

# HUMAN RIGHTS

21st Century Theory and Practice Conference

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
1891

## HONORED SPEAKERS

### Meshea Poore, J.D.

Delegate Meshea Poore represents Kanawha County (37th District) in the W.Va. House of Delegates and is a candidate for the U.S. Congress, 2nd District in W.Va. She graduated from Howard University (B.A.) and Southern University Law Center (J.D.).

### Travis Williams, J.D.

Travis Williams is a public defender in Georgia. He is well-known for tattooing the names of his clients on his back when he loses their case. He has eight losses, currently. Williams was recently featured in an HBO Documentary, "Gideon's Army."

### Carolyn Stuart, Ph.D.

Dr. Stuart is the Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs (HHOMA). She was appointed by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. HHOMA is committed to advancing the agenda of minorities across the state of W.Va. She graduated with a Ph.D. from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

## WELCOME

West Virginia State University is pleased to present the program for the Human Rights Conference "21st Century Agenda for Human Rights: Theory & Practice," April 10-12, 2014. This event includes speakers and participants from a broad range of disciplines offering presentations, posters and panel discussions that broadly address human rights. With the active involvement of human rights advocates, we are confident that this inaugural event will be a tremendous success.



Abraham Lincoln

*"Whenever there is a conflict between human rights and property rights, human rights must prevail."*



Greetings:

Welcome to West Virginia State University! On behalf of the University, I am so pleased you are joining WVSU's College of Business and Social Science, in collaboration with the National Center for Human Relations, for the 2014 Inaugural Human Rights Conference!

In spite of the tremendous growth and change in our state, throughout the nation and across our global community toward equality and peaceable relations, there is still much work to be done. At West Virginia State University, we believe that respect for all humanity, as well as economic, social and cultural freedom, is of the utmost importance. To that end, I believe the focus and scope of the wonderful series of presentations and panel discussions you are about to take part in, will serve to illuminate mankind's progress, in addition to the meaningful work we all have to accomplish.

Sincerely,

Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.  
President

## A BRIEF LOOK AT WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S HUMAN RIGHTS' LEGACY

Since its inception as a land-grant institution in 1891, West Virginia State (then referred to as West Virginia Colored Institute) has remained an instrument of human rights.

Its initial objective was to provide education to freed slaves and their descendants. For generations, West Virginia State has persevered towards the march of justice while empowering lives through education and community Service. On Sept. 10, 1939, West Virginia State emerged as the first of six HBCUs authorized to develop an aviation program by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. Some West Virginia State students such as Jerome Edwards and John Edwards eventually became members of the elite group of African American pilots called the Tuskegee Airmen, which was a part of the United States Army Corps. The name, "Tuskegee Airmen" was used to refer to all African-Americans trained to fly and maintain combat aircraft during World War II. Among the many tragedies of World War II were the displaced refugee scholars/ professionals of Jewish descent who were stripped of their credentials when the Nazis took over certain areas in Europe. In 1939, West Virginia State hired the distinguished Dr. Frederick Lehner, an Austrian who had been a prisoner of war in Siberia when the Russians overtook in World War I. Dr. Lehner came to teach German and French and became a regular member of the faculty where he remained until 1956. Both he and his wife, Stella, became United States citizens. Many Jewish displaced scholars were taken in by HBCUs and West Virginia State was no exception. Sources say that Dr. Lehner was the first European American to become a full-time faculty member at West Virginia State.

Another pivotal moment for the institution came as a result of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* where racial segregation in education was prohibited.

According to Dr. Arline Thorn in *West Virginia State University: A Brief History*, once the ruling was interpreted to apply to higher education, the West Virginia Board of Education publicly stated that "any qualified student may be admitted to any state college under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Board of Education". Thus reverse discrimination had come to an end. It is important to note that a number of European American students had expressed a desire to attend West Virginia State before the formal ruling of the 1954 Supreme Court, but were forbidden by state law. Dr. Thorn states that once the ruling came down, 399 white students applied for admission to West Virginia State. Today, West Virginia State continues to prepare its students to make the world a more just society as it teaches them how to become engaged in a number of human rights issues.



## CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

**David Bejou, Ph.D.**

Dean of the College of Business and Social Sciences

**Billy Joe Peyton, Ph.D.**

Professor of History

**Azam Bejou, Ph.D.**

Director of the National Center for Human Relations

## STUDENT TRACK CO-CHAIRS

**C. Damien Arthur, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Political Science

**Suvayan De, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Economics

## TRACK CHAIRS

Cyrus Aleseyed, Ph.D.

Rebecca Francis, Ph.D.

Frehot Hailou, Ph.D.

Suvayan De, Ph.D.

Mahmoodul Islam, Ph.D.

Lois Lucas, Ph.D.

Gail Mosby, Ph.D.

Carol Taylor-Johnson, Ph.D.

## EVENT SPONSORS

The Human Rights 21st Century Theory and Practice Conference Co-Chairs and Track Chairs would like to take the opportunity to graciously thank the following event sponsors from WVSU. Their support was instrumental in the Conference.

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For more information, visit [www.wvstateu.edu](http://www.wvstateu.edu)

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## WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, April 10, 2014

**Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall**

Registration

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Hors D'oeuvres

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Introduction to the Conference

6:30 p.m.

David Bejou, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Business and Social Sciences

Welcome

R. Charles Byers Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Introductory Speech on the Importance of Human Rights

Meshea Poore, J.D., West Virginia House of Delegates

STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS (ALL DAY)

Friday, April 11, 2014

Erickson Alumni Center  
Cleveland Room and Grand Hall

Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall

Erickson Alumni Center Cleveland Room

**Session I**  
**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**History of Civil Rights**

**Session I (Concurrent Session)**  
**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Human Rights and Law**

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.  
Larry Rowe  
(Small Town Values)

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.  
Justin Golart  
(Distinctions between Civil, Political  
& Human Rights)

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.  
Tom Rodd  
(JR Clifford Project)

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.  
Kerri Steele  
(Crossover Youth—Two Systems Yet Falling Through  
the Cracks)

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
Howard Romaine  
(The Positive Effects of the Civil Rights Act)

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
Sara Kennedy  
(Social Capital and Desistance from  
Criminal Behavior)

Breakout Snack Session  
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall

Erickson Alumni Center Cleveland Room

**Session II**  
**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Human Rights and International Issues**

**Session II (Concurrent Session)**  
**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Human Rights and Fiscal Affairs**

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Mary Ellen Jebbia  
(Why did America Pursue a Different  
Course of Action)

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Mahmoodul Islam  
(Income Inequality: The Liberals and the  
Conservatives)

11:30 - 12:00 p.m.  
TJ Park  
(Trade Rights to Political Rights)

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Dr. Harold Barnes  
Chairman, Southern Christian Leadership Foundation  
(Quantum Responsibility)

12:00 - 12:30 p.m.  
Sonya Armstrong  
(Autism Awareness as a Human Rights Issue-  
A Nigerian Case Study)

12:00 - 12:30 p.m.  
Patricia Loos  
(International Accountings Connection to  
Human Rights)

Lunch

Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall  
12:30 - 1:15 p.m.

**Plenary Speech on Human Rights**

**Travis Williams, J.D.**

**Davis Fine Arts Center**

**1:15 - 2:15 p.m.**

Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall

Erickson Alumni Center Cleveland Room

**Session III**

**2:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**HBO Documentary, "Gideon's Army"**



**Session III (Concurrent Session)**

**2:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Human Rights and the Individual**

2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Rebecca Francis

(Environment & Pollution Prevention)

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Carla Brooks

(Honor Killings)

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Reverend Ron English

("Soul Force" Revisited as an Instrument  
for Social Change)

Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall

Erickson Alumni Center Cleveland Room

**Session IV**

**4:30 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Human Rights**

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Carol Taylor-Johnson

(The Blue Planet)

5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Gerald Beller

(Radical Evil & Hanna Arendt)

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Doug Lea

(International League)

**Session IV (Concurrent Session)**

**4:30 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Human Rights**

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

James Natsis

(The Changing Face of Louisville, Ky.)

5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Jovana Ranito

(Whose Human Rights)

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Cheng-Ping Shih & Linh Nguyen

(UN Global Compact)

Hors D'oeuvres

Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

EAC Grand Hall

**Keynote Address on Human Rights**

**Carolyn Stuart, Ph.D.**

**Erickson Alumni Center Grand Hall**

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

## STUDENT POSTERS

Billy Joe Peyton's "History of Nazi Germany" Class

- Making a Leader (Glorification of Hitler)
- Defining the Enemy & Justifying their Treatment (Jews, Bolsheviks, Eastern Europeans)
- Rallying the Nation (War & Eugenics)

Negative Immigration Rhetoric

*Richard Anderson, Jordyn Reed and Derek Taylor*

The Patriot Act

*Bethany Lyons*

Child Abuse and Legislation

*Richard Anderson*

America Founded on Religious Freedom

*Dominique Matthews*

Obamacare and Contraceptives

*Zachary Belcher*

Female Education

*Wesley Nutter*

Terrorism and its Effect on Christian Government

*Debra Booker*

Child Brides

*Kaycee Pauley*

In God's Name

*Brandi Briscoe*

Human Trafficking

*Angela Pittinger*

Separation of Church and State

*Nathan Bush*

Separation of Church and State

*David Plumley*

Tax-Exempt Status for Churches

*Shawn Cardenas*

Child Abuse, Court Cases and Defendants

*Jordyn Reed*

Unalienable Human Rights?

*Matt Carte*

Human Trafficking

*Clifton Sanders*

Illegal Immigration in the Appalachia Region

*Cassie Gilbert, Zach Messenger, Daniel Parsons,  
Josh Saul and Jared Thomas*

Religion and the Legalization of Marijuana

*Jordan Shanklin*

Neo-Slavery in the United States

*Lauren Hall*

Children's Rights

*Ian Stamper*

Religion and Healthcare Providers

*Steve Henson*

Child Abuse, Court Cases and Government Actors

*Derek Taylor*

Genital Mutilation

*Rosemary Keeling*

Unequal Distribution of Wealth (Religion)

*Jared Thomas*

Faith and Environmental Policy

*Matthew Lagrange*

Religion and Immigration

*Brittany White*

Same-Sex Marriage and Religion

*Shane Light*

Government Funded Restitution Programs

*Sean Wilson*

## TOUR OF HISTORIC MALDEN & DICKINSON SALT-WORKS

Saturday, April 12, 2014

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Boyhood Home of Booker T. Washington and The Great  
Families Who Enabled Him To Become a Great  
Statesman, Author and Educator

The Walking Tour of Old Malden Virginia and  
West Virginia is given by Larry L. Rowe

Malden resident Larry Rowe will lead a tour of the replica boyhood home of Booker T. Washington, as well as the historic 1872 African Zion Baptist Church which Washington attended after his family moved to the area following the Civil War. Both sites are part of a historic complex maintained by WVSU. The tour also includes a visit to the J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works, operated by seventh generation salt makers who recently revived a 200-year-old family trade that yields a rare, small-batch table salt.

## CALL FOR PAPERS 2015

West Virginia State University's College of Business and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the National Center for Human Relations, is requesting paper proposals and student poster submissions for the second annual Human Rights Conference scheduled for April 2015. Students are encouraged to submit their proposals for consideration by February 2015 at WVSU.

The conference focuses on "21st Century Agenda for Human Rights Theory and Practice." Interdisciplinary abstracts, papers, presentations, posters, roundtables, workshops and panels that directly or indirectly address the conference theme are eligible for submission. Potential topics include the following:

Business compassion	Economic, social, and cultural freedom
Interfaith relations	Human trafficking
Poverty and economic equality	Immigration
Race relations	Social justice
International relations	Human rights legislation
Violence against women and children	Human rights and globalization

Students should consult their academic advisor or upper-division course instructor about which topic matches their academic interests.

### Poster Competition Judging:

Each poster will be judged by a panel of conference track chairs. An iPad Mini will be awarded to the 1st place student poster. Presenting a poster at the Human Rights Conference is a perfect opportunity for students to develop and have their communication skills while networking with future colleagues.

To submit an abstract, please email Dr. David Bejou at [dbejou@wvstateu.edu](mailto:dbejou@wvstateu.edu).



Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”*

1891  
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