

ABOUT THE MCCORMICK FOUNDATION CIVICS PROGRAM

The McCormick Foundation's Civics Program seeks to improve access to quality civic education and engagement opportunities in Chicagoland for youth ages 12-22. The Civics Program pursues this vision by delivering content and services that serve youth and teachers; funding organizations that improve civic education and engagement; and by advocating for policy changes which impact the civic education system. Through this work, the Civics Program aims to provide Chicagoland youth with the knowledge, skills and opportunities that are essential to lifelong civic engagement.

Learn more about our programs, plans and resources at our website WWW.FreedomProject.US.

Teacher Seminar

Saturday, February 5, 2011
8:30 am - 3 pm

First Amendment Seminar Series

Freedom for All

The McCormick Foundation Civics Program is part of the McCormick Foundation team. We encourage educators to take advantage of the Foundation's additional education resources at Cantigny:

- First Division Museum
- Robert R. McCormick Research Center
- Robert R. McCormick Museum

To learn more, visit McCormickFoundation.org.

**Presented by the
McCormick Foundation Civics Program**

at the University Center in downtown Chicago



**McCormick
Foundation**

Speakers

Fannie Theresa Rushing is a professor of history at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. Born in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, by the early 1960s Dr. Rushing began to feel a kinship with the student sit in movement spreading throughout the South. While still a student at Hirsch High School, Dr. Rushing devoted her Saturdays to the recently opened office of the Chicago Area Friends of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (CAFSNCC). Later while at the University of Illinois - Chicago, Dr. Rushing was involved with the Young Democrats and canvassed for one of Abner Mikva's early political campaigns. She also created a Friends of SNCC group on campus and worked to get the group permanent recognition with the provost.

Working in Chicago with SNCC to raise money and support the southern movement became increasingly difficult because of the horrible condition of the public schools in Chicago. Dr. Rushing was involved in two Chicago school boycotts as well as organized Freedom Schools all over the city. Other SNCC projects included recruiting college students to travel to Mississippi to work on voter registration for the Mississippi Summer Project and organizing a group to demonstrate at the Democratic National Convention to support the right of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to be seated on the convention floor.

After working full time for SNCC, Dr. Rushing joined the Department of Children and Family Services and, later, served as the director of the American Friends Service Committee Southern Africa Program in Chicago. Then, while serving as the Director of Minority Student Services at Dominican University (Rosary College), Dr. Rushing received her Masters in Educational Psychology. She worked on Harold Washington campaign for mayor of Chicago, organizing schools, women's groups and groups in the Latino community.

Dr. Rushing received her doctorate in Latin American history from the University of Chicago, also attending graduate classes at the University of Havana and serving as Co-Chair of Scholars for a Democratic Haiti. Five years ago, Dr. Rushing, along with Sylvia Fischer, began an archival project collecting the oral histories of people involved with SNCC in Chicago and the South. The archive is part of the Vivian C. Harsh African American History Collection at Carter G. Woodson Public Library and opened to the public in October 2010.

Speakers (continued)

Dr. Elizabeth S. Todd-Breland is a Mellon/ACLS Postdoctoral fellow at the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities at Northwestern University. She received her Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on the history of race, politics, and education in Chicago. Dr. Todd-Breland has taught history and African American studies courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago. Through the University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute, she collaborated with an interdisciplinary group of researchers, educators, and K-12 practitioners, to create professional development tools and courses for teachers around critical pedagogy, African American history, and urban education. Dr. Todd-Breland has also worked with diverse groups of Chicago Public School students, as a social studies teacher and college counselor, and served as an instructor and mentor in afterschool and summer enrichment programs.

Mikva Challenge is a Chicago-based, nonpartisan organization that encourages youth to actively engage in the political process. Over the years, this incredible organization has become a staple for many students and teachers throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. Youth involved with Mikva participate in programs that focus on three areas of civic engagement - youth policy-making, activism and electoral participation.

Jessica Ortega attended Social Justice high school and organized at her school. **Antwan Ward** belonged to the Peace and Leadership Council at Orr High School. Both Jessica and Antwan were on the Mikva Education Council and did work with the CEO of CPS around reinventing high schools. **Mayadet Patitucci-Cruz** organized in high school around comprehensive sex education, and now works as a Youth Organizer at the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Kyle Hickman teaches at Wheaton Warrenville South High School in Wheaton, Illinois. He currently teaches United States History, AP United States Government and Politics, and World Civilizations. In addition, Kyle is a member of the Teacher Advisory Council for the McCormick Foundation Civics Program. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2003 and a Master of Education degree from DePaul University in 2006. Kyle was named a 2010 James Madison Fellow and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in American History at the University of Illinois at Chicago.