

UVU CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

Impact Report 2025



About CCS



Established in 2011, UVU’s Center for Constitutional Studies (CCS) is a nonpartisan academic institute that promotes the instruction, study, and research of constitutionalism.

Through scholarship and teaching, the Center examines important constitutional issues found at the intersection of political thought, public policy, religion, law, history, and economics.

We employ a multidisciplinary approach to equip a new generation of citizens and leaders with a broad understanding of the ideas and practices critical to the perpetuation of constitutional government, ordered liberty, and the rule of law.

In 2021, the Utah legislature passed HB 327, entrusting CCS with the state’s Civic Thought & Leadership Initiative (CTLI).

CTLI aims to develop the next generation of citizens and civic leaders by cultivating the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and virtues necessary for a just, free, and flourishing constitutional republic.

Cover Photo: Dr. Troy Smith places a laurel wreath on Chalice Maddox, member of the first graduating class of the Master of Arts in Constitutional Government, Civics & Law, Aug. 22, 2025.

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Senior Director's Message

America's 250th

This year commemorates the 250th anniversary of America's war for independence, marked by the first shots at Lexington and Concord, the shocking British casualties at Bunker Hill, and the ensuing siege of Boston in the spring and summer of 1775.

That year also saw the ascent of George Washington to the office of commander in chief of the Continental Army—the first federal office held by the man who would one day be called the father of our country. Like the greatest of statesmen, Washington proved equally capable of defending his country in war and of governing it in peace.

Washington's Legacy

When tragedy struck our campus on Sept. 10, 2025, we were hosting Junior ROTC cadets from across Utah for the first of a series of Constitution Day events focusing on George Washington's constitutional legacy. His example of courage, moderation, wisdom, and civic charity are always relevant models for American students.

That day, the importance of virtuous civic leadership in the face of threats to American prosperity and freedom was both visceral and poignant.

Lincoln's Admonition

Washington's only rival for greatness among our statesmen, Abraham Lincoln, would later warn his countrymen that the only sure protection of ordered liberty and the rule of law in a popular government is the attachment of the people to their constitutions and laws.

The Center for Constitutional studies is animated by Lincoln's admonition. We are laboring alongside our fellow citizens to renew the commitment of our public universities to fulfill their civic duty by providing an adequate civic education to citizens and civic leaders.

That means passing on the constitutional and civilizational inheritance we received and under which we enjoy safety, freedom, and prosperity to the next generation. It also means equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and virtues to preserve and improve it themselves.

Sincerely,



MATTHEW BROGDON

Senior Director, UVU Center for Constitutional Studies

CCS at a Glance



See the full CCS photo gallery:



Faculty and Staff⁶



**MATTHEW
BROGDON**

Larry H. & Gail
Miller Family
Foundation
Senior Director,
Associate Professor
of Political Science



**SCOTT
PAUL**

CCS
Executive
Director



**VERLAN
LEWIS**

David & Laurea
Stirling Endowed Chair
of Constitutional Studies,
Associate Professor of
Political Science



**ROBERT
BURTON**

Director of CTLI,
Tocqueville Assis-
tant Professor of
Civic Thought &
Leadership



**TROY
SMITH**

Director of Consti-
tutional Federalism
Initiative, Professor
of Constitutional
Federalism



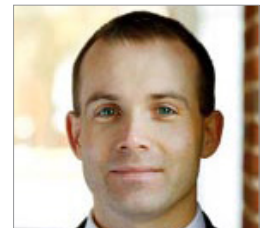
**SAVANNAH
ECCLES
JOHNSTON**

Graduate Program
Director, Assistant
Professor of Consti-
tutional Government,
Civics & Law



**BRADFORD
WILSON**

James Wilson
Distinguished
Visiting Scholar in
Civic Thought



**ANDY
BIBBY**

Associate Director
for the Federalism
Index, Associate
Professor of
Political Science



**HANK
McINTIRE**

Director of
Communication
and Engagement



**AUTUMN
CHRISTENSEN**

CCS
Events
Manager



**KIANA
McALLISTER**

Quill
Project
Lead



**PAIGE
LARSEN**

Administrative
Program
Manager



**JIM
MOSS**

Professional in
Residence for
Federalism



**JACKIE
PROWS**

Academic Programs
Administrative
Assistant



**ALLI
SMITH**

CTLI
Administrative
Assistant



**JANE
HOLMAN**

Accounting
Administrative
Assistant



**SHERI
SMEDEROVAC**

Federalism
Initiative
Program
Manager



**ELEESHA
TUCKER**

Constitutional
Literacy
Fellow



**LISA
HALVERSON**

Civic Education
and Research
Fellow



**AMANDA
ARULANANDAM**

Postdoctoral
Research
Fellow



**PAM
SU'A**

Civic Education
Development
Specialist



**MICHELLE
SMITH**

Assistant
Events
Manager



**JOHANA
LINFORD**

Federalism
Index
Specialist



**ABI
HAMMER**

Quill
Archival
Specialist

2025: By the Numbers



85,000+

K-12 Students Impacted

K-12 students impacted by UT, KS, and WI teachers taking part in CCS trainings.



6,800+

Teacher-Training Hours

Number of K-12 teacher-training hours delivered via CCS events and workshops.



3,500+

@ CCS Events

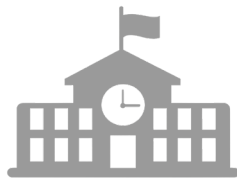
Individuals attending on-campus, CCS-sponsored events, either in person or virtually.



1,100+

UVU Students Taught

Students taught in American Heritage and other civics-related courses by CCS teaching fellows.



34 of 41

Utah School Districts

Utah school districts receiving support from CTLI or CCS out of the total number statewide.



25 of 29

Counties in Utah

Number of counties in Utah where students, teachers, and citizens were influenced by CCS.



18

MACGCL Graduates

Number of graduates from CCS's first cohort of its Master of Arts in Constitutional Government, Civics & Law.



120+

CCS Student Employees

UVU and BYU students who have worked as student employees at CCS since 2011.



23

Quill Research Assistants

Current number of UVU and BYU students conducting graduate-level research with the Quill Project.



15

Tocqueville Fellows

UVU students in mentorship program to grow them as citizens and leaders.



29

CNST Minors

Number of UVU students minoring in Constitutional Studies.



17

State Legislatures

Number of states sending lawmakers to inaugural Federalism Conference in September 2025.

Quill Project

The Quill Project published a new resource collection on the creation of the Declaration of Independence and completed our work on Minnesota's 1857 Constitutional Convention, which featured separate Republican and Democratic conventions—talk about polarization! This is part of our Constitution Making in the Shadow of Disunion project funded by the National Archives.

Constitution Day

Our marquee Constitution Day events welcomed hundreds of Junior ROTC and high-school civics students to campus in September and November.

They heard from an exciting lineup of speakers about George Washington: Nathaniel Philbrick, Nicholas Cole (Oxford), Kevin Weddle (Army War College), and Sai Prakash (UVA Law).

Constitutional Federalism

In March 2025, the Utah Legislature passed HB488, directing CCS and the Herbert Institute to support the Utah Federalism Commission. Building on the track record and expertise of the Federalism Index Project, CCS launched and staffed the Constitutional Federalism Initiative (CFI).

In September, CFI hosted the inaugural Federalism Summit, drawing more than 70 participants from 14 states.

In addition, CFI is completing a statewide review of executive agencies—using surveys, a federalism assessment framework, and interviews—to guide the development of a federalism curriculum for state and local officials. CFI staff have also advised legislators on several federalism-related issues.

Free Speech on Campus

In the wake of Charlie Kirk's assassination, CCS partnered with Heterodox Academy, the Herbert Institute, the Center for the Study of Ethics, and Academic Affairs to bring the most important voice on campus free speech to UVU, Greg Lukianoff, CEO of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. CCS students and faculty will be featured in a forthcoming FIRE documentary on free speech as the antidote to political violence.

Civics for Teachers

CTLI's Civic Educators Conference in October drew 170 teachers to learn about the central role of the Declaration of Independence in our unfolding national story, from the Founding to the Civil War and from Women's Suffrage to the civil-rights movement. The conference featured partnerships with the National Constitution Center and the Bill of Rights Institute. Our



on-site civics workshops and regional civics trainings at SUU, Utah State, and UVU reached hundreds more educators.

America at 250

CCS's partnership with Utah's America250 Commission has deepened with a publicly available six-episode master class on the Declaration of Independence, due out in March, featuring CCS scholars and fellows. We will likewise be launching UT Together: Reading 1776 with the Commission and libraries throughout Utah to promote reading David McCullough's 1776 for the Semiquincentennial.

Master's Program

After graduating its first cohort in August, the Center's Master of Arts in Constitutional Government, Civics & Law (MACGCL) will double in size, adding a national cohort with the help of a \$1.25 million grant from the Templeton Foundation and the Jack Miller Center.

The Jack Miller Center's new Civics Foundations Graduate Consortium will leverage individual courses at a dozen institutions as a pathway into UVU's MACGCL program to give more teachers critical expertise in this content area.

Drafting Statewide Standards

HB 381 (2025) directed the Utah State Board of Education to collaborate with CCS to draft standards for an American Constitutional Government & Citizenship course.

This new, year-long graduate requirement will focus on principles of the Founding, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. and Utah Constitutions, and core documents from American history.



Oxford Property

The Center for Constitutional Studies and Pembroke College, University of Oxford—home of the Quill Project—have had a research partnership since 2015. Since then, CCS has been working with the Quill team to research and document U.S. state constitutional conventions around the country.

In 2025, the collaboration took some significant next steps with the June 2025 acceptance by Pembroke College of UVU's offer to lease and remodel two buildings adjacent to the Pembroke campus to establish a UVU-administered study and research center at Oxford.

This new UVU Oxford Campus will be the hub around which we build a vibrant transatlantic community as it amplifies the already-existing CCS–Pembroke cooperation to unleash the capacity for comparative work across the Quill research portfolio and platform and beyond.



Utah Valley University
Center for Constitutional Studies

800 W. University Parkway, MS 298
Orem, UT 84058

@CCSUVU



Podcast: This Constitution



uvu.edu/ccs

constitution@uvu.edu

(801) 863-5470