CONSTITUTING AMERICA: 2019

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Best High School Short Film Winner
Hannah Ethridge

Founder & Co-President Janine Turner
& Co-President Cathy Gillespie
We The Future Contest Winners, Washington, D.C.

Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizen Award Recipient, Gabe Maggio

EDUCATE ENGAGE
George Washington School Speaking Initiative

Our George Washington School Speaking Program had its busiest year ever! Demand from schools across the Nation was at an all-time high. We broke our record of 76 school presentations in 2018 with a whopping 154 presentations in 2019 to over 7,500 students!

We were excited to add Mr. Terry Cherry, Immediate Past President of the National Council of Social Studies, as one of our regular speakers this past year, increasing our capacity to reach more schools.

In January of 2019 we launched our NEW Civil Civic Conversation program. In the spring of 2019, we held 13 Civil Civic Conversation pilot presentations in Houston, Dallas, and Ohio, involving over 331 students. After these pilot programs, we created a successful national program for the remainder of 2019.
“Constituting America has come to Mark White Elementary for two years now and each time the presentation is more engaging than the last...Having passionate people come and speak about our Constitution at the elementary level is planting the seeds to a better Union. I am extremely grateful for this program.”

Miguel Rodriguez, 5th Grade Teacher
Mark White Elementary, Houston, Texas

“I already push knowing the Constitution and your rights, and I think that having a forum explained so well by an award winning actress and educated youth around the country creates a buy-in...I enjoyed the questions Ms. Turner asked the participants. They were very thought provoking and educating to students. The fact that this organization brings awareness to the Constitution and the civil liberties means they are educating a generation... and when you educate one generation you educate every generation that follows.”

Nichole Frasure
Kings Creek School, Lenoir, North Carolina
In addition to educating students about basic Constitutional and founding principles, the relevancy of the U.S. Constitution, and how to engage in their government from a young age, we teach students how to engage in a civil, civic conversation! In an age where disagreements too often grow heated, we at Constituting America believe the skill of constructive debate and dissent is of utmost importance.

Presented with a controversial “hot topic” issue, students are asked to debate each other. After an initial debate, they watch a video in which We The Future Contest Winners explain the importance of listening to and considering opposing points of view. Once they have viewed the video and completed exercises, the students are asked to generate policy ideas they could recommend to their elected officials that incorporate both sides of the argument.
We The Future Contest

In 2019, our We The Future Contest continued to grow! Breaking our previous year records, we received over 400 contest entries from students in 43 states. From these high quality entries, we picked twenty winners from ten states, awarding over $28,500 in scholarships.

One of the most unique aspects of the We The Future Contest is our breadth of contest categories. In 2019, we offered poem and artwork categories for lower school; song, photograph, essay, and entrepreneurial project for middle school; song, PSA, short film, essay, entrepreneurial and STEM projects for high school; and song, PSA, short film, speech, entrepreneurial and STEM projects for college.

Our student winners are selected by our prestigious panel of celebrity judges: Nashville Producer Joe Scaife; Motion Picture Association Of America Senior Executive VP Gail MacKinnon; The American Fallen Soldiers Project Founder and Artist Phil Taylor; Texas Poet Laureate Karla Morton; Foundation For A Better Life President Gary Dixon; Newsweek Columnist Peter Roff; and Microsoft Vice President Suhail Khan.
Meet our outstanding We The Future Contest winners! Hailing from eleven states, these students received scholarships totaling $28,540 and embarked on a fully funded trip to Washington, D.C. where they enjoyed private tours of the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, the White House, the State Department and the National Archives. Our students had the privilege to speak with Chief Justice Roberts! On Constitution Day, many of these winners performed as part of the Department of Education’s formal Constitution Day event, live streamed to schools all across America!
On their mentorship trip to Washington, D.C., our We The Future 2019 student winners toured the U.S. State Department with Deputy Secretary of State Brian Bulatao.
For the second year in a row, our We The Future Contest Winners performed at the U.S. Department of Education’s official Constitution Day program, which was live-streamed to federal employees and schools across America! Our contest winners appeared throughout the 90 Minute program alongside distinguished individuals such as Nino Scalia, grandson of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

We were proud to welcome over 200 public school students from neighboring Title 1 public schools in Maryland. These students not only learned about the Constitution from our student winners, Janine Turner, and Cathy Gillespie, but they also engaged in a project lead by our Best Teacher Lesson Plan Winner Kim Rostick. The students were thrilled with their Constitution Day field trip!

“Providing these experiences to people my age ensures that young people have a voice and are equipped with the tools to become advocates for the Constitution. Because of this trip, I know that I can successfully stand up for the Constitution and educate my peers.”

-Tova Love Kaplan
Best PSA Winner

We The Future Mentor Trip 2019
Promotion of Winners’ Works on TV, radio, and film festivals

In 2019, we continued to grow our Winner Promotion Program! With the help of Grassroots Production out of Nashville, Tennessee, “It’s a Shame” by Best Song Winner Emily VanDerwerken was played on 58 radio stations nationwide, receiving over 43 million impressions.

We also launched our billboard campaign, featuring Best High School PSA Winner Dakare Chatman. Currently, our “It’s An American Thing – So Know It!” billboards can be found in six locations in the Dallas, Fort Worth area. We plan to expand to more locations in 2020!

Constituting America also submits our winning PSAs and short films to film festivals across the nation. In 2019, our student winning films were accepted into four film festivals.
I never really thought I would be able to afford to attend but the Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Scholarship made my first year of college a lot more feasible. With the help of Constituting America, I not only attend my dream school but I am currently a part of a first year abroad program in Valencia, Spain...I am genuinely so grateful to have been chosen and I cannot wait to see the success Constituting America foresaw in my future and pour back what was given to me.

-Kirk Taylor, 2019 Scholarship Recipient

Every year since 2014, Constituting America has selected an outstanding high school senior to be the recipient of the annual Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Exemplary Citizen Award. Started in honor of Janine Turner’s late father, this scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who exemplifies the qualities Turner Gauntt displayed: academic and athletic excellence, student body leadership, and community service. The scholarship provides winners with a one-time scholarship of $4,540 for use toward higher education. In 2019, Constituting America selected Kirk Taylor of Dallas, Texas. He is currently attending the Berklee College of Music.
On Constitution Day weekend, Constituting America launched our Candlelight Dinner Series, where donors and friends gathered to listen to a lively debate amongst our “Founding Fathers,” actors from the American Heritage Theatre in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
We further expanded our Constitution Day Celebration by introducing our “Founding Fathers” to students in Northern Virginia. Through our partnership with the American Historical Theatre, history came to life for the 1,600 students who heard from George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, Betsy Ross, Alexander Hamilton, and Benjamin Franklin.
Constituting America Founder & Co-President Janine Turner was featured on TBN’s Huckabee in April of this year, talking with Governor Huckabee about our “How To Have A Civil Civic Conversation,” program for the schools. Governor Huckabee featured a clip from our Constituting America produced Civil Civic Conversation video! TBN is carried by more than 18,000 television and cable affiliates!

For the second year in a row, Constituting America distributed Constitutions to baseball fans on Constitution Day! Thanks to the support of Robert Zimmerman and other generous donors, we handed out over 15,000 Constitutions at the Astros game in Houston, Texas. We plan to expand to even more ballparks in 2020.

15,000+ Constitutions That’s a homerun!

Janine Turner & Governor Mike Huckabee
Our Impact Since 2010

15.6 Million
PSA viewers over 275 TV stations

145 Million
song impressions on 81 radio stations

11 Million+ *
Social Media Impressions

12.2 Million
video plays on social media

50,000+
podcast listens on streaming services

$190,240
scholarships distributed to 117 winners

80,000+
U.S. Constitutions distributed

1,047
essays by 175 Constitutional Scholars

60,000+
moviegoers at 37 film festivals

38,900
individuals reached at 549 speeches

*Since 2014, on Twitter and Facebook alone!
In February 2019, we launched our ninth annual 90 Day Study, entitled “Reserved To The States: Boundaries on Federal Government For The Flourishing of the American People.” This study focused on the Importance of the states within our federal system of government. We published over 121 essays from 57 nationally known constitutional scholars, historians and elected officials! Since 2010, we have published 1,047 essays written by 175 nationally known Constitutional scholars. This resource is archived and searchable on our website, from which it has been shared over 125,000 times on social media!
Stephen Armstrong
Social Studies Consultant, Connecticut Board of Education

Sean Beigenburg
Assistant Professor, Arizona State University

Brad Bergford
Chief Executive Officer, Colorado Family Foundation

James D. Best
Author, Tempest At Dawn

Marc Clauson
Professor of History, Cedarville University

James C. Clinger
Professor of Political Science, Murray State University

Daniel A. Cotter
Professor, The John Marshall Law School

Val Crofts
Social Studies Teacher, Milton High School

Greg Davidson
Executive Clerk, Office of the Governor of Texas

Danny de Gracia, Th.D.
Former Committee Clerk, Hawaii State House of Representatives

Ben DiBiase
Head Archivist and Educational Director, Florida Historical Society

Scott Faulkner
Former Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives

William J. Federer
Historian, Speaker, Author

Louis Fisher
Specialist in Constitutional Law, Library of Congress

Patrick Garry
Professor of Law, University of South Dakota

The Honorable Tim Griffin
Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas

Michael W. Haíl
Professor of Government, Morehead State University

KrisAnne Hall
Founder, LibertyFirstUniversity.com

Andrew Hohns
Chief Executive Officer, American Legislative Exchange Council

The Honorable Bill O’Brien
Former Speaker of the House, New Hampshire House of Representatives

The Honorable Robin Smith
State Representative, 26th District, State of Tennessee

Clay Williams
Site Administrator, Mississippi Department of Archives

J. Eric Wise
Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Our 2019 Constitutional Scholars for “Reserved To The States”

Joerg Knipprath
Professor of Law, Southwestern Law School

David Kopel
Adjunct Constitutional Law Professor, University of Denver

Andrew Langer
President, Institute for Liberty

Gordon Lloyd
Professor of Public Policy, Pepperdine University

Michael C. Maisch
Managing Director & Trustee, James Wilson Institute

Anna Manning
Marketing & Operations Specialist, John Locke Foundation

Bethany L. Marcum
Executive Director, Alaska Policy Forum

The Honorable John H. Merrill
Secretary of State, State of Alabama

Tom Morain
Director of Government Relations, Graveland University

Will Mossoey
Professor Emeritus of Politics at Hillsdale College

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer, American Legislative Exchange Council

The Honorable Randall T. Shepard
Retired Chief Justice, Indiana Supreme Court

The Honorable Michael Warren
Circuit Court Judge, Oakland County, Michigan

Clay Williams
Site Administrator, Mississippi Department of Archives

Tony Williams
Senior Fellow, Bill of Rights Institute

J. Eric Wise
Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Martha Zoller
Policy Advisor

Samuel Postell
Graduate Student, University of Dallas

The Honorable David L. Robbins
Education Commissioner, State of New Mexico

Peter Roff
Journalist and Commentator

Mary Salamon
Author, The Government and Its People

Anthony Sanders
Senior Attorney, Institute for Justice

Kyle A. Scott
Professor of Political Science, University of Houston

J. Drew Seib
Professor of American Politics, Murray State University

The Honorable Randy T. Shepard
Retired Chief Justice, Indiana Supreme Court

Craig Bruce Smith
Assistant Professor of History, William Woods University

The Honorable Robin Smith
State Representative, 26th District, State of Tennessee

Charles F. Vaughan
Teacher at AC Flora High School, South Carolina

Jeremy Ward
Development Office, American Village Citizenship Trust

The Honorable Michael Warren
Circuit Court Judge, Oakland County, Michigan

Clay Williams
Site Administrator, Mississippi Department of Archives

Tony Williams
Senior Fellow, Bill of Rights Institute

J. Eric Wise
Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Martha Zoller
Policy Advisor

Our Past Studies

2010
The Federalist Papers

2011
The U.S. Constitution

2012
The Amendments

2013
The Classics that Inspired the Constitution

2015
Executive Branch Overreach

2016
The Intrigue of Presidential Elections

2017
The Supreme Court

2018
The Congress
Each year, Constituting America has responsibly budgeted for programs and events to stay in line with our fundraising goals. A monthly and annual analysis of spending is maintained to ensure fiscal targets are met.

In 2019 our total revenue was $631,169 and $628,070 was invested on programs and operations.
Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors!

At Constituting America, we receive our funding from a wide variety of sources...

- GIFTS & INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
- FOUNDATION GRANTS
- CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS
- GOVERNING BOARD
- LEADERSHIP BOARD
- NATIONWIDE EVENTS
- ONLINE AUCTIONS
- TEXT TO DONATE!

There are many opportunities for you to invest in Constituting America’s wide range of ongoing projects and programs. Together, we can spread knowledge and excitement about our Constitution and our country’s founding principles, equipping and empowering our next generation!

- $100,000
- $50,000
- $25,000
- $15,000
- $12,000
- $10,000
- $6,000
- $4,500
- $2,000
- $1,000
- $500

- Annual George Washington Speaking Initiative
- "We The Future" Contest Winners’ Mentor Trip
- Educational Speaker Series, Named After You!
- Annual 90-Day Online Constitutional Study
- "We The Future" College Scholarships
- Flights for the Annual Winners’ Mentor Trip
- "We The Future" High School Scholarships
- Turner Maurice Gauntt, Jr. Scholarship
- One “We The Future” College Scholarship
- One “We The Future” High School Scholarship
- 500 Constitutions for Students

Text to Donate! Text “ConstitutingUSA” to 51555
Our New 2020 Initiatives

Growing our Partnerships!

Our partnership with the U.S. Department of Education will continue on Constitution Day 2020! For the third year in a row, our We The Future Contest winners will perform in Washington, D.C. We also hope to continue growing our partnerships with The American Legion, The Boy Scouts of America, America’s Mock Election, and American Historical Theatre.

Millennials Reaching Millennials!

By collaborating with our We The Future student winners (past and present), we are reaching more of America’s rising generation... through Instagram and Snapchat! We are purchasing advertisements on various social media platforms to teach students about the relevancy of the U.S. Constitution.

Zooming with Gen. Z!

Within one week of school closures during the COVID-19 crisis, we dedicated our resources to providing the nation’s students with biweekly lessons on the Constitution through Zoom. These educational video conversations, “Founding Documents Forum,” are lead by Janine Turner and our We The Future Contest winners. The sessions are open to the public!

Weekly Constitution Chats Podcast!

In April 2020, we began our “Constitutional Chats,” hosted by Janine Turner & Cathy Gillespie with students Tova Kaplan and Dakare Chatman. We discuss hot topic issues with Constitutional experts, many of whom are our 90 Day Study scholars! The chats are hosted live on Zoom and published on popular podcast platforms.
At Constituting America, we educate and empower America’s rising generations.

We offer free interactive presentations to schools, educating students of all ages about the U.S. Constitution and founding principles of our country, how to effect change in their government using the ‘tools in their toolbox’ found in the Constitution, and how to have a ‘civil, civic conversation.’

Our nationwide scholarship contest is unique. We are the only Constitutional education foundation to professionally promote the works of our winning students on television, the radio, movie theaters, and publications.

Our prestigious 90-day annual online study draws Constitutional scholars and professors from across the nation into conversation with the general public.

Through our programs, Constituting America is keeping the torch of liberty ablaze, one student at a time.

VISIT CONSTITUTINGAMERICA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION