



Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Message from the Director

Greetings from the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership! The Thompson Center recently celebrated its first birthday. During our first year, we accomplished a lot. We hosted a major conference on leadership and another (with well over 300 attendees!) on criminal justice reform, with Grover Norquist as our keynote speaker. We've provided faculty grants in the amount of \$500,000 to faculty across the UW-System in an effort to bring academics and policymakers together to address some of Wisconsin's toughest problems. We've provided roughly \$400,000 to fund speakers across the UW-System, including people like Karl Rove and David Axelrod; Dana Perino and Donna Brazille. We're working with students to devise events on government and policymaking, and to create scholarships that incentivize them to think big and solve problems. And we seek to help faculty expose students to multiple views in order to enhance their intellectual growth and improve civil discourse.

We continue to work hard at the Thompson Center to fulfill the ideals Tommy laid out. On March 5, 2019, we will host a conference on prisoner re-entry at the Monona Terrace in Madison. And on April 26, we'll host a conference at the Harley Davidson Museum in Milwaukee on the Future of Transportation in Wisconsin. Our goal is to bring the best minds in the UW-System together with state policymakers to generate needed policy reforms.

If you are interested in learning more about us, please visit our website at www.thompsoncenter.wisc.edu. When you're there, consider registering for one of our events, or making a donation to help us continue to pursue leadership in Tommy's image. After all, we could all use a little more Tommy Thompson today.

On Wisconsin!

Ryan J. Owens, J.D., Ph.D.
Director, Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

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Past Events

Leadership Across the Branches Speakers

Ray Allen
Ave Bie
Joy Cardin
Paul Carver
Paul Clement
Michael Fitzpatrick
Glenn Grothman
Mark Hadley
Gordon Hintz
Scott Klug
Tom Loftus
David Maraniss
Manu Raju
Patience
Roggensack
Miriam Seifter
Jim Steineke
A.B. Stoddard
David Tabacoff
Misha Tseytlin
Robin Vos

Leadership Across the Branches November 17, 2017

A conference we devoted to identifying leadership skills among public officials and disseminating that knowledge.

Criminal Justice Reform April 26, 2018

A conference we held to identify ways the criminal justice system can be reformed to be more cost effective without damaging the safety of the community. Panelists discussed prisoner reentry programs, fines and fees, prosecutorial discretion, and civil forfeiture.

Former Packer George Koonce May 3, 2018

Former Green Bay Packer Linebacker George Koonce, Ph.D. spoke at the Memorial Union to discuss his views on servant leadership.

Fix the National Debt October 25, 2018

Working with the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the Center held an interactive event for the public to determine how to create a sustainable federal budget.

Judge Jeffrey Sutton September 25, 2018

Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals came to UW-Madison to speak about his views of state constitutional law.

Criminal Justice Reform Speakers

Dick Carpenter
Derek Cohn
Paul Connell
Jennifer Doleac
Todd Graves
Steve Hurley
Renée Hutchins
Brian Johnson
Michael Light
Tom Lyons
Heather Rice-Minus
Grover Norquist
Dean A. Mazzone
Jon Ponder
John Richter
Ebony Ruhland
David Safavian
Caroline Sarnoff
Lahny Silva
Jason Snead
Paige Styler
Sandra Thompson
Robert L. Woodson

Research Grants for UW-System

The Thompson Center has allocated nearly \$500,000 to aid UW-System Professors to provide solutions to some of Wisconsin's most pressing problems. These grants include the following:

- Integrating Autonomous Vehicles into Transit Services for Shared Prosperity
- Future Employee Transportation Planning for the Foxconn Development Site
- Connecting Wisconsin of Tomorrow: Methods to Improve Public Mobility under Future Social, Economic and Technological Change
- The Milwaukee Reentry Alliance Project
- An Assessment of a Vocational Training Program to Prepare Wisconsin's Prison Population for Skilled Employment
- Jobs, Skills and the Prison-to-Work Transition
- Can Second Chances for Inmates Work for Wisconsin
- Leadership, Communication Ecologies, Political Contention and Democratic Renewal Across Four Issues in Wisconsin

For more information on faculty research grants see:
www.thompsoncenter.wisc.edu

Upcoming Events

Effective Public Leadership in America

November 30, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pyle Center, UW-Madison

The Thompson Center will host a free conference that features a number of academic luminaries currently involved in the research of leadership in contemporary American politics.

Presenters and discussants include:

State Representative Peter Barca
 Charles Franklin, Director of the Marquette Law School Poll
 Former State Representative Mark Honadel
 Aparna Mathur, The American Enterprise Institute
 Richard Smith, Kentucky University
 Alan Wiseman, Vanderbilt University
 Laurel Harbridge-Yong, Northwestern University



Working with Students

- The Thompson Center co-sponsored the first debate of the academic year between Madison's College Democrats and the College Republicans! The Thompson Center applauds the students of the respective debate teams, whose exemplary performance is surely an indicator of their passion for resolving policy problems and for doing so with the collegial spirit the Thompson Center seeks to promote.
- From October 19 to the November 6 midterm elections, the Thompson Center sponsored debate viewing events at campuses across the UW System.
- On election night, the Center sponsored a viewing of election returns and discussions of the election results on UW-Madison's campus.
- The Center will award two scholarships to UW-System students who write the best essays on how leaders can transform transportation policy in Wisconsin.

Upcoming Events

Second Chances and Prisoner Re-entry

March 7, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monona Terrace
Madison, WI

This free conference will examine proposals to create a second chance for offenders and enhance Wisconsin's workforce through prisoner re-entry reform. It will analyze possible job training reforms that will reduce corrections costs, reduce recidivism rates, and increase employment. It showcases speakers from across the state and country, from the left and the right. (Free continuing education credits may be available.)

The Future of Transportation in Wisconsin

April 26, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Harley-Davidson Museum
Milwaukee, WI

This free conference will examine a host of issues relating to transportation reform, including financing for roads, urban and rural transit, ports, and railways. Similar to Thompson's corridor initiative, this conference will focus on what transportation solutions can mean to businesses and average Wisconsinites as the state prepares for a transportation future.

Thompson Speakers

Keep your eyes out for our upcoming speakers across the state. We strive to make sure all sides of political and legal get presented, and our speakers will bear that out.

A Message of Hope for the Future

There is hope for civil discourse here in Wisconsin. The sun has not yet set on our hopes for a better dialogue.

In the waning days of September, the Thompson Center hosted a dinner that included an intellectually diverse group of individuals. We enjoyed the company of a highly respected federal appeals court judge, two federal district judges from the Western District of Wisconsin, four Wisconsin Supreme Court justices, a head of the state bar, the Dean of the law school, and two law professors. Some attendees were strongly conservative. Others were emphatically liberal. The stage was set for a heated and acrimonious event. Maybe in other places that dinner would have turned sour. But not here. Not in Wisconsin.

That day, we shared Wisconsin values and found hope for the future.

Attendees discussed matters of the judiciary and contemporary politics at length. In the process, they respectfully listened to each other and calmly laid out the logic behind their conclusions. At the end of the evening, everyone agreed the cross-pollinating experience had been useful. And they called for more such events.

We have hosted other events that bring people together to share their views. We co-hosted student debates and funded student debate viewing events, all in an effort to get students to listen to others' views. Students must be exposed to multiple views if they are to succeed in the future.

In the years to come, the Center will continue to pursue a legacy of civility, big thinking, and intellectual curiosity.

Some may see the long shadows of politics as the fall sun setting on civil discourse. At the Thompson Center, we see those long shadows as a spring awakening giving birth to a new hope. And we aim to foster that hope.



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