

# McGovern Center Living the Legacy

WINTER  
2024-25

## A Remarkable Fall

VOTER EDUCATION AND  
CONVERSATIONS MARK FALL

### DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE MCGOVERN CENTER:

What a remarkable fall this has been! Your ongoing support for the McGovern Center is more than appreciated. It allows us to assemble a remarkable slate of activities, always keeping in mind the vision of Sen. George McGovern.

We ask that you consider a donation to the McGovern Center to allow us to provide the kinds of

experiences you will read about in this newsletter and to honor Sen. McGovern's lifelong legacy. Please visit [give.dwu.edu](http://give.dwu.edu). Your gift can help us ensure that our work will continue.

## On the Road

BRAVER  
ANGELS MODEL  
DEBUTED AT  
USD

In February, the dean of the Knudson School of Law at the University of South Dakota initiated a collaboration to introduce his law students to the style of debate we call "Courageous Conversations."

The chosen topic for debate was the age of marriageability in South Dakota, currently set at 18, but potentially adjustable to 16 with the consent of only one parent. Half of the class advocated for retaining the current legal arrangement, while the other half argued against the provision permitting 16-year-olds to marry with parental consent.



**JOEL ALLEN, Ph.D.** *Director of the McGovern Center*

## MEG Steps Up

VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DRIVE LAUDED

The McGovern Engagement Group (MEG) chose to take on the task of getting as many DWU students registered to vote as possible.

Our club designed and printed posters to put up around campus. The McGovern Center chipped in a small gift certificate to the Tiger Café to all who registered for the first time. We registered 28 new voters.

South Dakota Secretary of State Monae Johnson learned about DWU's efforts and awarded the club with the first-ever Gladys Pyle Award.



*MEG members were presented with the Gladys Pyle Award by South Dakota Secretary of State Monae Johnson for their achievements in registering students to vote.*

## McGOVERN CENTER IN THE NEWS: SOUTH DAKOTA VOTES

One of the more remarkable events at DWU this year was our cooperative efforts in voter preparation. We were contacted by representatives of South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) this summer with an idea. They wanted to come to campus and live broadcast an informative two-hour special to assist South Dakotans with ballot information for the upcoming general election. We had an extraordinarily complicated ballot this year with seven complex constitutional amendments or initiated measures. SDPB invited representatives from both the affirmative and negative sides to all these issues and asked DWU to organize students to assist in question preparation and presentation. Joel Allen and Julie Brookbank, DWU's associate director of communication, coached and helped students come up with a list of questions to ask the representatives regarding these ballot measures. Overall, the event was a success and was attended and streamed by many online.

Your gifts will help us continue to bring news from the McGovern Center to more students and our community.



1200 W. University Ave. • Mitchell, SD 57301 • 605-995-2937 • [mcgoverncenter@dwu.edu](mailto:mcgoverncenter@dwu.edu) • [www.dwu.edu](http://www.dwu.edu) • [www.mcgoverncenter.com](http://www.mcgoverncenter.com)

DWU is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



# Outreach and Celebrations

## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE

We recently ventured into the potentially dangerous territory of initiating Courageous Conversations on the question: *"Is America a Christian Nation?"*

We hosted one event on the DWU campus and a second debate in Sioux Falls at Asbury United Methodist Church with the assistance of both pastors. The event on Mitchell's campus drew around 30 people, and the conversation in Sioux Falls had about 80. Both conversations were vigorous with many people participating.

In spring 2025, our theme will be *"Immigration and Deportation."* We're

planning three events at DWU and will also return to Sioux Falls for another conversation.



Joel Allen moderates the Courageous Conversation discussion at the Asbury United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls.

## INDIGENOUS AMERICANS CELEBRATED

In cooperation with the DWU Diversity Council, the McGovern Center helped fund Lakota dancers on the day after Indigenous Americans Day. The weather was lovely, and the dancers were very entertaining.



Lakota dancers perform in celebration of Indigenous Americans Day in October.

## CHURCH AND SOCIETY WEBINAR

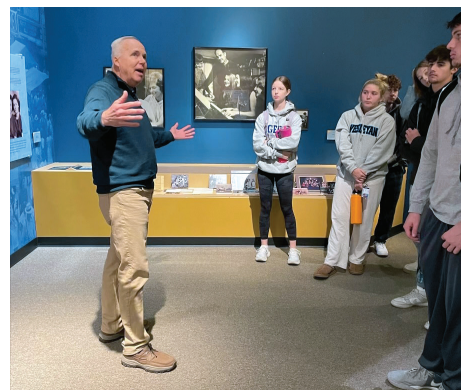
To help with peace and a better world, churches should do the work of nurturing a civil society with greater intention. Churches often find themselves in the middle of fractious culture wars. At DWU, we have developed an online seminar which was presented to a group of pastors to start this discussion.

## McGOVERN MUSEUM TOURS SHOW LEGACY TO A NEW GENERATION

Unfortunately, many DWU students know almost nothing about Sen. George McGovern, one of our most famous Dakota Wesleyan alums. In response, we inquired about the possibility of doing tours of the McGovern Legacy Museum with our freshman class.

We provided 10 tours of the legacy museum with 10 students in each group. Our DWU students were eager to learn about this great man and all he accomplished.

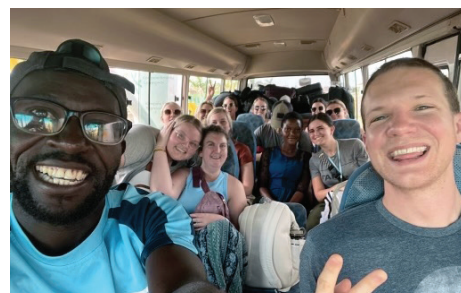
To see more, go to the Facebook group page at [www.facebook.com/McGovernCenter](https://www.facebook.com/McGovernCenter). This page is a great place to keep up with the McGovern Center on a daily basis. We will post updates frequently, so stop by and say "hello" online.



Lead by Joel Allen, DWU freshman UNI101 students tour the McGovern Legacy Museum.

## DWU IS UGANDA-BOUND ONCE AGAIN

Join DWU President Dan Kittle, his spouse, Ashley, and their son, Grant, for an unforgettable service trip to Uganda. For 10 days in late May 2025, you will serve with AsOne Ministries. DWU's longtime association with this group will make for a busy and meaningful trip.



For more information, email [Joel.Allen@dwu.edu](mailto:Joel.Allen@dwu.edu). Joel and DWU pastors Anthony Purcell and Taryn Ragels have made the trip in the past and will be happy to share their experiences with you.

## Many THANKS for all that YOU do!

None of these events would happen without your support and care. We give thanks to all of you who support us with such generosity. Many thanks to those of you who appreciate the work of the McGovern Center and who support us with your gifts. We appreciate your partnership in this great work of extending the McGovern legacy. Please continue to give toward this great mission and purpose. Please use the enclosed giving return envelope or give online at [give.dwu.edu](https://give.dwu.edu).

Visit [www.dwugift.org](https://www.dwugift.org) or make a one-time contribution at [give.dwu.edu/McGovern](https://give.dwu.edu/McGovern).



THANK YOU FOR MAKING McGOVERN CENTER NEWS A PART OF YOUR YEAR!