

Celebrating Constitution Day

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fall 2005

Most Americans know that July 4th is our nation's birthday. Far fewer Americans know that September 17th is the birthday of our government, the date in 1787 on which delegates to the Philadelphia Convention completed and signed the U.S. Constitution.

The ideas on which America was founded--commitments to the rule of law, limited government and the ideals of liberty, equality and justice--are embodied in the Constitution, the oldest written constitution of any nation on Earth. Constitution Day is intended to celebrate not only the birthday of our government, but the ideas that make us Americans.

Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia accomplished a long-standing goal, passing a law designating September 17th as Constitution Day. Schools and federal agencies are required to hold educational programs on the Constitution on Constitution Day.

CSUCI Celebrates Constitution Day

Student Essay Contest: The California State University Channel Islands campus community will celebrate Constitution Day on Monday, September 19, with a series of events commemorating the signing of the United States Constitution. Students will be invited to write 600-800 word pro or con essays on the question: "Should the United States adopt an anti-flag burning amendment to the Constitution?," with a requirement to read the Supreme Court case, *Texas v. Johnson*, as background. (See attached link for reference: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/flagburning.htm>). Students must submit their entries to the Office of Student Leadership and Community, Bell Tower 1858 by noon, Friday, September 16. Winners will be announced on Monday, September 19. Applications are available in the Office of Student Leadership and Community. The winning pro and con essays will be submitted to the Ventura County Star. CSUCI The Student Government Senate will award \$300 to the first place winner, \$150 to the second place winner, and \$75 to the third place winner.

Judging will occur after the noon, Friday, September 16, deadline.

Video on the Supreme Court: To provide the campus community with a greater understanding of constitutional legal issues and the operations of the high court, Dr. Philip McGough, associate vice president for Faculty Affairs, will present a video on "The Supreme Court of the United States" during the University 100 class, "University Life and College Success," on Monday, September 19 from 4 – 4:50 p.m. in the Science Building Auditorium.

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Learn more about the Constitution: The National Constitution Center, with a rich and devoted group of partners, is committed to creating a meaningful Constitution Day. This Web site offers educational materials and programming tools for use on Constitution Day. Our hope is that a deeper appreciation and understanding of our nation's founding document will spread through families, organizations and communities. Here are a number of Web sites of interest:

The United States Constitution

www.constitution.org/constit_.htm

Ways to Celebrate Constitution Day

www.naspa.org/policy/constitutionday.cfm

What Is Constitution Day?

www.constitutionday.us

Civic Education: The Concept of Justice

www.justicelearning.org

Fascinating Facts on the U.S. Constitution

http://www.constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.constitutioncenter.org/education/ForEducators/FederalEmployeesToolkit/

Key Dates and Events in Constitutional History

http://www.constitutionday.us/link_frameset.asp?url=http://www.constitutioncenter.org/timeline/

Constitutional Conflicts: Flag-burning to Be Debated by CSUCI Students

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/flagburning.htm>

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CSU Channel Islands is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

CSUCI Mission Statement

Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.

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