

# INSIDE • ACADEME

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## ACTA Testifies in South Dakota on Free Speech Law

In March, the South Dakota Legislature passed a new law that requires its six public universities to promote intellectual diversity and report on their progress. ACTA provided expert counsel during the process. This summer, at a hearing on the law's impact, the South Dakota Board of Regents requested ACTA's Vice President of Trustee & Government Affairs Armand Alacbay to speak about effective implementation of the new legislation.

At the hearing, Mr. Alacbay advised the South Dakota Legislature and the Board of Regents on the importance of carrying out the law's mandate to build a culture of intellectual diversity that does not subject viewpoints to an ideological litmus test. In his testimony, Mr. Alacbay asserted, "This is about more than compliance with a legislative mandate. It is part of fulfilling your fiduciary duty to the public at large, which relies on our nation's colleges and universities to ensure that

the next generation of civic and business leaders carry on that academic tradition of intellectual humility—the idea that maybe, if posed with the right facts and arguments, they could be convinced that there is a better, truer way of understanding something that they currently believe."



ACTA's VP of Trustee & Government Affairs, Armand Alacbay, provides expert counsel at a South Dakota senate hearing on intellectual diversity at the state's public universities.

Two South Dakota students, Cole Christian and Trevor Gunlicks, presented testimony at the hearing on the challenges to viewpoint diversity that led to the new law. Speaking with ACTA, Mr. Christian, a sophomore at South Dakota State University (SDSU), shared that he has felt uncomfortable speaking up about his conservative perspectives in some of his courses. He explained that students are eager to exchange

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## Register Now for ATHENA Roundtable 2019!

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1-888-ALUMNI-8

ACTA's **2019 ATHENA Roundtable** event will be held on **October 18** at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. Join us for a morning discussion with higher education leaders; a keynote address by ACTA's **Hero of Intellectual Freedom**, Sarah Lawrence College Professor Samuel Abrams; and a gala dinner for the presentation of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual **Philip Merrill Award** to the Honorable José A. Cabranes. For more information or to register for the event, please visit [www.GoACTA.org/events/ATHENA](http://www.GoACTA.org/events/ATHENA).

**Tom Lindsay****Director of the Center for Innovation in Education****Texas Public Policy Foundation**

"The Texas Public Policy Foundation is still buzzing after [Wallace Hall's] remarks. The presentation held everyone in rapt attention—I've never before seen an audience in our auditorium ask for an event to go longer than advertised."

**Professor****University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley**

"Thank you so much for your letter. I . . . cannot express strongly enough how much I support your work and how important it is. In the future, please let me know how I can ever help you and your organization out. I believe Wallace Hall is a real hero, a real, 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,' and is a real inspiration for the rest of us."

*Editor's Note: In June, at a luncheon hosted by ACTA and the Texas Public Policy Foundation, former UT System Regent Wallace Hall spoke about the challenges he faced as a trustee in demanding transparency in admissions.*

**ACTA Testifies in South Dakota, continued from 1**

different viewpoints and urged the administration and faculty to encourage these discussions, saying, "The purpose of higher education should be to allow students to learn the truth and to explore, and we drifted away from that."

Mr. Gunlicks, who graduated from SDSU in the spring and was involved in getting the bill to the House floor, told ACTA that although South Dakota is a conservative-leaning state, the environment for free speech on campus has changed tremendously over the last four years, mirroring the practices of more liberal institutions on the East and West coasts. One particular incident earlier this spring at the University of South Dakota Law School convinced many lawmakers to support the free speech bill. A student group was asked to change the theme of a "Hawaiian Day" event after the law school's administration ruled that

the Hawaiian theme violated its policy on inclusiveness.

The overreach of the campus's diversity office and administrators is particularly troublesome to students. To encourage students to contribute freely in

**"This is about more than compliance with a legislative mandate. It is part of fulfilling your fiduciary duty to the public at large, which relies on our nation's colleges and universities to ensure that the next generation of civic and business leaders carry on that academic tradition of intellectual humility—the idea that maybe, if posed with the right facts and arguments, they could be convinced that there is a better, truer way of understanding something that they currently believe."**

—Armand Alacbay, South Dakota Senate Testimony

the classroom and offer their opinions without fear of ostracism or censorship, Mr. Gunlicks advocates a balanced approach: "We don't need to counteract every left speaker with a speaker from the right. I do not care if administrators are liberal or conservative, I care if they are fair. Students need to be exposed to

diversity, but in order to de-politicize higher education, diversity offices should not promote political bias."

"ACTA is honored to have played a part in the passage of this new law and to support South Dakota's higher education system and its lawmakers as they seek to enrich intellectual diversity and improve the campus climate for free speech," said ACTA President Michael Poliakoff.

More institutions and lawmakers should follow South Dakota's lead by taking seriously the

responsibility to ensure that colleges and universities honor the First Amendment and allow the expression of all views from across the political spectrum. This type of vibrant and open exchange of ideas is essential to the academic enrichment, exploration, and growth that all students should experience in college. ☐

**Private University Trustee****Undisclosed Institution**

"Thank you and ACTA for all you do to support the work of America's colleges and universities, and to improve academic governance and performance. I'm in receipt of your letter of June 7, 2019. Some small thing caught my eye, and I couldn't resist highlighting its relevance. You state, 'Whether you serve on the board of a state flagship university or of a private liberal arts college, the challenge is the same . . .' I serve on the board of one of America's largest private universities with a substantial reputation for the depth and breadth of its STEM programs. We share many of the challenges of large state-run universities; and yet, like many smaller private liberal arts colleges, we rely heavily on private funding and tuition. Thus, we are emblematic of your premise that diverse academic institutions share many of our most daunting challenges. I thank ACTA for its insight, and for illustrating that our challenges are shared by a variety of our most esteemed colleagues. We thank you for your efforts, and we look forward to working with you in improving the state of America's higher education."

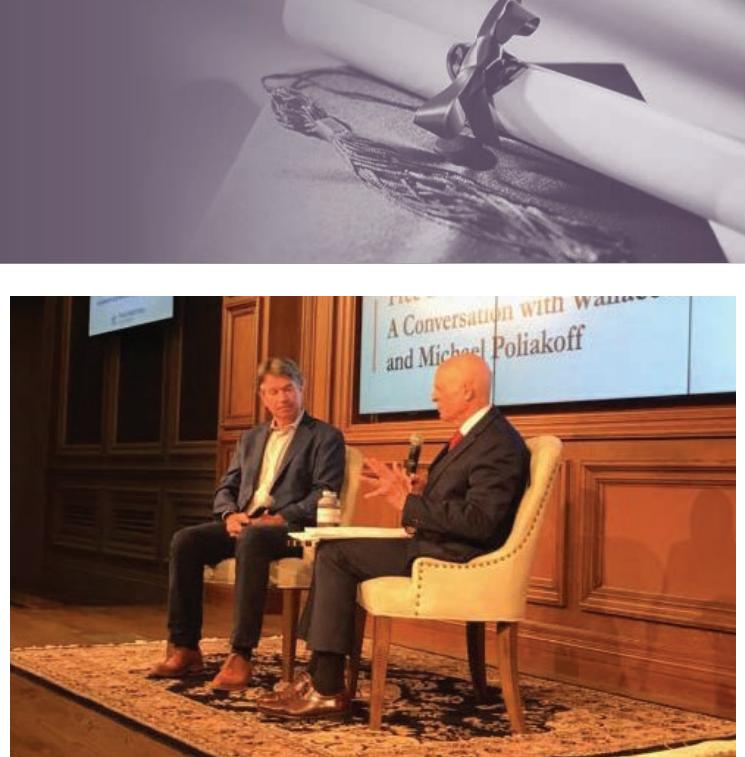
# Effective TRUSTEESHIP

## Wallace Hall to Receive Martin Prize

On June 12, ACTA, along with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, hosted an engaging discussion in Austin, TX, featuring former regent of the University of Texas System (UT), Wallace Hall. Mr. Hall spoke to a filled-to-capacity auditorium about his experience sounding the alarm that there was corruption in UT's admissions in 2011. After requesting the opportunity to investigate application documents, Mr. Hall faced accusations from his institution that he was overstepping his role as a trustee. The Texas Legislature attempted unsuccessfully to remove him.

In 2015, Mr. Hall's efforts to bring corruption to light were validated when an official investigation found widespread problems with the admissions system. In the wake of the most recent college admissions scandal—affecting institutions from Yale University to Stanford University—the University of Texas–Austin Student Government took the occasion to apologize for the previous treatment of Mr. Hall. In a statement issued in April, they noted that he was “one of the few University administrators genuinely acting on behalf of students and fairness in admissions.”

For his leadership in refusing to abdicate his duty of stewardship, even in the face of controversy, ACTA will award Mr. Hall with the **Jerry L. Martin Prize for Excellence in College Trusteeship** as part of ACTA's annual ATHENA Roundtable conference. The Martin Prize was established in 2015 to recognize trustees who take individual responsibility to oppose the groupthink and political correctness that threaten the integrity of higher education. We are honored to present Mr. Hall with the Martin Prize, and we encourage all trustees to look to his courage for inspiration as they face complex challenges at their institutions. ◉



Wallace Hall and Michael Poliakoff discuss the challenges of trusteeship at an event hosted by ACTA and the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

## ACTA's FAR Advises Penn State Hillel on Gift Agreement

This spring, Penn State Hillel released the official name for its new building—the Nancy and Bernard Guttermann Center for Jewish Life. In 2021, Penn State Hillel will move from their current location to this new multi-use facility, expanding their footprint from 1,400 to 15,300 square feet.

When finalizing this gift, Stefanie Tapper, director of development for Penn State Hillel, reached out to the Fund for Academic Renewal (FAR) for help with a model gift agreement. FAR spoke with Ms. Tapper about the transformative gift from the Guttermann family, and her advice for other organizations stewarding major gifts.

### ***Q: How did this remarkable gift evolve?***

The Guttermans had committed a million-dollar gift to a different iteration of our capital campaign. When this idea of a multi-use space emerged, we spoke with the Guttermans again and told them the project had changed and that we would love to talk with them about changing their impact, and they said yes.

The Guttermans are committed to the Jewish community and to Penn State. This new, multi-use space was a great way to marry those interests. They were very generous in upgrading their gift, and now it is the largest single gift in our organization's history.

### ***Q: What advice would you share with other organizations that are working with donors at this level?***

I would say to call FAR and to cover all your bases. I think it's important to be thorough. If your donors are at the point where they are trusting you enough to say yes to a gift, they are trusting you to steward the entire process well. You want to be sure that everything is clear both in writing and in your conversations, and that your donors feel like they have a voice. It's all about intent.

To read the full Q&A with Ms. Tapper, please visit FAR's website, [AcademicRenewal.org](http://AcademicRenewal.org). ◉



# C H E A R D C A M P U S

## Academics Lose Again at LSU

In July, Louisiana State University (LSU) unveiled a new \$28 million Football Operations Building, which includes a training center, player's lounge, weight room, and even purple and gold recliners in the new locker room. The University is not new to the amenities spending race, having shelled out \$85 million in 2017 on a recreation center that includes the notorious lazy river in the shape of the LSU initials. The costs for the recreation center were covered by student fees, a separate add on to tuition.

Following upon a national outcry in response to the lazy river, as well as an ongoing funding cut from the Louisiana Legislature, the decision to build an exorbitant new athletics center seems woefully out-of-touch. According to ACTA's college spending tracker HowCollegesSpendMoney.com, from 2009 to 2016, LSU decreased its spending on instruction, which includes teaching costs and academic support expenditures, such as deans and libraries. Indeed, the University's rundown library is considered a flood risk. ACTA urges LSU's president and board of trustees to prioritize teaching and learning in the budget, so that all students, including athletes, can have the best quality instruction at an affordable price.

## Alaska Education Budget Threatened

The University of Alaska System is facing a 41% reduction in state funding as part of an over \$400 million state budget cut. The University System has warned Alaska lawmakers that the massive cut could result in the loss of over 1,300 jobs, reduction of academic programs, and population drain. The proposed measure would also reduce the funds available for merit-based scholarships and education grants.

Lack of funding for financial aid could spur students to go out-of-state or forgo higher education altogether, thereby draining essential workers from Alaska's economy. The higher education system has paid dividends for the state of Alaska, contributing \$714 million (directly) and \$402 million (indirectly) to the statewide economy in 2012 alone.

The initiative to consolidate and streamline the University System with a single accreditation is wholesome. But ACTA urges Alaska's lawmakers to reduce the size of the cut and lessen its impact on students' futures.

## Oberlin Ordered to Own Up

Oberlin College has been ordered by an Ohio jury to pay \$44.4 million in punitive and compensatory damages to Gibson's bakery, a local business serving the campus, after the bakery's owners sued the institution for libel. In November 2016, protests erupted against the business after several black students accused the owners of mistreating them based on race, but later admitted that they had shoplifted from the bakery.

Oberlin officials endorsed the protests, helping to distribute flyers condemning the bakery as racist. And Gibson's lawsuit even claimed that Oberlin tour guides told new students that the business was racist. The drawn-out protests and resulting boycott cut the business's earnings from \$900,000 in 2016 to a projected \$433,000 in 2019.

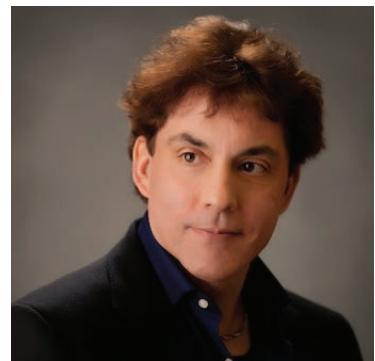
An attorney for Oberlin told the jury that the College will be amending its admissions and education programs to include guidelines on how to be respectful toward local businesses. In today's "call-out" culture, college leadership must be careful to remain neutral and gather all the facts before addressing campus controversies. ●

## Matching Gift Campaign Raises More than \$30,000

ACTA friends responded with tremendous enthusiasm to a matching gift campaign lasting from May 15 through June 30. ACTA board member David Bruce Smith generously offered to donate \$10,000 if ACTA supporters could match his offer through their contributions. Not only did we match Mr. Smith's offer, we raised \$21,225 from 33 donors across the country. Combined with Mr. Smith's \$10,000 gift, the campaign brought in a total of \$31,225. These funds will support regional seminars for college trustees and administrators on the vital importance of American history and civic literacy in the college curriculum.

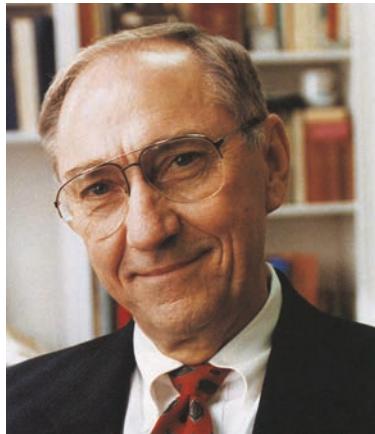
"We are thrilled by the results of the campaign," said ACTA President Michael Poliakoff.

"David's matching gift offer was a wonderful opportunity to raise significant funds for our efforts to strengthen the teaching



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# FEATURED DONOR: Dr. Harold Eickhoff



ACTA is honored to have so many supporters who are dedicated to our mission of safeguarding our institutions in their search for the truth, promoting the free exchange of ideas on campus, supporting liberal arts education, and ensuring that our nation's young people receive an intellectually rich, high-quality college education at an affordable price. Without their help, we would not be able to advance this crucial mission on campuses across the country.

ACTA supporter and friend Dr. Harold Eickhoff is a long-time advocate of academic excellence in higher education. As president of The College of New Jersey from 1979 to 1998, he, together with a remarkable board of trustees and a tal-

ented staff, were instrumental in elevating the College to recognition as one of the best public undergraduate institutions in America. He oversaw the College's name change from Trenton State College to The College of New Jersey better to reflect the institution's service to the entirety of the state. Along with the board of trustees, Dr. Eickhoff worked to reverse New Jersey's second "highest-in-the nation" out-migration of its best high school graduates with a promise of a rigorous undergraduate education at an affordable cost.

Like ACTA, Dr. Eickhoff emphasizes that a comprehensive education includes both academic training and preparation to live a meaningful and fulfilled life. In a story in the student newspaper in November 2018, Dr. Eickhoff commented, "We saw the student as the center of our work, so we designed the campus knowing that students learn as much outside the classroom as they do inside. We lived by the following: 'The essence of a great college is well-prepared students, eager to learn, and teachers, well-prepared and eager to teach. That's when great stuff happens.'"

"Both ACTA as well as students across New Jersey, and beyond, have benefited from his principled leadership," said ACTA's President, Michael Poliakoff. "We

are incredibly thankful for his long-time support."

## Why he supports ACTA

In an interview with ACTA's Mike Deshaies, Dr. Eickhoff explained how he learned about ACTA and why he supports it "... as the most credible, constructive influence on liberal learning in American higher education."

**Dr. Eickhoff:** ACTA came into my professional life quite by accident. At its birth, in 1995, I was in my 15<sup>th</sup> year as a college president and was probably included *ex officio* on a general emailing. I remember seeing a familiar name, Jerry Martin, and wondered if he was the same person who served as a senior staff member at the American Council on Education during the early 1980s when I was a member and officer on ACE's board of directors. I soon found that there were at least two Jerry Martins. By then, I had become a kindred spirit with ACTA and its purpose. Having "trustee" in its title was especially attractive.

ACTA is a resolute, saucy, credible presence that keeps me connected to why higher education became my calling. More than a half century ago, I was enrolled in Lewis Atherton's graduate

(continued on 7)

## Matching Gift, continued from 4

of American history at our nation's colleges and universities."

David Bruce Smith joined ACTA's board of directors in 2018. He is the founder of the Grateful American™ Foundation, an organization committed to reinvigorating interest in American history. The Foundation awards an annual Grateful American™ Book Prize which honors "excellence in writing, storytelling, and illustration of children's historical nonfiction and fiction, focused on the events and personalities that have shaped the U.S. since the country's founding."

ACTA thanks Mr. Smith for his thoughtful and fruitful matching gift, as well as the 33 donors who made his offer a reality. ☀



Joel Pett Editorial Cartoon is used with the permission of Joel Pett and the Cartoonist Group. All Rights Reserved.

ACTA recently launched **Heroes of Intellectual Freedom**, an initiative to recognize university leaders and faculty who speak up to protect the free exchange of ideas and thereby challenge others to do the same. Too often, college campuses have become echo chambers where only ideas that adhere to campus orthodoxies are welcomed, while those who hold ideas contrary to the status quo are subject to censorship. The individuals ACTA recognizes through this new initiative push back against this destructive trend and make their campuses more vibrant and intellectually open environments that facilitate a rigorous and diverse liberal arts education.

The inaugural Heroes of Intellectual Freedom include **Samuel Abrams**, a professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College, who regularly invigorates higher education discourse with heterodox views and has challenged the lack of political diversity among university administrators; **Luana Maroja**,

an associate professor of biology who has worked to endorse the Chicago Principles at Williams College and has energized the campus as a vocal advocate of academic freedom; **Melvin Oliver**, who, as president of Pitzer College, vetoed a dangerous proposal to end Pitzer's study abroad program in Israel; **Martha Pollack**, president of Cornell University who has invited to campus a range of speakers from across the intellectual spectrum and encourages faculty to speak out about their views; and Brown University President **Christina Paxson**, who wrote a powerful statement in favor of academic freedom when students urged the University to divest from companies that operate in Israel.

These leaders are essential to preserving a culture of free expression on campus that celebrates, rather than discourages, intellectual diversity and motivates students to examine views from across the political spectrum. ●

## ACTA's Summer Interns

This summer, 11 new interns joined ACTA in the campaign to raise academic standards at America's colleges and universities. Each intern had the opportunity to work on ACTA's *What Will They Learn?* report, high school counselor database, and blog. The interns also enjoyed historical DC sites and discussions with higher education leaders including Jon Parrish Peede, the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and April Lawson, the Director of Debates for the Better Angels project.

**Adam Horey** is pursuing a dual-degree in history and political science at Elmira College. He plans to attend graduate school for public administration. **Ariana Roberts**, a Washington, DC, native, is majoring in mathematics at Georgetown University. She is interested in pursuing her master's degree.

**Danilo Gjukovikj**, originally from Macedonia, is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado–Boulder with a dual-degree in international affairs and political science. He plans to attend law school.

Two interns hail from Ashland University. **Erin Groves** is majoring in criminal

justice. She is interested in law school and criminal defense. **Joseph Schoffstall** is studying history and political science and plans to attend graduate school.

**Jayda Rogers** is majoring in public affairs at The Ohio State University, and **Melissa Haley** is studying political science at Lee University. They both hope to attend law school.

**Meixi Sun** is double majoring in information systems and operations management and accounting at George Mason University. She is interested in data or business analytics. **Nathan Hotes** is pursuing a dual-degree in American Studies and political science at Christopher Newport University. He plans to attend law school.

**Thomas Johnston** is majoring in religion at Lenoir-Rhyne University. He is interested in seminary study and public policy.



Interns Jayda Rogers, Shannon McWaters, Joseph Schoffstall, Danilo Gjukovikj, Thomas Johnston, Meixi Sun, Adam Horey, Ariana Roberts, Melissa Haley, and Erin Groves, with *What Will They Learn?* Program Manager Nathaniel Urban, at Frederick Douglass home in Washington, DC.

**Shannon McWaters** is majoring in information communication technology at Florida State University. She is interested in educational programming and website design.

The hard work of our interns helps to advance ACTA's important work to protect academic excellence. Ms. McWaters spoke of her experience: “Working at ACTA has been an extremely rewarding experience that has helped me to not only develop professionally, but grow personally from the time spent with the dedicated staff at this amazing organization.” ●

# Meet ACTA's New Director of Academic Affairs

**A**CTA welcomes Dr. Jonathan Pidluzny, who joined us in May as our Director of Academic Affairs. Dr. Pidluzny received his Ph.D. in political science at Boston College, as well as B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Alberta. Before coming to ACTA, he was associate professor of political science and the political science program coordinator at Morehead State University. During his time there, he received several awards for teaching excellence, and also served as the elected faculty regent on the institution's governing board, where he advocated for shared governance and for prioritizing spending on student instruction.

Dr. Pidluzny's academic research focuses on the social and civic prerequisites of liberal democracy, and he is widely published on topics including Alexis de Tocqueville, the American Founding, and the failure of the Arab Spring. His passion for equipping students with a strong grounding in the liberal arts makes him a perfect fit for leading ACTA's programs in academic excellence and preparing students for citizenship. Speaking about the importance of a strong liberal arts education, Dr. Pidluzny shared, "Students should graduate with the disciplinary specialty that the market demands, but they should also be expert learners, effective communicators, and critical thinkers; universities must foster responsible citizenship and encourage students to become engaged members of their overlapping communities; and students should be exposed to the kinds of courses that will give them a taste for lifelong learning and the intellectual pursuits that will enrich their lives."

Dr. Pidluzny has already begun to lead ACTA's initiatives in academic excellence on exciting new paths, and we look forward to a long collaboration in the future. ◉



## Featured Donor, *continued from 5*

seminar "Teaching History in College" at the University of Missouri–Columbia. "Never forget," he said, "that the search for truth is our north star. It is our guide as we discover, impart, and preserve knowledge."

ACTA supports the idea that greater involvement of trustees is an effective way to keep an institution on task, legally and morally. Effective trustees keep one foot inside the institution, the other outside, and are equipped to speak knowledgeably to both sides regarding the college's mission of service to the public good. ACTA's grounding in the enduring values of liberal education makes it an ideal, essential source to support trustees as leaders in the overdue overhaul of America's failing system of higher education.

Finally, I close with the personal. I'm a few months beyond my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, a widower since 2014. Our country is torn not about matters of substance but about who holds the reins of power. Still, I remain hopeful that goodness and decency will prevail and here's why: If you asked me to conduct a 90-minute seminar on the prospects of liberal learning's viability, I would build it around handouts of:

1. ACTA's webpage
2. Clark Kerr's observation about the durability of colleges and universities: "About 85 institutions in the Western world established by 1520 still exist in recognizable forms, with similar functions and with unbroken histories, including the Catholic Church, the Parliaments of the Isle of Man, of Iceland, and of

Great Britain, several Swiss cantons, the Bank of Siena, and 70 universities. Kings that rule, feudal lords with vassals, and guilds with monopolies are all gone. These 70 universities, however, are still in the same locations with some of the same buildings, with professors and students doing much the same things, and with governance carried on much the same ways."

3. James Madison's well-worn quote: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

4. A proverb credited to Benjamin Franklin: "It is hard for an empty (burlap) sack to stand upright."

5. Plato's Allegory of the Cave

6. John Dickinson (Penman of the American Revolution): "Let experience be our guide; reason may mislead us."

**Editor's Note:** After retiring from the presidency at The College of New Jersey, Dr. Eickhoff's dedication to higher education did not wane; he became the Chief Operating Officer to help develop a new women's university in the United Arab Emirates.

Harold Eickhoff received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from the University of Kansas City, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Missouri–Columbia. He resides in Pennington, New Jersey, and is working on his memoir, which will be published in early 2020. ◉



# ACTA

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

## INSIDE ACADEME

1730 M Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Addressing College Drinking and Drug Use



A Primer for Trustees, Administrators, and Alumni

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI  
and UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



### ACTA Hosts Conference for Trustees and Administrators on the Challenges of Substance Use on Campus

On November 18, 2019, ACTA and the Mary Christie Foundation, with the support of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, will hold a conference on developing substance use prevention strategies for college presidents, trustees, and leaders, entitled **Everything to Gain: How Higher Education Leadership Can Confront Campus Substance Use and Enable Student Success**. The one-day symposium, held at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in Boston, MA, is an essential event for any college or university that has wrestled with the challenge of confronting the use and misuse of alcohol and other substances on campus.

The conference follows the release of ACTA's latest guide for trustees and administrators, **Addressing College Drinking and Drug Use**, written in partnership with Professor Amelia Arria of the University of Maryland School of Public Health, and will feature two panels: The first will explore the current challenges that face campuses today, and the second will highlight comprehensive solutions to these challenges that align campus policies with the latest science on student substance use.

The conference will include a host of distinguished panelists and speakers, including college presidents and medical experts. Register for this event today at [GoACTA.org/events/Boston](http://GoACTA.org/events/Boston) or call (202) 467-6787.



# WHAT HAPPENS AT COLLEGE **DOESN'T STAY** AT COLLEGE | The Current Campus and Its Impact on Society

## JOIN US FOR ATHENA ROUNDTABLE 2019

**Friday, October 18 | Washington, DC**

### ATHENA Roundtable Conference

#### ■ **How Colleges Spend Money and Why It Matters**

Tuition is rising eight times faster than wage increases. Student debt has surpassed credit card and auto debt. And the U.S. economy is already feeling the effects of the tremendous cost of college and the student loan burden. Qualified students are passing on college because it is too expensive, and immense student debt is forcing young adults to delay financial decisions such as starting a family or buying a home. The crushing cost of college has rightfully become a central issue in the American conversation. Our panel of higher education leaders and policymakers will cut to the core of the college costs debate with inside knowledge of college finances, identifying wasteful spending as well as possibilities for reform.

**MODERATOR:** **Rick Seltzer**, reporter, *Inside Higher Ed*. **PANELISTS:** **Eugene Hickok**, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education; **Mark Yudof**, President Emeritus, University of California; **Heidi Ganahl**, regent, University of Colorado; **Chap Petersen**, State Senator, Virginia, 34<sup>th</sup> District; and **Armand Alacbay**, Vice President of Trustee & Government Affairs, ACTA.

#### ■ **ROI: Liberal Arts and Success**

When colleges put liberal arts programming on the chopping block as an unaffordable luxury, they typically cite career readiness as their priority. But what validity is there in the perceived trade-off between providing students with foundational knowledge and preparing them for the workforce? Our panel will take on the popular narrative that the liberal arts have outlived their usefulness. As the unpredictability of the labor market increases and young people switch jobs and careers far more frequently than their predecessors, students with a narrowly focused, pre-professional education find that the economy is leaving them behind. Employers attest that graduates with the timeless skills that the liberal arts instill are at a premium. Our nation, moreover, needs graduates prepared to be engaged, informed citizens—the lifeblood of a free society.

**MODERATOR:** **Kathleen Parker**, columnist, *Washington Post*. **PANELISTS:** **Louise Mirrer**, President and CEO, New-York Historical Society; **Pano Kanelos**, President, St. John's College-Annapolis; **John Altman**, entrepreneur and educator; **Jon Parrish Peede**, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities; and **Ali Eskandarian**, Executive Director, Fund for Academic Renewal, ACTA.

**Keynote Address:** Lunch will be served after the morning panels and will feature remarks by **Samuel Abrams**, one of ACTA's **Heroes of Intellectual Freedom**, for his courage in taking a principled stand for academic freedom while serving as Professor of Politics at Sarah Lawrence College.

**■ Colloquy:** **Mark Yudof**, Chair of the Academic Engagement Network, President Emeritus of the University of California, and former Chancellor of the University of Texas System, will lead a discussion on the threat that the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement poses to academic freedom.



# ATHENA ROUNDTABLE 2019

WHAT HAPPENS AT COLLEGE **DOESN'T STAY** AT COLLEGE | The Current Campus and Its Impact on Society

## Merrill Award Gala Dinner

The ATHENA Roundtable culminates with the presentation of the **Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education**. This year, we honor the extraordinary accomplishments of the **Honorable José A. Cabranes**. As a highly-respected jurist and a former trustee of Yale, Columbia, and Colgate universities, Judge Cabranes has never failed to take a principled stand for liberty: advancing academic freedom, challenging restrictive speech codes and bias intervention training, and defending the academic tenure and due process rights of professors. A United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit since 1994, his commitment to upholding the law, protecting civil rights, and promoting access to an excellent education has made a profound and far-reaching impact on America's colleges and universities and, indeed, our society.



Please send this completed form in the enclosed envelope with your registration fee by September 26. Or register online at [www.GoACTA.org](http://www.GoACTA.org). For more information, contact ACTA at 1-888-ALUMNI-8.

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (must provide email to use credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

### I (WE) WILL ATTEND:

#### ATHENA ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE (\$150.00/person)

October 18, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building, The Rotunda, North Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Lunch will be served after the second panel discussion and feature a keynote address by Samuel Abrams, a Hero of Intellectual Freedom. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

#### MERRILL AWARD GALA DINNER (\$200.00/person)

October 18, 6:30 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building, The Pavilion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

#### BOTH CONFERENCE & GALA DINNER (\$300.00/person)

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### ENCLOSED IS MY REGISTRATION FEE:

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "ACTA."

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card.

Credit card (check one):

Visa     Mastercard     American Express

Name as it appears on Credit Card:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration Date:

Cardholder's Signature:

I cannot attend but am pleased to enclose a donation to support ACTA's work: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** A special rate of \$269/night for conference attendees is available at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, DC 20005. Call (800) 393-2510 and request the "ACTA Room Block." All reservations must be made by **September 26**.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Shuttle service to and from the conference and the dinner will be provided at the hotel. Parking is available at the Ronald Reagan Building.

**SPONSORSHIPS:** The annual ATHENA Roundtable provides an opportunity for ACTA's patrons to sponsor the event. Contributors may purchase tables at the Merrill Award dinner and receive special recognition. Please contact **David Doerr** at [ddoerr@GoACTA.org](mailto:ddoerr@GoACTA.org) to discuss the available options. We are grateful for your support.

**PLEASE REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 26.**