

Center for Statesmanship, Law, and Liberty

A Look Forward || 2016-2017

Executive Summary

John Adams, in a 1777 letter to his wife Abigail, observed

“I must study politics and war, that our sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy...in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture...”

This statement embodied the vision of our founders: that leaders as representatives of the people would jointly, through vigorous yet constructive discourse and compromise, come to decisions that would advance the security and growth of the Country; and would provide the basis and opportunity for each successive generation to enjoy privileges that the previous generation did not have available. Although partisan divides existed, leaders somehow found common ground to build the government. Although debates raged on the conduct of foreign policy, consensus was arrived at and representatives united behind their leaders.

“A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation.”

—James Freeman Clarke

Today the statesmanship that the founding fathers and great American leaders since have exhibited is in dangerously short supply. Instead of legislating for the long term common good and prosperity, leaders and representatives of the people are too often concerned with adhering to strict ideology, or pleasing their base of supporters for short term political goals. Historically low approval ratings and the dysfunction in Washington seem to validate the perception that Congress is a “broken branch” that is not fulfilling its deliberative and legislative function within the separation of powers. Instead of foreign policy decisions constituting a unified face of America to the outside world, decisions are often made without broad consensus; and conversely, when foreign policy decisions are made leaders are subject to unending partisan criticism and attacks.

In short, we lack leaders who can bridge the seemingly insurmountable partisan divide, listen to both sides, and build a coalition that serves the common good, not merely a special interest. We lack statespersons who possess vision and foresight, who retain the courage of their convictions while

still being able to compromise, and who are able to place the long-term well-being of the nation above short term success.

While many of our universities and schools claim to train future leaders of all kinds, they overlook the crucial contribution of statesmanship as a distinct kind of political leadership that is both constrained and empowered by the rule of law and in service to the common good. As our Founders well understood, our success in cultivating future statesmen and stateswomen depends upon inspiring their vision towards political greatness in speech and deed. Washington, Jefferson,

“The essence of statesmanship is not a rigid adherence to the past, but a prudent and probing concern for the future.”

—Hubert Humphrey

Adams, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy and Reagan transcend history and time because they were not merely politicians, but statesmen.

In an effort to revive the theory and practice of statesmanship for our time, we are pleased to announce the newly created Center for Statesmanship, Law and Liberty at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The Center, housed in the College of Liberal Arts and part of the Political Science Department, was made possible by a generous gift from Kraig Kayser, CEO of Seneca Foods Corporation and former board member of RIT.

Unique to the Center is its focus upon statesmanship at a technical institute within the Rochester area. Recognizing that technology offers its wares to both the wise and the wicked, the Center is uniquely situated to reach the next generation of innovators and to help them confront the complex challenges of evolving technologies and their impact on law, liberty, and security—for example, the use of social media by terrorist groups, cybersecurity, drones, surveillance, intelligence and the enduring effort to balance security and freedom. Moreover, the Center builds upon the rich political history of the Rochester area in highlighting the contribution of local leaders like Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

In sum, the Center aims to educate and cultivate the next generation of responsible citizens and statesmen. It will offer educational programs for secondary students and undergraduates, scholarships for RIT students majoring or minoring in political science, as well as a wide variety of events that will be free and open to the public, culminating each year with a symposium dedicated to contemporary issues related to statesmanship.

As a nation, we may have stumbled, but we have not fallen. We remain cognizant of the principles upon which our nation was founded and how devotion to those principles have enabled us to overcome threats to our democratic way of life. During such times of crisis, vigilant statesmen have risen, recalling the vision of our founders and the promise of liberty.

Today, we need such leaders more than ever. The Center for Statesmanship, Law, and Liberty seeks to preserve the American experiment by cultivating the next generation of men and women who will guide the ship of state wisely and justly through perilous times. . And, it will be people like you, who

support the Center’s vision that will enable us to secure our way of life, our constitutional republic, for our children’s children.

Programs

RIT’s Center for Statesmanship, Law, and Liberty will offer the following programs to explore the relationship between statesmanship, capitalism, and democracy through the study of historical examples in the United States and abroad. Additionally, the Center anticipates exploring the role of private associations in a free society and their role mediating between the state and the individual. Programming will be developed for particular audiences and will expand over time.

CULTIVATING STATESMEN || UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

Being a CSLL Fellow is about becoming a responsible citizen and principled leader for our time. Our fellows learn the art of statesmanship and its relationship to law and liberty through a thorough study of the political, economic, and social problems of the past, present and future.

Beyond attending various conferences and seminars throughout the year, fellows attend a monthly reading group—led by Dr. Joseph Fornieri, the Center’s director and other RIT professors associated with the Center—on topics that will shape the country’s future in the coming decades. In the future, the Center intends to attract other scholars, as well as political and business leaders, to lead seminar discussions relevant to their sphere of influence.

In short, the Center for Statesmanship, Law, and Liberty cultivates future statesmen of New York, the United States, and our world.

GROWTH PLAN

The goal of creating additional programming for RIT undergraduates is to prepare students for a life of public service. In the next five years we propose to incrementally add the following opportunities:

- Support in Applying for Internships, Fellowships, and Graduate School
- Attendance at CSLL’s Public Programs and Private Sessions with Nationally-Recognized Scholars
- Participation in Annual Reading Group

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC || CONFERENCES, LECTURES, AND SEMINARS

Public programs will include timely and relevant conversations about matters that affect the balance between liberty and order. The Center will draw upon a regional audience from upstate New York and the greater Rochester area and, in time, become a nationally recognized Center of Excellence.

GROWTH PLAN

In the early years, the Center will host one colloquium each spring. As the Center grows, plans for public programming include:

- Annual Lecture Series
- Seminars for Local Leaders in Business and Politics
- Conversations on Contemporary Issues

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION || SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

At the close of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked about the nature of the newly formed government—was it a republic or a monarchy? Franklin famously quipped, “A republic, if you can keep it.” One of the most important ways to maintain our constitutional republic is by teaching each new generation about our nation’s history and institutions and their relationship to law and liberty. In this way, as a nation, we maintain hope for our future.

Students studying American history and its institutions at the secondary level are easily engaged through targeted programming which, this year, will include a four-hour course for students planning to take the Advanced Placement exams in American history and government.

GROWTH PLAN

In addition to high school programs, future plans for high school students include hosting

- A seminar with local leaders on “Political Leadership as Salesmanship”
- Summer Scholars Academy

TEACHING THE TEACHERS || PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Today’s teachers find themselves mired in tasks which don’t inherently pertain to the content which must be covered in classrooms throughout New York and the nation. The Center plans to provide teachers with first-rate, content-based professional development opportunities which connect the study of America’s history and institutions with the best primary source documents available.

GROWTH PLAN

Beginning in 2016, the Center will host a four-day Summer Teacher Institute to broaden and deepen teachers’ understanding of statesmanship, law, and liberty. Topics selected for study

*“A constitutional statesman is in general a man of
common opinions and uncommon abilities.”*

—Walter Bagehot

will be connected to local historical figures and relevant to high school social studies classes.

Budget—expand for 3 to 5 years

The Center's baseline budget is initially established as \$50,000 per year over a period of five years (\$250,000 total). This budget may increase over time based on the Center's success at delivering programs and seeking external funding. In order to endow these annual programs, the Center must raise a minimum of \$1 million before the conclusion of the 2017-18 academic year.

<i>2016-17 Expense Budget & Current Expected Revenue</i>	Expense	Expected Revenue	Source
Annual Symposium	\$50,000	\$20,000	[need foundations]
Annual Lecture Series (4/yr)	\$30,000		[need foundations]
Undergraduate Reading Group	\$20,000	\$9,500	Koch Foundation
Stipend for Fellows' Participation in Reading Group	\$6,000		Starr Fdn?
Statesmanship Scholarships	\$35,000		Starr Fdn?
High School History Days (2/yr)	\$20,000	\$20,000	Registration Fee , Emerson, RACF
Summer Teacher Institute	\$50,000	\$20,000	Koch Foundation
Research and Teaching	\$10,000		Searle?
Director	\$18,000		Seed money?
Administrative & Operational Costs	\$6,500		Seed money?
Subtotals	\$ 255,500	\$69,500	

Smaller Budget:

<i>2017-18 Expense Budget & Current Expected Revenue</i>	Expense	Expected Revenue	Source
Annual Colloquium	\$20,000	\$20,000	Corporate Foundations, Family Foundations
Lecture Series	\$10,000		Democracy Fund
Undergraduate Reading Group	\$9,500	\$5,000	Koch Foundation
High School History Days	\$20,000		Registration Fee, RACF, Emerson
Summer Teacher Institute	\$20,000	\$20,000	Koch Foundation
Research and Teaching	\$ 3,500		Starr Foundation
Director	\$ 18,000		
Administrative & Operational Costs	\$ 6,500		

Subtotals	\$107,500	\$45,000	
-----------	-----------	----------	--
