

## McGOVERN NEWSLETTER

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Dear McGovern Center supporters,

Exciting developments are currently unfolding at the McGovern Center, with one of the most significant being the increased regional interest in our Braver Angels depolarization initiatives. On Sept. 8, South Dakota Public Broadcasting ran a [feature on our depolarization events](#), and they continued their coverage with a second [interview on their program "In the Moment,"](#) which was broadcast on Oct. 19. More on this below.



**Dr. Joel Allen**  
Director of the  
McGovern Center

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### The Updated McGovern Center Website

We have successfully completed the reconstruction of the DWU/McGovern Center website. We encourage you to visit it and share your feedback or suggestions. You can access the revamped McGovern Center webpage by [following this link](#).

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### *The McGovern Report:*

On Oct. 10, Mark Lempke and I unveiled our latest episode of the McGovern Report podcast featuring an insightful interview with Senator Gary Hart. Senator Hart served as George McGovern's national campaign director during the campaign of 1972, went on to become a Senate colleague starting in 1975, and later found himself as a rival to McGovern in the 1984 Democratic primary. Theirs was indeed a friendship forged by time.

Listen to the interview using the [Spotify link](#) or the [Apple Podcasts link](#).



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### The DWU Lectureship

The McGovern Center continues to plan and provide for the DWU Lectureship. This year's theme is "Life in Rural America: Challenges and Change."

On Sept. 12, DWU President Dan Kittle spoke to a large gathering of students, faculty, staff and community members on the topic “A Life Worth Living: A Rural Perspective.”

On Nov. 7, Dr. Andrea Bjornestad of SDSU will speak on “Mental Health in Rural America.”

On Feb. 6, our 2024 Stark Lecturer, Tatewin Means of the Thunder Valley Development Corporation, will discuss how spirituality and community development intersect for the Lakota Sioux people.

On April 2, our 2024 Carhart Lecturer Dr. Bret Lingwall (Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology) will discuss the carbon pipelines.

All of these lectureships will be viewable at [www.dwu.edu/live](http://www.dwu.edu/live).

## Braver Angels



The McGovern Center maintains its promotion of Braver Angels events, as depolarization is increasingly integral to our identity. I've recently enlisted the help of two Braver Angels associates, Jeff Pospisil and Aletheia Underhile. Braver Angels provides strong encouragement for activities to be organized by individuals representing diverse political perspectives. Jeff, an accountant, and Aletheia, a Junior History major, have both joined Braver Angels and successfully completed the Braver Angels debate moderation training.

We are in the middle of a vigorous series of Braver Angels events for Fall 2023.



- On Oct. 16, we had our first 1 to 1 Red/Blue/Purple conversation. We divided twenty people into ten groups of two, matching reds with blues or purples for guided conversation. The evening concluded with a “Let’s do this again!” vibe. The *Mitchell Republic* ran a [front-page story on the event](#). (Note: A subscription is necessary to read the article.)
- Oct. 23 featured our Lake Mitchell debate focused on the question, “How can we best revive our dying lake?” The resolution was “Lake Mitchell needs to be dredged.” This dredging project is hugely controversial locally, especially since the price tag comes to a whopping \$25,000,000! About 100 persons attended the event with about 50 more online. Again, we made the front page of the [Mitchell Republic on Oct. 25](#).
- On Oct. 30, Rich Logis of “Perfect Our Union” will speak via Zoom (also available streaming on [www.dwu.edu/live](http://www.dwu.edu/live)) at 7:00 pm CT. Rich was a Trump-supporter until the pandemic, especially during the emergence of the Delta COVID variant, and the false claims of election fraud. Now Rich works to “Perfect our Union” by seeking



Joel Allen speaking with the Mitchell Kiwanis Club about Braver Angels.



Participants during the 1 to 1 Red/Blue/Purple conversation.



Oct. 23 Lake Mitchell debate, resulting in about 100 attendees.

Many thanks to all of you who appreciate the work of the McGovern Center and who support us with your gifts. We are truly grateful and engaged in this important work!

Make a one-time contribution at [give.dwu.edu/McGovern](https://give.dwu.edu/McGovern).



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