

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

5

ANNUAL REPORT **2022**

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

Message from the Center's Leadership

Erwin Chemerinsky
National Advisory Board
Co-chair; Dean, UC Berkeley
School of Law



Howard Gillman
National Advisory Board
Co-chair; Chancellor,
University of California, Irvine



Michelle N. Deutchman
Executive Director



Since its inception in 2017, the Center has been producing innovative research, creating dynamic programming and building a community of scholars, practitioners, students and others who are passionate about fostering expression and civic engagement in higher education.

During our first five years, the Center has needed to be nimble in navigating a global pandemic, the ongoing assault on democratic values and legislative attacks on books and curriculum at all levels of learning. Despite taxing circumstances, the Center has remained unwavering in our commitment to accessibility, outstanding quality and diversity of perspectives.

Although we are turning the page on 2022, countless challenges remain. We know the future holds fresh and fascinating questions, and we look forward to tackling them with you. Your partnership and support are integral to our success. We are confident that we can make a measurable difference by furthering education and developing tools to protect and advance expression, engagement and democratic learning in universities and colleges around the country.

Erwin Chemerinsky Howard Gillman Michelle N. Deutchman

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MISSION

To explore the intersection of **expression**, **engagement** and **democratic learning** and consider what can be done to **restore trust in the value of free speech** on college campuses and within society at large.

2022 by the Numbers

583
Attendees over the two-day **#SpeechMatters** Conference

22 RAISE YOUR VOICE
Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Award Recipients

12
2022-2023 Fellows Selected

11 SPEECH MATTERS PODCAST
SpeechMatters Podcast Episodes

08
2021-2022 Fellows' Research Projects Completed

05
Center-Produced Virtual Events
- **3** Fellows in the Field
- **2** Speech Spotlight Lives

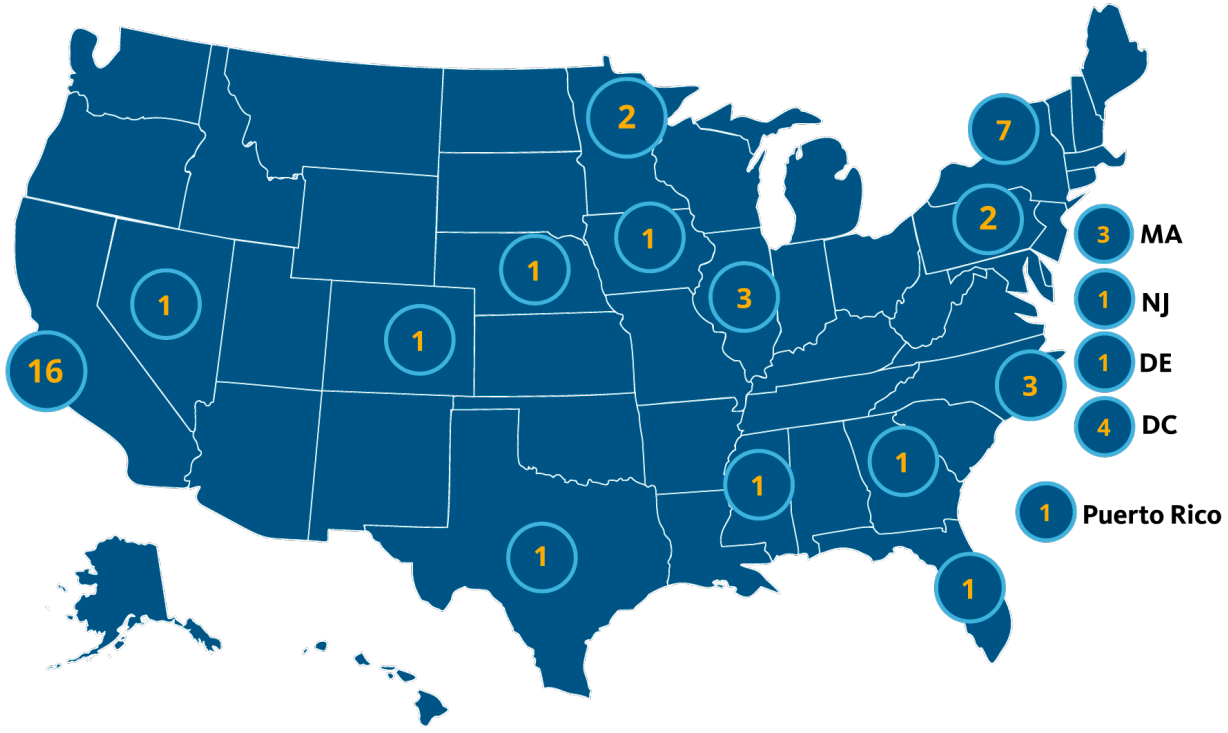


"The University of California's National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement provides a unique service to all of higher education – combining often disconnected themes of speech, inclusion, discussion, political learning, and engagement in democracy. For me personally, it's a welcome "home" – I now feel I have colleagues in the work of educating for an inclusive, equitable, just and stable democracy. *Thank you, UC!*"

Nancy Thomas, Director, Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life; Center National Advisory Board Member

Fellows Program

Center Fellows, who receive a stipend to produce original research on speech and civic engagement in higher education, come from around the country and represent a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds.



"My ongoing involvement with the Center is a source of motivation and resources that help me feel more optimistic about the future we can build together for higher education."

Amy Werbel, Professor of the History of Art, State University of New York - Fashion Institute of Technology; 2021-2022 Center Fellow



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA 5 YEAR STATS!

51 Fellows Selected

13 Fellows in the Field Workshops

Class of 2021-2022

This cohort researched complex topics such as the roles of campus whistleblowers and bias response teams, best practices for navigating pornography controversies on campus and censorship in academic museums and galleries.



Lynn Comella, Ph.D.
"Stop Offending Me! Pornography, Free Speech, and Best Practices for Navigating Campus Controversies"



Carlo DaVia
"The Humanities Classroom: A Guide to Free and Responsible Inquiry"



Jacob Fay
"Growing the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership (ICDP)"



Matthew Griffith
"Let's Talk about Race: Conversation on Race, Anti-Blackness, and Civic Identity in Post-2020 Times"



Frank LoMonte
"Whistleblower Protection in Higher Education: A California Case Study"



Ryan A. Miller, Ph.D.
"Bias Response Teams and Emerging Alternatives: Navigating Free Speech, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher Education"



Teri Platt
"Evaluation of Free Speech and Civic Engagement on Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Campuses for 2020 Social Justice Summer and General Election"



Amy Werbel
"A Study of Freedom of Artistic Expression in Academic Art Museums and Galleries"

Programs • *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.

After being physically apart from our campus communities for so long, the 2022 VOICE Initiative focused on the theme of "Building Community."

"The Center has proven to be a great resource over the last two years. The generous support, funding, and publicity for our projects have been integral to advancing and sharing our critical work on the role of students in the governance of higher education."

- Valeria Dominguez, M.Ed., Doctoral Candidate in the School of Education, UC Riverside; 2022 VOICE Recipient

- Raquel M. Rall, Associate Professor in the School of Education, UC Riverside; 2022 VOICE Recipient



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA **5 YEAR STATS!**

64 VOICE Awardees

2022 VOICE Recipients and Projects



Votechella
UC Berkeley

Davis Journal of Legal Studies (Volume II)
UC Davis

The REVIVAL Zine
UC Davis



Artistic Censorship in Greater Los Angeles: Three Case Studies
UCLA



Black University Educators x Mental Health Project
UCLA



BridgeUSA
UCLA



Exploring Faculty Insularity and Social Connections Across the American Professoriate
UCLA



Revelation Games! Developing a Toolkit to Promote Free Speech in the University Classroom
UCLA



Native Voices: From Margins to Center
UC Merced



Advancing the Civic Engagement Ambassador Program
UC Riverside



The Role, Import, and Potential of Young People on Boards of Higher Education
UC Riverside



Democracy, Freedom of Speech, Polarization, and Technology Policy: An Exploratory Study
UC San Francisco



Civic Engagement Scholars Program
UC Santa Barbara

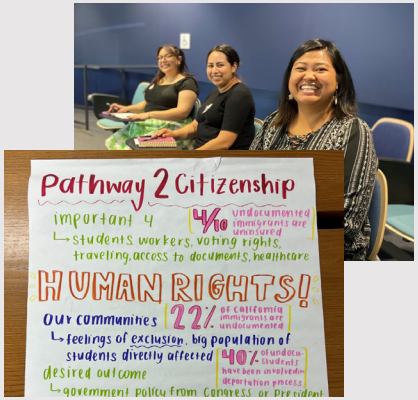


Science & Civic Engagement
UC Santa Cruz



"An investment into civic and community engagement at UCR has the potential to positively affect the lives of the residents of inland Southern California. The Center plays a major role in this impact. The funds they award through the VOICE Grant directly impact the experiences of our students and challenge them to develop a civic minded approach to leadership. None of this is possible without the Center's support!"

- Gerardo Medina, Coordinator, Leadership and Service Programs/ Office of Student Life, UC Riverside; 2022 VOICE Recipient



Programs • *Safeguarding Democracy*

After a year marred by false accusations of voter fraud, an insurrection at our Capitol and deep political polarization across the country, much of the Center's work in 2022 focused on bolstering an eroding democracy.

#SPEECH MATTERS 2022
Safeguarding Democracy

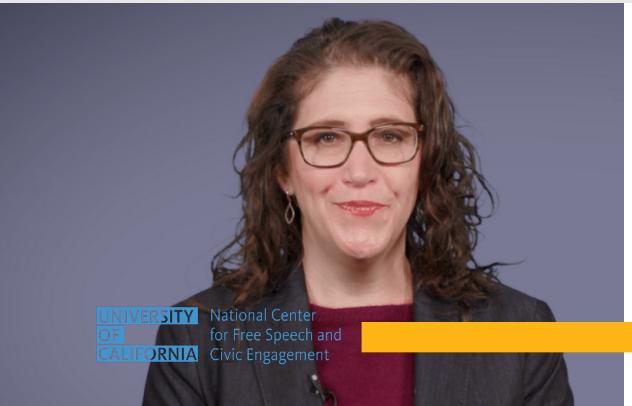
Our fourth annual #SpeechMatters conference (Safeguarding Democracy) explored questions that dominated civil discourse – in classrooms, in casual conversation and in Congress – during a year when democracy itself was on the brink.

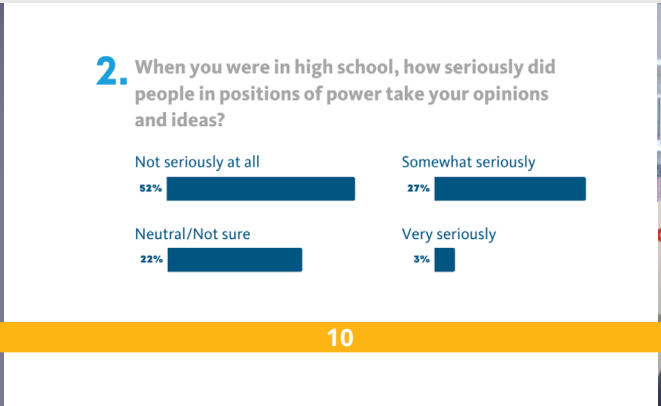
583 attendees over a two-day conference
69 colleges and universities in attendance
23 civil society groups in attendance
22 diverse speakers

"The people and programs associated with the prestigious year-long fellowship focused my thinking, understanding, and writing surrounding the connections between freedom of expression, civic action and activism, dissent, and social change. The time and deep conversations supported my work... [which] called attention to how our voices in public spaces can ethically and effectively advance justice in our democracy."

-Spoma Jovanovic, Professor of Communication Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro; 2019-2020 Center Fellow









Preparing for the Midterms

The Center updated our voting resources to help the higher education community implement initiatives to encourage student turnout in the fall midterm elections.



Votechella

One of several VOICE initiatives we funded in order to increase turnout among student voters was Votechella, a free music festival hosted by the Associated Students of the University of California Vote Coalition at UC Berkeley, that doubled as a voter registration drive.

Ask the Experts

We invited four civic engagement experts to discuss how college campuses can institutionalize programs that transcend voting and cultivate a healthier democracy, especially during election season.



Beyond Voting

Post midterms, we featured these same experts in "Beyond Voting: Nurturing Democracy on Campus," a Speech Spotlight Live event that explored the importance of student engagement and democratic learning year-round.

SPEECH SPOTLIGHT Live!





Programs • *SpeechMatters Podcast*





This year, we launched SpeechMatters, a monthly podcast bringing together thought leaders in higher education, journalism, tech, law and public policy as they tackle pressing issues impacting free expression and democracy on campus and beyond.

Episodes include:

- "Cheap Speech" And Its Toll On Our Democracy
- Book Banning: Local Fights, Dangerous Implications
- What Does The Data Tell Us? Exploring Self-Censorship On College Campuses
- Looking At The Law: The First Amendment & LGBTQ Rights
- Digital Speech Goes To The Supreme Court

Scan code to view podcast!

Community Collaboration

Supporting and connecting with the larger expression, civic engagement and higher education communities is integral to the Center's work. This year, we were thankful to collaborate with a broad range of groups and academic institutions.

Organizations

Academic Engagement Network
American Civil Liberties Union
American Association of Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Aspen Institute
Association of American Universities
Bipartisan Policy Center
Constructive Dialogue Institute
Council on Foreign Relations
Foundation for Individual Rights in Expression
Heterodox Academy
Institute for Citizens & Scholars
Knight Foundation
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education
PEN America
SNF Agora Institute



Michelle Deutchman was a featured guest on the Council on Foreign Relations' Higher Education webinar, where she participated in a conversation about free speech on campus.



At the Heterodox Academy Annual Conference, Michelle Deutchman moderated a panel discussion on "Academic Freedom: Dangers and Distractions" with three former Center Fellows.

Community Collaboration *cont.*

Schools

Emory University

Southern Illinois University System

Stanford University

Center Executive Director Michelle Deutchman and former Fellow Emerson Sykes (ACLU) had the opportunity to take Sykes' fellowship workshop, "The First Amendment and Student Activists," from a virtual to an in-person format, co-facilitating at Stanford. The workshop, which introduces First Amendment concepts and has participants work through a challenging case study, was so successful that it will be back on campus in January 2023.



University of Arizona

The Center participated in University of Arizona's inaugural Fearless Inquiries Project event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The panel, which featured speakers from academia, journalism and nonprofit organizations, addressed the question, "How Free is Speech on Campus and Does It Matter?"



University of California, Irvine

University of California, Sacramento

University of California, Santa Barbara

In the News

The Center was a critical resource for prominent media outlets nationwide.

These included (partial list):

AAC&U's Liberal Education
ABA Human Rights Magazine
Diverse: Issues in HIgher Education
FIRE's Newsdesk
Inside Higher Ed
Insight into Diversity
The Chronicle of Higher Education
The Washington Post

Student Journalism and Civic Education

ABA

Faculty Network Interview: Michelle Deutchman, UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

FIRE

'Mining the Depths of Our Differences'

INSIDE HIGHER ED

Read, Watch, Listen

INSIGHT Into Diversity

Mike Pence event reignites a debate over free speech at University of Virginia

The Washington Post

It's Not a Zero-Sum Game

Liberal Education

About the Center

Chair



Michael V. Drake
President,
University of California

Executive Director



Michelle Deutchman
Executive Director

National Advisory Board Co-chairs



Howard Gillman
Chancellor,
UC Irvine



Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean,
UC Berkeley School
of Law

Staff



Brenda Pitcher
Executive
Assistant



Melanie Ziment
Program
Associate

National Advisory Board



Margo Bennett
Chief, University
of California Police
Department, Berkeley



Ashley Chan
Undergraduate Student,
Political Science, UC Davis



Valeria Dominguez
Ph.D. Candidate,
Higher Education
Administration and
Policy, UC Riverside



Hannah-Beth Jackson
Founder and CEO,
Hannah-Beth Jackson
& Associates; Former
California State Senator



Jessica Herrera-Flanigan
Chair, US Center for
SafeSport



Tamara Keith
White House
Correspondent, NPR



John King
President, The Education
Trust; Former U.S.
Secretary of Education



Anne Kornblut
Director, New Initiatives
for News Partnerships,
Facebook



Renee Chapman Navarro
Pharm D, MD - Vice Chancellor
and Chief Diversity and
Outreach Officer, Professor of
Anesthesiology and Perioperative
Care, UC, San Francisco



Geoffrey R. Stone
Professor, University of
Chicago Law School



Nancy Thomas
Director, Institute for
Democracy & Higher
Education, Tufts University



Mark G. Yudof
President Emeritus,
University of California



In Memoriam

We lost a treasured member of the Center community with the passing of National Advisory Board member and 2020-21 Fellow Cerri Banks. Cerri was a passionate advocate for students and worked tirelessly to create campus climates that elevated inclusion, expression and diversity.

Scan code to view remembrance page.

About the Center

Academic Advisory Board

Current

Farrell Ackerman
UC San Diego - Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Human Developmental Sciences Program

Elizabeth Beaumont
UC Santa Cruz - Associate Professor of Politics and Legal Studies

Ashutosh Bhagwat
UC Davis - Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Law and the Boochever and Bird Endowed Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality

Jennifer A. González
UC Santa Cruz - Professor of the History of Art and Visual Culture

Richard L. Hasen
UCLA School of Law - Professor of Law

Andrea Hasenstaub
UC San Francisco - Associate Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

Jeffrey Kopstein
UC Irvine - Professor of Political Science

Susanne Lohmann
UCLA - Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and Director of the Jacob Marschak Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Mathematics in the Behavioral Sciences

Sean Malloy
UC Merced - Professor of History and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)

Michael Mascuch
UC Berkeley - Associate Professor; Chair, Department of Rhetoric

Parya Saberi
UC San Francisco - Associate Professor in Residence

Hendry Ton
UC Davis - Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at UC Davis Health and a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science

France Winddance Twine
UC Santa Barbara - Professor of Sociology and Vice-Chair of Sociology Department; Co-PI for Race, Precarity and Privilege: Migration in a Global Context Mellon Sawyer Seminar (2021-22)

Emeriti

Ahmad Atif Ahmad
UC Santa Barbara - Professor of Religious Studies; Chair of the Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom, and Awards

Amy Binder
UC San Diego - Professor of Sociology

Simone E. Chambers
UC Irvine - Professor of Political Science

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

Dana Nelkin
UC San Diego - Professor of Philosophy

Constance Penley
UC Santa Barbara - Professor of Film & Media Studies

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

Nella Van Dyke
UC Merced - Professor of Sociology

John Villasenor
UCLA - Professor of Electrical Engineering, Law, Public Policy & Management

Eugene Volokh
UCLA - Gary T. Schwartz Distinguished Professor of Law

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

freespeechcenter.universityofcalifornia.edu

Contact us at:
freespeechcenter@uci.edu

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Follow us on Facebook: **@UCFreeSpeechCenter**

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