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New report: how college students view the First Amendment in 2020

Evette Alexander, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2020 11:56 AM

To: Steve Johnston

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Dear Sarah,

Knight Foundation, in partnership with Gallup, has released the third edition of our free expression survey of college students. This report, "[*First Amendment on Campus 2020 Report: College Students' Views of Free Expression*](#)," reveals underlying attitudes toward free expression that are likely to inform our post-pandemic future.

This survey of over 3,000 full-time U.S. college students was conducted in late 2019 as the latest in a series of similar studies in 2016 and 2017. Emerging trends outlined in the report provide deep insights into the next generation's attitudes toward free speech and expression at a time of rapid technological and political change — an understanding of which will be critical for policymakers, business leaders, academics and members of the media seeking to understand our shared democratic future.

Our latest findings reveal that among today's college students, certain critical trends continue to hold or deepen as students struggle to reconcile the important but sometimes competing notions of free speech on one hand, and inclusivity on the other.

Knight has taken a deep interest in student attitudes toward free expression because ensuring a healthy democracy is our core value. These findings aren't just about higher ed. They point to trends that are likely to reshape how freedom of expression is defined as this rising generation comes of age.

We hope this report provokes insightful conversation and debate about this important topic. You can download a full version of the report at kf.org/campuspeech and [follow us on Twitter](#) for the latest Knight research.

Thanks,

Evette Alexander
Director/Learning and Impact
Knight Foundation



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