

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

2020 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

At a time when it would have been understandable for the Center's efforts to be disrupted or curtailed, we saw instead this wonderful community mobilize to advance its important mission while responding to historic challenges.

This annual report highlights the outstanding work of the Center's leadership, board members, fellows, and partners. It demonstrates that questions around free speech and civic engagement remain vital even when we must interact at a distance. We express our deep gratitude to everyone who ensured that the Center remains resilient and impactful, and we hope readers are inspired by what they learn in this report.

Howard Gillman & Erwin Chemerinsky, Center National Advisory Board Co-Chairs

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Michelle Deutchman
Executive Director

2020 has been a year like no other—a global pandemic, historic civil unrest directed at undoing the legacy of racial discrimination in America and a deeply polarized electorate bravely voting in record numbers. Higher education—like every aspect of society—has been irrevocably impacted by the past 12 months: campuses emptied, budgets slashed, instruction moved online and educators navigating how to foster community in a largely virtual world.

At the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement, we have worked vigorously to meet these challenges with thoughtful, dynamic programming and with innovative research on expression, engagement and how these complex topics intersect. I am proud of all we have achieved since our founding three short years ago.

Much remains to be done, and we believe that colleges and universities have a critical role to play. Central to the Center's work is demonstrating how speech rights and other key institutional values like anti-racism and inclusion can work together to further our democracy. This includes finding ways to bridge divides between people with differing views and to harness the momentum created by recent student activism and engagement. Achieving these goals requires active involvement of all university stakeholders and other key partners.

We welcome your participation and thank you for your ongoing support as we continue our progress. This has been a trying year, but we move forward with hope and the promise of possibility.

Michelle N. Deutchman

2020 BY THE NUMBERS



234
Attendees at the #SpeechMatters 2020 Conference



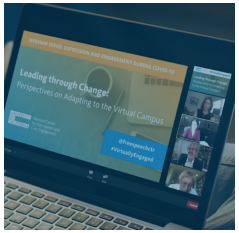
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Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Award Recipients



10
Fellows Research Projects

SPEECH SPOTLIGHT

04
Speech Spotlight Issues



11
Center-Produced Virtual Events

> Through its national conference, the Fellows' research and publications, the newsletter and online forums, the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement is a critical, leading forum for increased understanding of expressive freedoms, truth and the future and health of democracy.

Nancy L. Thomas
Director, Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University

ABOUT THE CENTER

LEADERSHIP



Michelle Deutchman
Center Executive Director



Michael V. Drake
President,
University of California
Center Chair



Janet Napolitano
Past President,
University of California
Inaugural Center Chair



Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean,
UC Berkeley School of Law
Co-Chair, Center National Advisory Board



Howard Gillman
Chancellor,
UC Irvine
Co-Chair, Center National Advisory Board

The Center explores how the fundamental democratic principles of free speech and civic engagement must adapt to the challenges and opportunities of modern society. Through research, advocacy, debate and discussion, the Center helps ensure that the next generation of leaders is prepared to defend and advance these values.

ABOUT THE CENTER

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Harvey Brody
UC Regent Emeritus

Vijaya Gadde
General Counsel,
Twitter

Tamara Keith
White House
Correspondent, NPR

John King
President and CEO,
The Education Trust

Monica C. Lozano
President and CEO,
College Futures Foundation

Anne Kornblut
Director,
New Initiatives for News
Partnerships, Facebook

Avi Oved
Past UC Student Regent

Bret Stephens
Columnist,
New York Times

Geoffrey R. Stone
Professor,
University of Chicago Law School

George Will
Columnist,
Washington Post

ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

Ahmad Atif Ahmad
UC Santa Barbara - Professor, Religious Studies

Amy Binder
UC San Diego - Professor, Sociology

Simone E. Chambers
UC Irvine - Professor, Political Science

Michael Mark Cohen
UC Berkeley - Associate Teaching Professor, African American Studies & African Diaspora Studies

Lee G. Cooper
UC Los Angeles Anderson School - Professor Emeritus

John Ganim
UC Riverside - Distinguished Professor, English

Jody Greene
UC Santa Cruz - Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning; Director, Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning; Professor of Literature

David Kaye
UC Irvine
Clinical Professor, Law

Suneil K. Koliwad
UC San Francisco - Associate Professor, Medicine; Gerold Grodsky, PhD/JAB Chair in Diabetes Research

Dana Nelkin
UC San Diego - Professor, Philosophy

Constance Penley
UC Santa Barbara - Professor, Film and Media Studies

Mary Beth Pudup
UC Santa Cruz - Director and Associate Professor, Community Studies Program

Nella Van Dyke
UC Merced - Professor, Sociology

John Villasenor
UC Los Angeles - Professor, Electrical Engineering, Law, Public Policy & Management

Eugene Volokh
UC Los Angeles - Gary T. Schwartz Distinguished Professor of Law

Keith David Watenpaugh
UC Davis - Professor and Director, Human Rights Studies

STAFF

Brenda Pitcher
Center Executive Assistant

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

FELLOWS PROGRAM

Each year, the Center selects fellows from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. Fellows receive a stipend to further the national conversation related to expression and civic engagement on college campuses.

The Center's second class of fellows released its impactful research in August 2020 and capped off the year with "Fellows in the Field," a series of interactive workshops demonstrating how to put their research into practice.

> Being a Fellow with the National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement has been a highlight of my professional career. The Center is doing exceptional work throughout the country to amplify the issues, struggles and solutions to uphold free speech and civic actions that promote the informed judgments necessary for a strong democracy.
>
> **Spoma Jovanovic, Professor, Communication Studies, UNC Greensboro**

2019-2020 CLASS OF FELLOWS



Melissa Barthelemy
PhD Candidate in Public History, UC Santa Barbara
"Let There Be Light: Freedom of Expression on Campus," a Student Affairs Toolkit



Jonathan Friedman
Director of PEN America's Campus Free Speech Program
"Free Speech Guides for Diversity Offices, Student Affairs and Residence Life"



Nikita Gupta
Director of the GRIT Coaching Program at UCLA
"Transforming Moments of Conflict Through Embodied Leadership: A Guide for Student Affairs Professionals"



Spoma Jovanovic
Professor of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro
"Free Speech & Public Spaces: Voice, Activism and Democracy"



Rebecca MacKinnon
Founding Director of Ranking Digital Rights at New America
"Reclaiming Free Speech for Democracy and Human Rights in a Digitally Networked World"



Saugher Nojan
UC Santa Cruz Sociology PhD Student
"Examining Free Speech and Civic Engagement Among UC Muslim Students: What Role Does Campus Safety Play?"



Lara Schwartz / Andrea Brenner
Director of American University's Project on Civil Discourse / Sociologist, Educational Consultant, and College Transitions Specialist
"Let Freedom (and Respect) Ring: Fostering Civil Discourse and Free Speech in the Classroom and Beyond"



Emerson Sykes
Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union
"Free Speech for Student Activists: A First Amendment Workshop for Student Leaders"



Shira Tarrant
Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at California State University, Long Beach
"Sex.Talk.Toolkit"



John Wilson
Co-editor of AcademeBlog.org
"Freedom of the Press on Campus"

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Center's third class of fellows is an exceptional group representing students, professors, law enforcement, local politicians and senior administrators—all of whom are in the midst of tackling challenging and timely issues pertaining to expression, academic freedom and campus climate. Their completed research will be released in the summer of 2021.

2020-2021 CLASS OF FELLOWS



Ernesto Arciniega
UCLA Hispanic Literatures
PhD Student

"Lighting the Way for Undocumented Students at the UC: Empowerment, Campus Policies, Free Speech and Civic Engagement"



Cerri Banks
Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs, Skidmore College

"Black Administrators and Black Student Activism - Media's Impact on Navigating Relationships and Transforming Learning"



Cassie Barnhardt
Associate Professor, Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, University of Iowa, College of Education

"Comparing Contemporary Campus Mobilization at Scale: Tactics, Intensity, and Media Attention"



Ryan Coonerty
Third District Supervisor for Santa Cruz County, California and Lecturer, Legal Studies, UC Santa Cruz

"Skokie: Free Speech and Community"



Jill Dunlap / Alice Yau
Director for Research and Practice at NASPA – National Association of Student Personnel Administrators / Police Officer-Instructor-Trainer, Chicago Police Department

"Coming Together: Student and Law Enforcement Understanding of Campus Free Speech Policies and Procedures"



Nina Flores
Assistant Professor, Social and Cultural Analysis of Education, College of Education, California State University Long Beach

"Tweets, Threats and Censorship: Campus Resources to Support Faculty Through Incidents of Targeted Harassment"



Nicholas Havey
UCLA Higher Education and Organizational Change PhD Student

"Are Campuses Echo Chambers? Exploring the Information Networks of Student Leaders"



Jennifer Lambe
Associate Professor, Communication, University of Delaware

"Best Practices for Balancing Free Speech and Diversity in Higher Education"



Elizabeth Niehaus
Associate Professor, Educational Administration, University of Nebraska – Lincoln

"Self-Censorship or Just Being Nice? Understanding College Students' Moral Reasoning around Free Speech in the Classroom"



Brian Soucek
Professor of Law, University of California, Davis

"Institutional Values, Academic Freedom and the First Amendment"

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

VOICE INITIATIVE

The Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Initiative provides funding for UC students, staff and faculty interested in conducting research or coordinating programs that further the mission of the Center.

This year's recipients were invited to attend the Center's annual #SpeechMatters conference in DC, where they had the opportunity to participate in a discussion on campus dialogue and civic engagement with Center fellows and Former UC President and Inaugural Center Chair Janet Napolitano.

From bringing together passionate individuals dedicated to improving free speech and civic engagement in our country, to continually checking in and supporting us and our projects, the Center and everyone involved have given me such a great experience, and I am grateful for that. The VOICE funds have helped BridgeUSA spread the word about events... and improve civil discourse at UC Berkeley.

Sarah Ampalloor, UC Berkeley '22, VOICE Award Recipient



PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

VOICE INITIATIVE



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: THE REVIVAL ZINE

I'm very appreciative of the funding you granted my team and the community you've created. Because of your support, REVIVAL now has several chapters and so many empowered women/students who are coming together. I hope you know your Center and work is making such a huge difference in so many students' lives.

Akshita Gandra, UC Davis '21, VOICE Award Recipient

2019-2020 VOICE RECIPIENTS AND PROJECTS:

BridgeUSA
UC Berkeley

The Voting Project
UC Berkeley

The REVIVAL Zine
UC Davis

Political Provocations in the Classroom
UC Davis

Building Skills that Encourage Open and Inclusive Conversations
UC Davis

Acting Against Intolerance
UC Irvine

Freedom of Speech & Expression Today: A One-Day Conference
UC Irvine

Olive Tree Initiative Student Leadership Retreat
UC Irvine

The Power of Language and Dialogue: An Exploration of How Language Influences Identity, Power, and Equity in Schools
UCLA

Transformative Dialogues: The Inaugural "Free" Speech Week at UC Merced – Can Speech Truly Be Free?
UC Merced

Civic Engagement Ambassador Program (CEAP)
UC Riverside

Triton's VOICE (Volunteering, Organizing, and Involvement for Civic Engagement)
UC San Diego

#USvsHate: An Anti-Hate/Pro-Inclusion Collective Action Project
UC San Diego

Legislative Advocacy Program (LAP)
UC San Diego

Open Dyalog
UC San Diego

Train the Trainers: "It's Time to Talk & Listen" - A Diversity Skills Building Workshop
UC San Francisco

Hot off the Pod — An Opinion Podcast from the Daily Nexus
UC Santa Barbara

Centering Youth Voices in Current Debates on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy: UCSB Blum Center Podcast Project
UC Santa Barbara

Understanding the Extractive: Geology & Civic Engagement
UC Santa Cruz

Ethics and Technology: A Game of Conversation
UC Santa Cruz

PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

SPEECH SPOTLIGHT

Launched in December 2019, the Center's Speech Spotlight series is intended to help members of higher education communities gain new insights into speech and civic engagement-related issues on university and college campuses. Each installment addresses a specific topic by clarifying the issues, reframing the debate and raising critical questions to facilitate constructive discussion and effective action.

Installment 1 - Bias Response Teams

The inaugural "chapter" of Speech Spotlight focused on bias response teams (BRTs) – what they are, what they aim to accomplish, their effectiveness (or lack thereof) and why free speech advocates are concerned that BRTs chill speech on campus.



SPEECH SPOTLIGHT

Installment 2 - Engaging Student Voters

The second installment put the spotlight on voting by exploring what prevents students from exercising this right and how institutions can incentivize civic participation by making the process as smooth as possible for students.

Installment 3 - Expression and Engagement During COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our lives. Its effect on higher education has been profound. For the third installment of Speech Spotlight, a number of the Center's Fellows, VOICE recipients and staff shared their insights and opinions about challenging issues during this unprecedented time.

Installment 4 - Supporting Student Activism

2020 saw an unprecedented surge in activism and participation among college students. As students led the way in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and fighting for an end to the systemic racism that plagues the United States, they demonstrated how important it is for institutions of higher education to encourage and facilitate student participation in the democratic process.

Installment 5 - Facilitating Political Discourse on Campus

Continuing the exploration of different pathways for civic engagement, the most recent installment of Speech Spotlight centered on how colleges and universities can integrate opportunities for deliberate and meaningful political discussion into various aspects of campus life.

SPEECH SPOTLIGHT *Live!*

In January 2021, the Center will launch "Speech Spotlight Live," a series of virtual events that will serve as an extension of the current Speech Spotlight series. Each event will feature a conversation between Executive Director Michelle Deutchman and one or more experts to examine the pressing topics in speech and civic engagement in higher education.



KICKOFF EVENT:

Speech Spotlight Live with UC President Michael V. Drake

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
10:00am PT / 1:00pm ET

EVENTS

#SPEECHMATTERS2020
PARTICIPATION AND PROTEST ON CAMPUS

The Center's second annual #SpeechMatters conference took place on Thursday, February 27, 2020 in Washington, DC.

As a year with both a presidential election and national census count, 2020 showed that the stakes were high for U.S. democracy—and that civic engagement is more important than ever. Leading experts convened in the nation's capital to discuss critical issues related to participation, protest and policy development on college campuses nationwide.



EVENTS

#SPEECHMATTERS 2020

- **234** ATTENDEES
- **591** LIVE STREAM VIEWERS
- **282** EVENT TWEETS
- **18** DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS
- **5** PANELS
- **9** MEDIA MENTIONS



FACEBOOK AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
Tamara Keith, NPR & Katie Harbath, Facebook



NOTES FROM THE FIELD: CIVIC PARTICIPATION ON CAMPUS
Spoma Jovanovic, UNC, Greensboro; Tara Bahrampour, The Washington Post; Vanessa Crow, League of Women Voters of Wake County & Leslie Garvin, NC Campus Compact



GET UP, STAND UP: PROTEST AND DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS
UW Chief of Police Kristen Roman & UCSA President Varsha Sarveshwar

Free speech is not just an enumerated right, but an imperative for higher education and research. The Center's #SpeechMatters Conference was a great opportunity to explore the challenges and imperatives around speech on campus. And participants experienced free expression in action when a group of students peacefully protested the leadership decisions of one of the speakers during the 2020 event.

President Mark S. Schlissel, University of Michigan

EVENTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center shifted all of its programming to the virtual world. Between May and December 2020, the Center produced two 3-part series, four interactive workshops, and one post-election webinar, for a total of 11 virtual events. These sessions averaged over 100 viewers per event.

EXPRESSION AND ENGAGEMENT DURING COVID-19 SERIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the way we approach many things, and higher education is no exception. To explore what expression and engagement look like during this unprecedented time, the Center hosted a series of virtual events on the various challenges the higher education community faced as our campuses and classrooms went online.

Virtual Introductions for Incoming Students: Building an Inclusive Campus Community in an Online World

Featuring:
- Andrea Malkin Brenner, 2019-2020 Fellow and Sociologist, Educational Consultant, and College Transitions Specialist
- Isabella Dominique, American University Class of 2020 and Project on Civil Discourse Coordinator
- Lara Schwartz, 2019-2020 Fellow and Director of American University's Project on Civil Discourse

Leading through Change: Perspectives on Adapting to the Virtual Campus

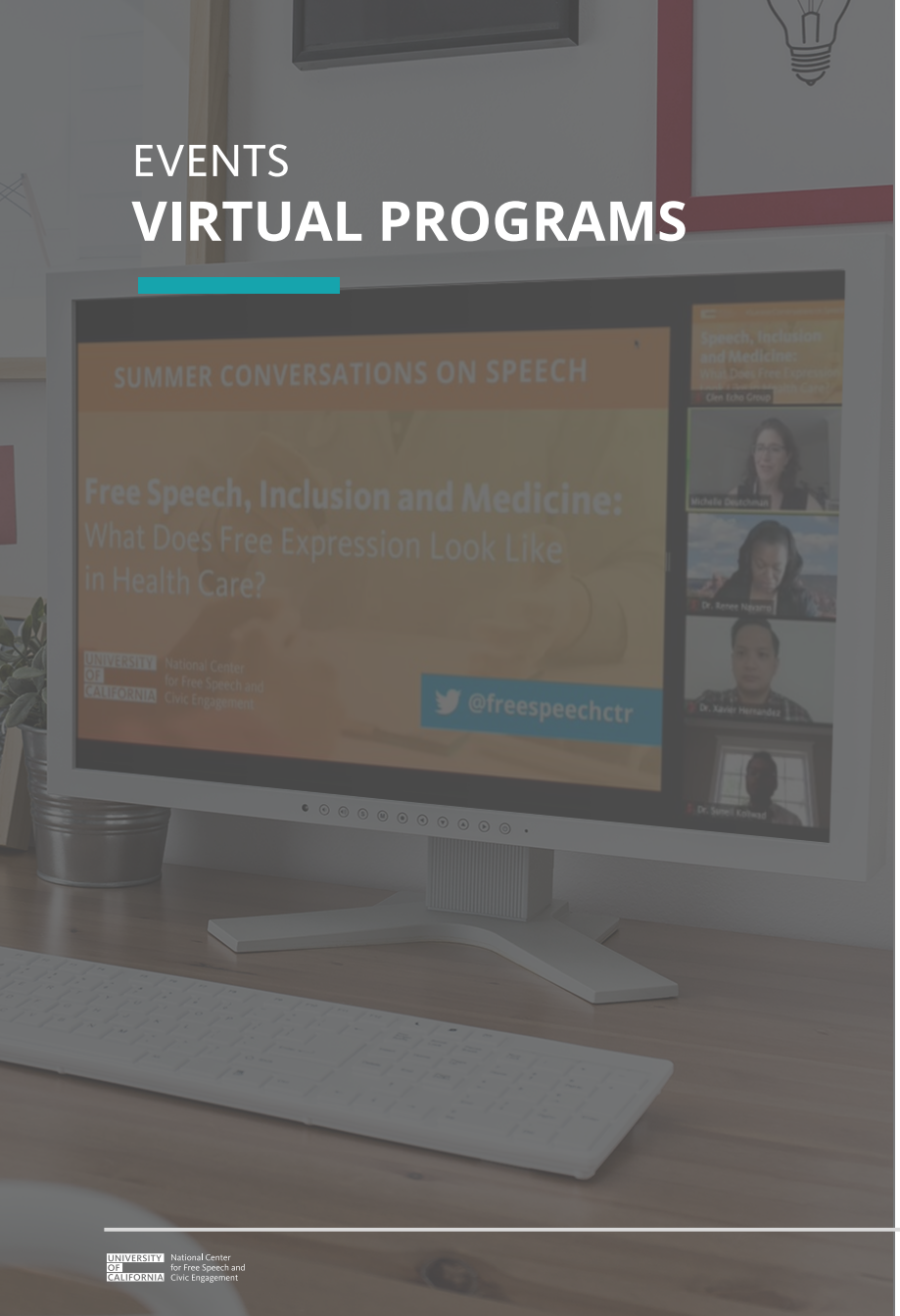
Featuring:
- Erwin Chemerinsky, Center National Advisory Board Co-Chair and UC Berkeley School of Law Dean
- Lauren Robel, Indiana University Provost
- Dr. Mark S. Schlissel, President, University of Michigan

The Shifting Landscape: What Will Speech and Activism Look Like in Higher Education?

Featuring:
- Adam Cooper, PhD Student, Slade Group, UCSD
- Spoma Jovanovic, 2019-2020 Fellow and Professor of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Emerson Sykes, 2019-2020 Fellow and Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union

EVENTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



SUMMER CONVERSATIONS ON SPEECH SERIES

Throughout the summer, the Center hosted a series of conversations on important issues like online speech and content moderation, press freedom, and free speech and inclusion in medicine.

Free Speech Online: How Is the Internet Ecosystem Shifting, and Why Should We Care?

Featuring:
- Rebecca MacKinnon, 2019-2020 Fellow and Founding Director of Ranking Digital Rights at New America
- Jess Miers, Research Associate for the UCLA Institute for Technology, Law and Policy
- John Villasenor, Center Academic Advisory Board Member and Professor of Electrical Engineering, Law & Public Policy at UCLA

The State of Press Freedom on Campus and Around the World

Featuring:
- Sydney Charles, Class of 2021 and Co-Editor of Campus News for The New University at the University of California, Irvine
- Sommer Ingram Dean, Staff Attorney at the Student Press Law Center
- Courtney Radsch, Advocacy Director at the Committee to Protect Journalists
- John Wilson, 2019-2020 Fellow and Co-Editor of Academeblog.org

Speech, Inclusion and Medicine: What Does Free Expression Look Like in Health Care?

Featuring:
- Dr. Xavier Hernandez, VOICE Award Recipient and Inclusion Programs Officer at the UCI College of Health Sciences
- Dr. Suneil Koliwad, Center Academic Advisory Board Member and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)
- Dr. Renee Navarro, Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Outreach at UCSF

EVENTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

FELLOWS IN THE FIELD: INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

The 2019-2020 class of fellows capped off the year with the release of 10 unique research projects presented through a series of interactive virtual workshops.

Building Diverse and Inclusive Communities in a Virtual World: An Interactive Workshop for Faculty and Student-Facing Staff
Led by: Lara Schwartz and Andrea Brenner

Sex.Talk.Toolkit: A Workshop for Classroom Interaction
Led by: Shira Tarrant

Balancing Acts: New Tools to Help Student Affairs Administrators Navigate Free Speech on Campus
Led by: Melissa Barthelemy, Jonathan Friedman, and Nikita Gupta in partnership with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators

Student Organizing and Activism: Educating to Inspire Principled Action
Led by: Spoma Jovanovic

> The UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement has been an invaluable partner in educating campus communities about the First Amendment. The ACLU has been working on tough free speech issues for a century, and now more than ever it's imperative that we think deeply about the kind of society we want to live in. Through our collaboration, the Center and the ACLU have helped dozens of student activists understand how the First Amendment protects their right to dissent and their pursuit of social justice.
>
> **Emerson Sykes, Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union**

HOW SHOULD THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PROTECT FREE SPEECH AND DEMOCRACY IN OUR DIGITAL WORLD?

Following the 2020 presidential election, we convened experts to discuss how the new administration should tackle online challenges like misinformation, hate speech and extremism in the context of higher education.

Featuring:
- Rebecca MacKinnon, 2019-2020 Fellow and Founding Director of Ranking Digital Rights at New America
- John Palfrey, President of the MacArthur Foundation



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

An important part of the Center's work is to support and connect with the larger expression, civic engagement and higher education communities. The Center collaborated with a number of influential organizations and institutions through event sponsorships and speaking engagements.

Event Sponsorships:

- Book Talk: Jeff Wasserstrom and David Kaye on Social Media from Hong Kong to Silicon Valley and Beyond
- "Burst Your Bubble" with BridgeUSA and A Starting Point
- "Is Free Speech Destroying Itself Online?" Community Forum with ADL Orange County/Long Beach
- "Presidential Election 2020: What Students Want" and "Presidential Election 2020: Where Do We Go from Here?" with UCSB Walter H. Capps Center
- "Rise Up!" California Student Leadership Conference

Speaking Engagements:

- Associated Students, UCSD Civic Engagement Office, "Ask Me Anything"
- Instructor, UCI Inclusive Excellence Certificate Program, "UCI as a Minority Thriving Institution"
- Loyola Marymount College, Keynote Address, "Whose Free Speech?"
- Scholars At Risk Network 2020 Virtual Global Conference, "Academic Freedom, Free Expression and Civil Discourse"
- South Lake Middle School Address
- Southern California Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education, "Inclusivity, Free Speech and the Election Year"
- UCI Podcast, "Pandemic's Effect on Campus Free Speech"

To learn more about the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement, visit:

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