Senior Advisor to Israel's Permanent Mission at the U.N. and paratrooper in the Israel Defense Forces; speaker at 2024 Summit on Foreign Policy and Global Security

"The Steamboat Institute's Tony Blankley Fellowship has been a defining part of my media career. Through Steamboat, I've had the opportunity to have my own team of media bookers placing me on major news programs, have been connected with highlevel sources and interview subjects, and moderated campus debates on key issues. It's been a blessing to be a part of a network of other highly successful and ambitious young conservatives in media. I couldn't imagine reaching this stage in my career without the help of Steamboat and the Blankley Fellowship."

 Amber Duke, Senior Editor of the *Daily Caller*; 2019 recipient of the Tony Blankley Fellowship for Public Policy and American Exceptionalism



The Steamboat Institute Inspiring Americans to Greatness since 2008