



Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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Message from the Director

High expectations. That was the Thompson Center's theme during the summer and fall of 2019—and it's a theme we will carry forward into 2020. Our conferences, speakers, podcasts, and research all touched in some way or another on high expectations.

During our Founding Fathers Conference, some of the world's greatest historians came to us and shared their knowledge of the Founders. Gordon Wood discussed Benjamin Franklin; Joanne Freeman taught us about Alexander Hamilton; Jack Rakove and former Second Lady of the United States Lynne Cheney analyzed James Madison. A host of similarly gifted scholars examined other Framers. We learned that the Framers of our constitution held high expectations for America. They helped set out American ideals and institutions so future Americans could meet them.

The theme of high expectations also came through in our conference on energy reform. We recently held the first of three conferences on renewable energy in Wisconsin. Speakers discussed ways in which Wisconsin can double down on existing success and push forward on others. Energy reform is an area where Wisconsin can lead. And we are examining how.

We also learned about high expectations in our first of three conferences on how to improve independence for Wisconsin's disabled population. Everyone who watched or attended that event came away with a clear message. People with intellectual disabilities told us: "Set high expectations for us and we will meet or exceed them." And so they will. And we will continue to discuss how to make that happen.

In these highly polarized times, many among us have lost hope—but found skepticism. While a healthy amount of skepticism is good in a republic, do not be fooled by those who would tell you we are fundamentally flawed, irretrievably irreparable, or doomed to downfall. Take a breath. Focus on what we can accomplish together as a people—on what we *have* accomplished together. Think of what Governor Thompson accomplished by holding on to high expectations and working collaboratively to find solutions. Reflect that Tommy succeeded because he understood his duty to all our people, and had the courage to fulfill that duty. He had high expectations for Wisconsin and he had the courage to meet them. We can all do the same together.

Hold on to your high expectations. Show courage and meet them.
Follow Tommy's example.

Ryan J. Owens, J.D., Ph.D.

Fall 2019 Events

The Founders and Public Leadership

On September 20, 2019, the Thompson Center hosted a series of experts on some of America's Founders to discuss their perspectives on public leadership in the context of contemporary American politics. The Founders represented ranged from Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton to George Washington and James Madison. Speakers included Gordon Wood and Jack Rackove, who were each awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1993 and 1997, respectively. Former Second Lady of the United States Lynne Cheney provided the keynote address, all of which WisconsinEye broadcasted the event, which is available on its website.



Wisconsin's Energy Strategy

The Thompson Center welcomed experts on renewable energy to Madison on October 4, 2019 in the first of a three-part series exploring leading edge topics in renewable energy. In the first panel, a collection of state and nationally-recognized energy experts, including Lawrence Makovich of IHS Markit, discussed how Wisconsin can optimize its renewable resources for energy and other products in the future. Meanwhile, a second panel composed of representatives of utility and consumer-driven renewable energy projects discussed the opportunities and challenges in building a renewable energy portfolio in Wisconsin. Associate Professor Sharon Jacobs of the University of Colorado Law School delivered the keynote address in which she highlighted the rapid evolution of renewable energy innovation and the continued need for a flexible regulatory system and marketplace for energy. WisconsinEye broadcasted the event, which is available on its website.



Growing Leaders Among Persons with Disabilities

On November 7, 2019, the Thompson Center opened the first in a series of three events on promoting independence and outcomes for persons impacted by intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first panel included five self-advocates from organizations ranging from People First and Special Olympics to the Waisman Center's LEND Training Program, who discussed ways advance self-determination among persons with disabilities. The second panel consisted of leading Wisconsin disability advocates who shared their perspectives on how to improve support for families with children affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cathy Ficker Terrill provided the keynote address where she reflected upon her many years of services as a chief executive with various national disability advocacy organizations and ways Wisconsin can improve outcomes moving forward. Tommy Thompson delivered brief remarks as well. WisconsinEye broadcasted the event, which is available on its website.



Thanks To Our Fall 2019 Speakers

Emily Ladau

Disability Rights Advocate
UW-Superior

Michael Isham Jr.

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission Executive Director
UW-Eau Claire

George Will

Political Commentator
UW-La Crosse

Arthur Brooks

Harvard University Professor of Public Leadership
UW-Madison

David Feldman, Laurent Heller, & Tracey Klein

Education Policy Expert Panel
UW-Madison

Karen Ray

Organizational Collaboration Expert
UW-Superior

Jonah Goldberg

Political Commentator
UW-Madison

Temple Grandin

Disability Advocate
UW-Stevens Point

Spring 2020 Conferences

Improving Integration of Services for Children with IDD

February 7th at UW-Whitewater

Keynote: Michelle Reynolds, Ph.D. Director of Individual Advocacy & Family Support, University of Missouri-Kansas City

The Future of Manure Digesters in Wisconsin

February 25th at UW-Green Bay

Keynote: BBC Business Editor Simon Jack

Renewable Energy Development, Grid Modernization & Distributed Generation in Wisconsin

March 6th at UW-Milwaukee

Keynote: General Donald Hoffman, United States Air Force Retired, Member of the Military Advisory Board of the Center for Naval Analysis

Capitalism vs. Socialism

March 11th at UW-Madison

Biomedical Technology Think Tank for Public Leadership in Advancing Biotechnology Innovation

March 25th at Oconomowoc

Survivors of Authoritarianism on the Far Left & Far Right

March 26th at UW-Milwaukee

Democracy & U.S. Leadership in the Free World

March 27th at UW-Milwaukee

Achieving Greater Independence for Adults with IDD

April 3rd at UW-Stevens Point

Keynote: Michael Morris, Executive Director of the National Disability Institute & The ABLE National Resource Center

Spring 2020 Speakers

Brian Devore

Land Stewardship Editor

January 30th at UW-Eau Claire

David Gergen

Former Presidential Advisor

February 27th at UW-La Crosse

Simon Jack

BBC Business Editor

February 26th at UW-Madison

Doris Kearns Goodwin & Michael Beschloss

Presidential Scholars

March 9th at UW-Green Bay

Mia Love

Former U.S. Congresswoman

March 12th at UW-Parkside

John Bolton

Former U.S. National Security Advisor

April 6th at UW-Stevens Point-Wausau

Jeb Bush

Former Governor of Florida

TBD at UW-Milwaukee-Waukesha

For more information on upcoming conference and speakers events, please visit:

<https://thompsoncenter.wisc.edu/speakers-and-presentations/>.

Scholarships

The Thompson Center embarked upon its inaugural year of awarding competitive Tommy G. Thompson Leadership Scholarships to thirteen students across the thirteen University of Wisconsin System campuses. Scholarship and financial aid representatives at the campuses were instrumental in developing the scholarship criteria and award process over the summer months. The scholarships, each over \$2,000 in value, are intended for undergraduate students who exemplify Tommy Thompson's spirit of tackling big problems through teamwork and unending zeal to make Wisconsin a better place.

UW-Madison Undergraduate Civics Survey

In late 2019, the Thompson Center conducted a survey to determine how much UW-Madison undergraduate students know about American civics. Overall, students scored reasonably well on the exam, with an average score of 86% correct. The largest factor contributing to higher scores is the number of High School civics classes students took. Students coming from states that required them to pass a state civics exam to graduate from High School performed slightly better than students coming from states that did not require such a test. Students strongly support a requirement that High School students take civics classes (92% agree). Students also support requiring High School students to take a civics test in order to graduate (61%).

Charitable Donation to the Thompson Center

Please consider a gift to the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership. Your generosity contributes to more events, larger venues, and greater awareness of the Center's cause. You may visit thompsoncenter.wisc.edu/invest/ and click on the "Invest" tab to make a charitable donation.

This world needs effective public leaders. We aim to foster them.

The Badgercast

The Badgercast is another way the Thompson Center is reaching out to do good work for the people of Wisconsin. Each week a new podcast is made available to listeners around the state, examining and receiving expert opinion on numerous matters of social and political debate. The Badgercast is available on Soundcloud, Spotify, iTunes, and Youtube, and links to each are available on the Thompson Center website.

Featured Guests

Former Wisconsin Governor - **Tommy G. Thompson**

Political Commentator - **Michael Murphy**

Former Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor - **Rebecca Kleefisch**

U.S. Senator (WI) - **Ron Johnson**

U.S. Congressman - **Mike Gallagher**

Ethics & Public Policy Center Senior Fellow - **Mona Charen**

Winnebago County District Attorney - **Christian Gossett**

Senior Editor of the National Review - **Richard Brookhiser**

Executive Director of the Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum - **Scott Coenen**

Supreme Court journalist - **Joan Biskupic**

Wisconsin Assembly Speaker - **Robin Vos**

Wisconsin State Representative - **Gordon Hintz**

Wisconsin State Representative - **Evan Goyke**

Author & AEI Director - **Christopher Scalia**

UW-Madison Professor & Presidential Scholar - **Kenneth Mayer**

National Affairs Founding Editor & AEI Director - **Yuval Levin**

UW-Madison Law School Dean - **Margaret Raymond**

Editor-in-Chief of The Bulwark - **Charlie Sykes**

Commentary Magazine Senior Writer - **Christine Rosen**

American Historian - **Gordon Wood**

Thompson Center Staff

Eric Tempelis



Eric Tempelis is the Assistant Director of the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership. His career includes roles in local, state and federal government, most recently as a prosecutor. Eric formerly served as a government affairs director, president of a statewide association, and staff member in the Offices of Wisconsin Governor Scott McCallum and U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. Eric earned a Certificate in Integrated Liberal Studies, BA, MPA, and JD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a law student, he was selected as a general editor of the annual National Symposium of the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy. He is a former member and rank leader in the Wisconsin Marching Band.

Michael Knaak



Michael Knaak is the Administrative Assistant of the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership. Michael attended Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin and graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts degree in December, 2017. His areas of study included political science, economics, international relations and security, graphic design, religion, and western heritage. Michael's research has focused on a number of thorny domestic and international topics, and he has presented his work on the interplay between sanctions and nuclear proliferation at a national conference.

The Thompson Center on Social Media!

Follow us on Twitter at **@thompson_center**, on Facebook at **@TThompsonCenter**, and on Instagram at **@thompson_center**. And check out our website for current **podcasts** and an updated list of events and speakers: <https://thompsoncenter.wisc.edu/>.