

## 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](http://WWW.FreedomProject.US).

## Teacher Seminar

Saturday, January 22, 2011  
9 am - 3 pm

# First Amendment Seminar Series

## First Amendment 101

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](http://McCormickFoundation.org).

## Presented by the McCormick Foundation Civics Program

at the University Center in downtown Chicago



McCormick  
Foundation

## Speakers

**Erica Bray-Parker** currently teaches regular government, AP US government and politics, and psychology at Glenbard North High School in Carol Stream, Illinois. Ms. Bray-Parker received her B.A. in social studies education from Illinois State University and her M.A. in political and justice studies from Governors State University. She is currently working on an M.A. in Political Science at Northern Illinois University and is the 2008 James Madison Fellow through the McCormick Foundation, where she also sits on the Civics Program Teacher Advisory Council.

**Special Agent Patrick Geahan** has served as an FBI special agent since 2004, primarily investigating child exploitation offenses. SA Geahan is a 2009 recipient of the Society of Former Special Agent's Award for Excellence for an undercover assignment targeting a group of child molesters operating in Chicago; and a 2010 winner of the Cook County Crime Stoppers Award for his efforts in gaining a 30-year prison sentence for a child molester with multiple victims.

**Terri Hanrahan** earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from Loyola University, a Masters of Arts in Theology from Mundelein College, a Masters of Educational Leadership from UIC and is currently pursuing a Doctorate at ISU. Ms. Hanrahan has been an educator for the past twenty-five years, serving as a social studies teacher, Activities Director, Department Chair, division head, dean, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Assistant Principal for Instruction and currently as a high school principal at Glenbard South High School. As a teacher, Ms. Hanrahan spent many years teaching history, law, government and political science with a belief that a primary function of public schools is to teach young people how to be good citizens.

**Shawn Healy**, the McCormick Foundation Civics Program's resident scholar and director of professional development, serves as the Foundation's internal resource for knowledge on civic education and engagement, and leader of teacher professional development programs. Mr. Healy makes regular appearances as a guest speaker and panelist at academic and professional development conferences across the country, produces original scholarship in the area of political communication and civic education, and his commentary is featured regularly in the *Huffington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, and local broadcast media. Mr. Healy plays a key role in the Civics Program's work in the areas of advocacy and public policy, chairing the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition, and leading the state's Democracy Schools Initiative. Before joining the McCormick Foundation, he served as a social studies teacher at West Chicago (IL) Community High School and Sheboygan North (WI) High School.

## Speakers (continued)

**Neelam J. Noorani** serves as the Student Programs Educator for the McCormick Foundation Civics Program. Her responsibilities include traveling with the Freedom Express to facilitate visits and developing educational materials to supplement the student experience onboard the Freedom Express. Neelam received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in art education from Georgia State University in 2006. She taught art at an elementary school in Georgia before moving to Chicago to further her studies; she received her Master of Arts in art education with a concentration in museum education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2009.

**Sharon (Renkosiak) Smogor** was born and raised in Chicago. She earned her B.S and M.A. degrees in Anthropology from Loyola University. She has taught at Oakton Community College, Resurrection High School and is in her 19th year of teaching social studies at Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Illinois, where she is also a member of the curriculum team. She is a reader for the College Board's AP US Government and Politics exam. She is an original member of the Civics Program Teacher Advisory Council.

**Randy Swikle** is a retired journalism teacher from Johnsburg School District 12. He is a board member of the Illinois Press Foundation, the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association and the Scholastic Press Rights Commission of the Journalism Education Association. He also serves as JEA State Director. Randy is the author of the McCormick Foundation's new *Protocol for Free & Responsible Student News Media*. The weekly student newspaper he advised at Johnsburg High School was nationally recognized as an exemplary First Amendment student publication. In 1999, the Dow Jones News Fund named Randy national journalism teacher of the year. In his retirement, Randy speaks and writes about scholastic journalism and First Amendment education.

**Edwin C. Yohnka** is the Director of Communications and Public Policy for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. Appointed to the post of Director of Communications in June 1999, Yohnka is the primary spokesperson for the most prominent civil rights and civil liberties' advocacy organization in the State of Illinois, an organization with more than 23,000 members. He added the Public Policy portfolio in October 2006. On behalf of the ACLU of Illinois, Yohnka appears regularly on television and radio programs in Illinois and throughout the nation to speak out on a myriad of issues, ranging from racial profiling and the inequities of the criminal justice system to matters relating to religious liberty and Internet privacy. Yohnka also is widely cited in newspapers and publications on legal and legislative matters related to the ACLU of Illinois' priorities.