Forward Together: President's March 2021 Message

Speaking Freely: Wichita State events promote free expression

Wichita State University is where debate, differing ideas and difficult conversations are encouraged and deserve consideration and protection. We take seriously our obligation to seek out a variety of ideas in our efforts to flourish as an institution.

It's our duty and part of Wichita State's value system to teach our students the lessons of responsibility that accompany the right of free expression. When we welcome a diverse set of opinions, experiences and ideas, we grow as global citizens and increase our understanding of the world.

Dr. Richard Muma, interim president

At the end of this month, Wichita State will be hosting the Speaking Freely panel to further promote free expression. This discussion will highlight and rejuvenate [Wichita State's commitment](#) to promoting and nurturing thoughtful expression of diverse ideas across our campus.

Speaking Freely on Freedom of Expression will kick off at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 31. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Lee Pelton, President of Emerson College and a Wichita State alum.

The panelists will be Christine Hughes, retired vice president and general counsel of Emerson College; Tyson C. Langhofer, senior counsel and director of the Center for Academic Freedom with Alliance Defending Freedom and Wichita State alum; and Dr. Neal Allen, associate professor and chairman of political science at Wichita State.

Speaking Freely will be virtual, and panelists will discuss free speech in higher education, academic freedom, the personal responsibilities that accompany free speech, and ways universities can embrace free speech values.

I encourage all of the Wichita State community to take part in the March 31 event. Your voice matters, and it's an important part of what makes Shocker Nation great. For more information on how to access this virtual event go here.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Muma

Interim president of Wichita State University