



President Michael Poliakoff with Professors Allen C. Guelzo, Alan C. Kors, Robert P. George, and C. Bradley Thompson.

2023 Merrill Award Gala



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

2023
ANNUAL REPORT



Promoting **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**,
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, and **ACCOUNTABILITY**
at America's colleges and universities.

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability at America's colleges and universities. Founded in 1995, ACTA works with alumni, donors, trustees, and education leaders across the country to support the study of the liberal arts, uphold high academic standards, safeguard the free exchange of ideas on campus, and ensure that the next generation receives an intellectually rich, high-quality education at an affordable price.

Our network consists of alumni and trustees from over **1,300** colleges and universities, including over **23,000** current board members. Our quarterly newsletter, *Inside Academe*, reaches over **15,000** readers.

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ACTA's Three A's

Academic Freedom

Help institutions preserve and foster a campus culture that champions intellectual diversity, open inquiry, and the free expression of ideas.

Academic Excellence

Work with colleges and universities to promote high academic standards and rigorous liberal arts curricula that prepare students for the challenges of career and informed citizenship.

Accountability

Empower trustees and higher education leaders to advance accountability at colleges and universities through increased engagement on issues of quality and cost.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On October 7, 2023, the world witnessed a crime against humanity, a terrorist attack of barbarous savagery against Israeli civilians. Yet, within a day, America saw on the campuses of some of its most distinguished universities students celebrating the Hamas terrorists, whose contempt for the values of America and the West is only exceeded by their hatred of Israel. Two Ivy League presidents appearing before Congress could only equivocate when asked if calling for the genocide of Jews would violate their campus rules.

How did America, whose colleges were once hailed indisputably as the envy of the world, get to this place? Most important, what remedy do we have?

ACTA takes no comfort in recounting that for 28 years, it has given warning. The consequences of the erosion of intellectual diversity among faculty, the unrelenting imposition on students and faculty of favored social and political ideologies, and the decline of academic standards are evident. Who was there to speak out and provide a counter to the campus echo chamber of simplistic, ahistorical radicalism?

The moment calls upon all of us to redouble our efforts, and the way forward is apparent. Through our direct outreach to 23,000 trustees, our presentations to governing boards, our trustee webinars, and our guidance to state legislatures, we are improving the policies that affect campus life and academic standards. With our allies in the Alumni Free Speech Alliance, we are adding the powerful, informed voice of alumni to initiatives to repair and regain the values on which a true education relies.

It has been ACTA's privilege to play a major role in the birth of institutes for civic renewal, independent units dedicated to what President Ronald Reagan called "informed patriotism." This past year has seen the beginning of the University of Tennessee–Knoxville's Institute of American Civics and the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill's School of Civic Life and Leadership. A \$24 million appropriation from the Ohio Legislature is devoted to forming similar centers at Ohio State University, Miami University of Ohio, Wright State University, the University of Toledo, and Cleveland State University. All of these new academic units have intellectual diversity and understanding of American constitutional values at the core of their missions. They are also committed to public programming and, in many instances, professional development for K-12 teachers. Through legislative testimony, expert guidance, and our media reach, we will continue this movement so crucial to America's future. We will work to ensure that college students in every state have the opportunity to learn and grow through such institutes.

A potent antidote to unthinking radicalism is open debate and discussion. ACTA's College Debates and Discourse Alliance, a collaborative effort with Braver Angels and BridgeUSA, has held over 200 parliamentary style debates on the most contentious topics in American life without a single incident of incivility. We are helping college students move away from "cancel culture" to the values of a free society. So far, 10,000+ students have participated. We are working to make that figure 100,000 and to touch every campus in the nation.

When appropriate, we apply intensive pressure on institutions that have failed to protect the free exchange of ideas. Generously funded by the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, our Campus Freedom Initiative™ enters its third year. Through its use of social media, videos, and the press, we have had breakthroughs at



Paul and Karen Levy, George Will, and Michael Poliakoff at ACTA's Levy Forum for Open Discourse event featuring a lecture by George Will at the Palm Beach Synagogue.

the University of Texas–Austin, Cornell University, MIT, and Stanford University. We also celebrate institutions like Ohio State University that have made significant progress in building a culture of campus freedom. And we work to bring all up to our Gold Standard for Freedom of Expression, a 20-point plan for campus freedom.

ACTA's signature core curriculum project, What Will They Learn?[®], is more crucial than ever, and this year we upgraded the website, giving college-bound students and their families information to help them choose wisely. In addition to grading over 1,100 schools on the adequacy of their core requirements, it includes information from our How Colleges Spend Money analysis that shows how much schools devote to teaching relative to administration and student services as well as insights into each school's commitment to free speech and intellectual diversity.

We are enormously grateful to those whose generosity has made this work possible. The hour is late for all that we must remedy, but we have our minds and hearts in this crucial campaign. Please read on about our work in 2023, and please stay with us as we address the challenges ahead.

Michael B. Poliakoff
President & CEO

“I am grateful . . . for your leadership of ACTA, which is one of the most essential organizations in the country today.”

—Pano Kanelos, Founding President, University of Austin



ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Upon accepting ACTA's 18th annual Philip Merrill Award, Professor Alan Charles Kors admonished us that the struggle to reclaim and protect the "liberty and legal equality that define us as human beings with dignity, capable of morals" is the defining battle of our times, and the epicenter is on the American campus. Although the proponents of intellectual repression are ascendant on many campuses across the country, they have not won: The fight is on. ACTA is leading the campaign to take our campus culture back. In response to our influential media campaigns and persistent outreach, some of the highest profile institutions in the country have disbanded their pernicious bias response apparatus and adopted new guiding principles to safeguard free expression and academic freedom. ACTA ensures that these policies are not just symbolic "parchment barriers." At the same time, our College Debates and Discourse Alliance is sparking deep-seated change by empowering students and faculty to resist coercive political correctness, practice civil discourse, and appreciate true intellectual diversity. Thus, we are advancing both top-down and grassroots initiatives to make the revival of campus free speech a durable reality.

Campus Freedom Initiative™ Scores Victories for Free Expression

ACTA's **Campus Freedom Initiative™** (CFI) focuses on campuses that chill free speech and urges them to adopt the **Gold Standard for Freedom of Expression™**, a list of 20 actions universities can take to ensure that free expression is protected in policy and honored in practice. We also spotlight those institutions that are taking positive steps forward.

Stanford University

In March of 2023, we launched a CFI campaign at Stanford University, publicizing alarming evidence of rampant self-censorship and coercion on campus and condemning the insufficient response of Stanford leadership to the student shout-down of federal appellate judge Stuart Kyle Duncan. After the launch of our campaign, the dean of the law school, and later the interim president, released statements defending free speech and endorsing the **Kalven Committee: Report on the University's Role in Political and Social Action**. In May, Stanford announced that it will develop free expression training for freshman orientation and for administrators, teach students about free expression and civic responsibility in a freshman course, and revise admissions materials to ensure they align with the university's commitment to free speech.

In another critical victory, Stanford made significant changes to its Soviet-style Protected Identity Harm Reporting website following the publication of an exposé in the *National Review* written by ACTA's Paul & Karen Levy Fellow in Campus Freedom Steven McGuire, entitled "Stanford University's Pernicious Snitching Apparatus." The university has now modified the definition of a Protected Identity Harm incident and eliminated anonymous reporting.

These are promising first steps: We will continue to put on the pressure for more.

Ohio State University

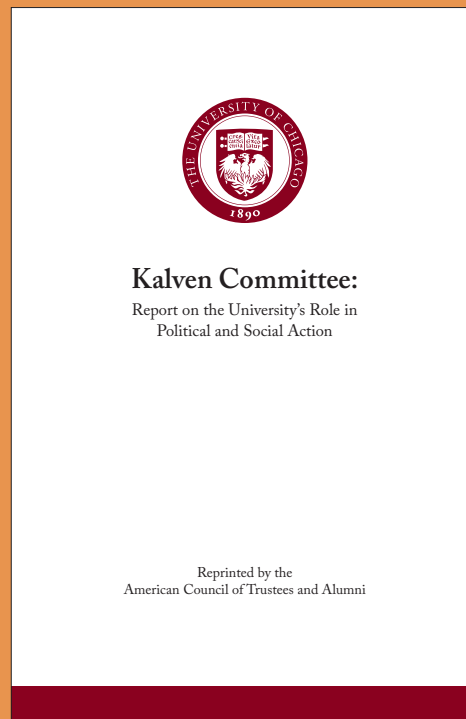
The Ohio State University (OSU) implemented several of ACTA's Gold Standard recommendations this year. In three separate actions, OSU affirmed free expression, discontinued the use of mandatory DEI statements in faculty hiring, and adopted the Kalven Report. ACTA worked to encourage these changes, sharing illuminating data from a survey we conducted of 2,000 OSU students.

The survey found that 50% of all students and three in four (76%) conservative students reported feeling like they could not express themselves at least occasionally. Our finding that only 32% of students said the university administration clearly protects free speech indicates the importance of OSU's action to affirm publicly and boldly its commitment to free expression. We are optimistic that the university's decisions to discontinue mandatory ideological statements and adopt institutional neutrality will also help rectify the extreme political imbalance on campus revealed in our survey: Seventy-one percent of liberal students reported having few to no friends with different political beliefs, compared to just 33% of conservative students.

The Power of Success

After ACTA launched a CFI campaign at the **University of Texas (UT)–Austin** in 2022, the UT System Board of Regents unanimously voted to adopt the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression for all UT institutions. We are working to ensure that UT–Austin implements its new commitment and goes further in protecting campus freedom. In May 2023, we released a survey of over 1,000 undergraduates, revealing that intolerance and self-censorship remain serious challenges at UT–Austin. We sent our findings to local allies, and ACTA President Michael Poliakoff published a *Forbes* column exhorting the university to implement fully its new policies.

ACTA Launches Institutional Neutrality Campaign



Institutional neutrality protects the vibrant exchange of ideas that is the lifeblood of our colleges and universities.

Scan the QR code to download the Kalven Report and find out more about ACTA's campaign to get universities out of politics and back to their true mission: educating students.

IMPACT

College Debates and Discourse Alliance

To date:

250+

debates with

10,000+

student participants from

100+

institutions nationwide.

Results

A 2023 survey of students who participated in debates found:

86% agree that

“This debate experience has given me a more positive outlook on political discourse.”

80% agree that

“after this debate, I have greater respect for people who hold different opinions than me.”

65% said

“After this debate, I am more likely to share my ideas or opinions in class.”

Our CFI work at **Cornell University**, started in 2022, also continues to bear fruit. In April, Dr. McGuire was invited by two student groups to address the campus community about the state of free expression at Cornell. The day after his speech, President Martha Pollack announced that the 2023–2024 academic year will feature a free expression theme. Although much more remains to be done, we commended President Pollack and urged her to incorporate free expression training in the Fall 2023 freshman orientation, which she subsequently did. President Pollack also rejected two alarming motions from the student and university assemblies that would have provided trigger warnings on class content and legitimated the heckler’s veto.

In 2024, ACTA will take CFI to a new level by providing statewide assessments of campus free speech. We are preparing to publish an inaugural report card that will rate Arizona’s three public universities against each of the 20 Gold Standard actions. We chose to release our first assessment in Arizona after gaining significant traction there earlier in 2023: In July, Dr. McGuire and ACTA Board Member Karrin Taylor Robson coauthored an article in the *Arizona Republic* that called on the **Arizona Board of Regents** to cease requiring DEI statements from faculty applicants. The board agreed to do so three weeks later.

The College Debates and Discourse Alliance

Changing the Culture

A university with all the right policies in place to protect free expression, civil debate, and viewpoint diversity is a mere house of sand if students and faculty do not have frequent opportunities to put these values into action. ACTA’s **College Debates and Discourse Alliance**, in partnership with **Braver Angels** and **BridgeUSA**, creates these opportunities. What started as a small handful of debates in 2018 has now grown into one of the highest-demand programs in ACTA’s history. To date, we have launched more than **250** campus and classroom debates, engaging over **10,000** students at **100+** colleges and universities of all kinds—large and small, public and private, religious and secular.

ACTA’s debates equip students to discuss controversial topics with civility and respect. At many schools, our debates are the only forum on campus where students can hear and share the full range of intellectual and political viewpoints on the most important issues of our day. Debate topics in 2023 included: “Should DU Ban speakers with problematic views?” at the University of Denver; “Transgender athletes should compete in sports as the sex they were assigned at birth” at Arizona State University; “Cancel culture is erasing free speech in America” at Cape Fear Community College; and “AI provides more benefit than harm to humanity” at Duke University.



ACTA's College Debates and Discourse Alliance partnered with the National Governors Association on its Disagree Better initiative, hosting a debate at Saint Anselm College. Governors Spencer Cox, Chris Sununu, and Dan McKee are shown with ACTA's Sadie Webb, BridgeUSA's Manu Meel, and student debaters from Saint Anselm.

ACTA is teaching students habits of civil discourse from day one. In 2023, we delivered immersive workshops during freshman orientation at the University of Dallas, Denison University, and Duke University. We are also empowering students and faculty to chair debates and run civil discourse workshops on their own. Since Fall 2022, **600** professors and instructors have downloaded our **Curricular Toolkit**, which provides detailed instructions for conducting classroom debates that relate to course content and include student research and reflection. At the University of Baltimore, Professor Jennifer Keohane held two debates on renaming schools named after slaveowners and trigger warnings on art pieces. Professor David Wright of North Carolina State University held 18 classroom debates for a cohort of 160 students in his Ethics In Computing class.

After holding a debate for his 180 students with the help of ACTA and Braver Angels staff, University of Washington Professor Matt McGarrity said, "It was a fantastic opportunity to give a large class the chance to feel like they were participating in a meaningful debate. Our end-of-quarter evaluations also highlighted how much students valued this opportunity."

Marching Forward

With a \$1.3 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation, ACTA is in the midst of a two-year project to research the effectiveness of our debate program. We have hired student and faculty fellows at 10 universities who are organizing year-round debates at their schools and recruiting peers to join the effort.

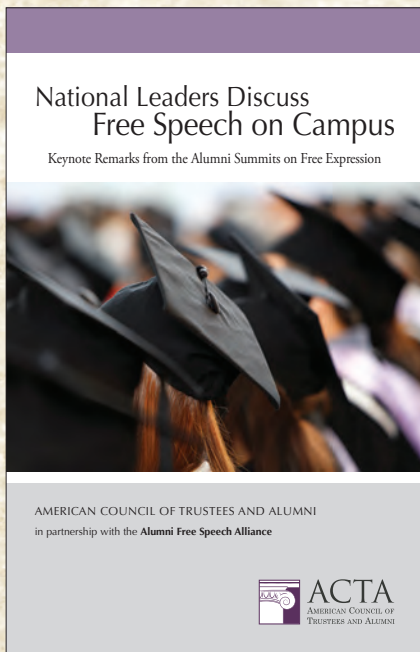
Student and faculty fellows at the **Virginia Military Institute (VMI)**, one of our most active communities of practice, recently held an intercollegiate debate chaired by ACTA's Doug Sprei, inviting hundreds of students from Southern Virginia University, Washington and Lee University, and Mountain Gateway Community College. VMI cadet Isabella Bruzonic shared, "I have never in my life been involved in such a thought-provoking discussion, getting to understand the ideas and thoughts of not only other VMI cadets but also students from other colleges."

ACTA and Braver Angels are working hard to expand our program even further in response to overwhelming demand. All three of the schools that participated in our intercollegiate debate at VMI have expressed interest in joining our debate program in 2024. And with a grant from the Barnes Family Foundation, we are bringing debates to 10 schools in the University of North Carolina System.

ACTA is also partnering with state governors to promote civil discourse. After observing an ACTA/Braver Angels debate at Utah State University in 2022, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, the current chair of the **National Governors Association (NGA)**, invited us to expose governors to our student debates as part of NGA's Disagree Better initiative. In 2023, **New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, and Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee** attended our debates at Saint Anselm College and the University of Denver. In his remarks after the Saint Anselm debate, Governor Cox shared how inspiring it was to see students disagree respectfully over



Virginia Secretary of Education **Aimee Rogstad Guidera** delivers the keynote address at the **2023 Alumni Summit** co-hosted by ACTA and the Alumni Free Speech Alliance.



Scan the QR code for a copy of the publication.



the controversial topic of climate change. We are slated to hold more debates in conjunction with NGA in 2024.

Alumni Join the Fight

Over the past two years, ACTA has intensively recruited alumni into the effort to demand that American campuses protect free expression and honor intellectual diversity. This work has intensified a national alumni movement that universities cannot afford to ignore, as revealed by the overwhelming alumni pushback against colleges' response to the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel. With support from ACTA, the **Alumni Free Speech Alliance (AFSA)** has established chapters at **24** universities, which together represent an enrollment of a quarter million undergraduates. ACTA and AFSA held the second annual **Alumni Summit on Free Expression** in Washington, DC, on March 30 and 31, where more than **120** alumni learned strategies for influencing university leadership to protect free speech on campus. The summit inspired the formation of two new groups, the Furman Free Speech Alliance at Furman University and the Williams Free Speech Alliance at Williams College. Armed with tools and resources from ACTA, alumni are using their influence to encourage their presidents and trustee boards to adopt the Chicago Principles and other commitments to academic freedom and viewpoint diversity. They are also working to build coalitions with students and faculty to make a united demand for a freer campus culture.

ACTA is using our platform to inspire alumni at every institution in the nation to join the movement for free speech in higher education. In 2023, we launched an advertising campaign to raise awareness of the alumni movement, using as a springboard a promotional video that we premiered at the 2023 summit, entitled **Alumni Rising**. Three additional video advertisements—featuring testimonials from AFSA leaders John Craig and Jenna Robinson and an excerpt from a speech delivered by President John F. Kennedy—generated almost **300,000** views on YouTube in just one month. We also published the keynote speeches delivered at our 2022 and 2023 Alumni Summits. Entitled **National Leaders Discuss Free Speech on Campus**, this anthology features incisive remarks from the **Honorable Janice Rogers Brown**, journalist **Jonathan Rauch**, former ACLU president **Nadine Strossen**, and civil liberties attorney **Samantha Harris**.

Donors Push Back

The appalling behavior on America's college campuses after the Hamas terrorist attack, by both students and administrators, has motivated donors across the country to reevaluate their support for higher education. ACTA's **Fund for Academic Renewal (FAR)** helps provide alternatives to donors who object to the policies and actions



Intelligent College Giving

Recent activity on campus has motivated donors to reevaluate their support for higher education. The **Fund for Academic Renewal** provides an alternative, helping donors craft gifts with enduring impact.

\$215,000,000
in gifts donated to date by alumni who
sought advice from ACTA's Fund for
Academic Renewal.

AcademicRenewal.org

of their alma maters. To date, FAR has advised donors on gifts totaling **\$215,000,000**. In 2023, we assisted donors concerned about violations of their gift agreements at Cornell University and Trinity College; advised donors and faculty members seeking to create new, transformative centers for the liberal arts; and helped donors craft gift agreements that honor their vision and values.

FAR is working vigorously to expand our services as alumni and donors demand more accountability from their institutions. We added two new members to our Advisory Council, including **Siri Terjesen**, an outstanding faculty partner who directs the Madden Center for Value Creation at Florida Atlantic University, and **Ed Robinson**, the founder and CEO of Ten Talents, LLC, and an active member of Bucknell University's Open Discourse Coalition, an AFSA chapter. We continuously publish assessments of the challenges facing higher education donors and advice for giving well. In 2023, FAR's new director, Rebecca Richards, published several articles, including "What is Philanthropy For?" in **Philanthropy Daily** and "The Donor's Limited Power" in **Law and Liberty**. FAR also released two important new resources on wise college giving, including "10 Questions to Ask before You Give" and "How Trustees Can Protect Donor Intent."

“*As our world becomes ever more complex and, in many ways, divisive, it is integral that our nation's students graduate able to engage with that complexity, listen to and understand others' perspectives, and respectfully articulate their own. This is what we saw at the debate, and it is commendable.*”

—**Jeremy Haefner**, Chancellor, University of Denver

Note: In November 2023, ACTA organized its second debate with the National Governors Association.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

In 2023, ACTA set in motion an ambitious, multi-pronged effort to reverse the civic literacy crisis that is plaguing our campuses and our country. As we observed the outstanding work of Arizona State University’s School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, we promoted the creation of the **Institute of American Civics at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville**, then advised on the formation of the **School of Civic Life and Leadership at the University of North Carolina (UNC)–Chapel Hill**, and encouraged the birth of **five centers devoted to civic education in Ohio**. Our new Hillen Fellow in American History & Civic Education is currently assembling a national commission aimed at restoring the American history requirement at all colleges and universities. We also completed an ambitious overhaul of our What Will They Learn?[®] college curriculum ratings that makes it easier than ever for families and students to select schools with a demonstrated commitment to academic excellence.

Building Civic Education Institutes

For the past two years, ACTA has worked behind the scenes to lead the development of independent institutes at public universities that are dedicated to civic education. These institutes are designed with independent hiring power to recruit intellectually diverse faculty and have an explicit mission to teach students about America’s story through robust debate and open inquiry. ACTA has played the crucial role of connecting legislators with like-minded university leaders who want to bring these centers to life.

We began our efforts in 2022, encouraging the creation of the Institute of American Civics at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. With strong bipartisan support, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee appropriated an initial \$6 million in fiscal year 2022–2023 to establish the institute. He defined it as an institute dedicated to “informed patriotism.” It is now up and running under the leadership of Executive Director Joshua Dunn.

Following Tennessee’s lead, in January 2023 the UNC–Chapel Hill Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to accelerate the establishment of its own civic education institute. The School of Civic Life and Leadership will be a stand-alone academic unit with its own dean and faculty. ACTA encouraged university leadership to pursue this course during a retreat we held for the trustee board in Fall 2022, and we continue to provide guidance as the new school takes off.

In June 2023, **Ohio Governor Mike DeWine approved Senate Bill 117**, which appropriates \$24 million in the state’s 2024–2025 budget to establish civic education institutes at Ohio State University and four more public universities. ACTA staff provided expert guidance in crafting the language of the bill, and ACTA Senior Program Officer for Trustee & Government Affairs Nick Down testified before the Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee. He spoke on the importance of reversing our civic literacy crisis by developing students who understand the sacrifices, struggles, and contributions of those who went before us. Senator Jerry Cirino, who co-sponsored the bill, commented, “I am grateful to ACTA for all its important help during the legislative process. They were with us from day one.”

A National Commission to Restore American History

Stephen Balch, founding president of the National Association of Scholars, joined ACTA in Summer 2023 to serve as our **Hillen Fellow in American History & Civic Education**. In this new position, funded by a generous gift from the Honorable John Hillen, Dr. Balch will liaison with state legislatures and university leaders in more states who want to replicate the civic institutes established in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Ohio.

As a complement to these efforts, Dr. Balch is organizing a national commission aimed at restoring the American history requirement at all colleges and universities. Every student should leave college with a deep knowledge of our nation’s history and the critical thinking abilities that prepare them to be the informed citizens and leaders that our nation desperately needs. There is growing frustration on both sides of the aisle over higher education’s failure in this essential duty. Within the next two years, ACTA will bring together concerned university presidents, trustees, lawmakers, and historians who will help design and implement a rigorous required course in American history and government. The commission will identify in detail the key documents and figures that this course should include, from James Madison to Martin Luther King, and encourage universities and legislatures across the country to join us. We are now in the process of raising funding for the commission and identifying candidates to serve on it.

The New and Improved What Will They Learn?®

In 2023, our Academic Affairs team oversaw an update and redesign of our signature **What Will They Learn?®** project, which rates the core curricula at over **1,100** American colleges and universities with a stated liberal arts mission. ACTA will now release our ratings exclusively online. This change makes our ratings easily accessible to



UNC–Chapel Hill trustees John Preyer, David Boliek, and Marty Kotis (far right) with ACTA’s Michael Poliakoff and Armand Alacbay at the Jerry L. Martin Prize dinner, ACTA’s award for excellence in college trusteeship.

ACTA congratulates the Board of Trustees of UNC–Chapel Hill for establishing **The School of Civic Life and Leadership**, an independent academic unit with its own dean and faculty.

We are proud to have encouraged university leadership to pursue this course, and we will continue to provide support and guidance.

“It is really heartening to know that there is an organization that not only understands the critical importance of preserving academic freedom and restoring financial accountability to our nation’s colleges and universities, but . . . has the courage to act on it.”

—David Boliek, Trustee, UNC–Chapel Hill Board of Trustees

FIND A SCHOOL EXPLORE SCHOOLS

Enter a school name

Find the Best College for You

Search for schools that have the environment you want and the curriculum you need.

What Will They Learn?® is designed to help you decide whether the colleges you are considering prepare graduates to succeed.

Click an icon to learn more about core subjects.



Hover over a state to learn more.

ACTA's updated **WhatWillTheyLearn.com** has already had **231,551** views and gained **114,000** new users.



college-seeking students and families on **WhatWillTheyLearn.com**. New features allow users to see nationwide data at a glance, explore schools with an expanded set of search filters, and compare each institution's WWTL rating, tuition rates, student-to-faculty ratios, and climate for free speech on campus. We have also added a new member module, which provides access to exclusive search features, including religious affiliations and campus setting. And there is more to come.

Also in the works is the addition of two new grades to our "A" – "F" rating scale. The A+ will distinguish schools that require all seven of the core WWTL subjects: Composition, Literature, (intermediate-level) Foreign Language, U.S. Government or History, Economics, Mathematics, and Natural Science. The B+ will distinguish schools that require five subjects. The new grades will motivate schools that already have a solid core curriculum to strive for a perfect A and will make the WWTL rating more competitive. In 2024, we will be adding five additional subject areas to What Will They Learn?®, providing students and parents with an even greater understanding of each school's core curriculum. The new subject areas will be Western Civilization, Religious Studies, Philosophy, World History, and Fine Arts. While having requirements in these areas will not affect a school's WWTL grade, they will further help students and parents choose the right school for them.

ACTA continues to give personalized guidance to universities that seek to improve their WWTL ratings. In 2023, we provided assessments of Alice Lloyd College, Christendom College, Sterling College, Davenport University, Houston Christian University, Erskine College, and Belmont Abbey College. We also produced a promotional video in conjunction with Patrick Henry College, a WWTL "A" school, that highlights the college's exceptional core curriculum.

Hidden Gems and Oases of Excellence

Despite their challenges, universities across the country are home to devoted faculty and outstanding academic initiatives and honors programs that are reversing our civic literacy crisis and restoring the legacy of higher education, one student at a time. ACTA's Oases of Excellence network and Hidden Gems initiative exist to bring these programs into public view, encouraging students to take advantage of the opportunities they offer and providing interested higher education donors with meritorious programs to support.

ACTA added seven new programs to our **Oases of Excellence network** in 2023, bringing the total to **90**. Some of these excellent Oases include the Center for Great Books & Human Flourishing at Faulkner University, the Institute for Advancing American Values

at Boise State University, and the Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage at the University of Oklahoma. We also continue to provide support and resources to the many dedicated faculty at schools across the country who are working hard to keep the liberal arts alive. Our September 8 **Oases of Excellence Faculty Conference** was held in Durham, North Carolina, in partnership with **Duke University's Civil Discourse Project**. Thirty faculty participated in workshops and heard from keynote speaker George Lucas, former president of the International Society for Military Ethics.



Faculty from 11 states gather in Durham, North Carolina, for the Oases of Excellence Faculty Conference.

Our **Hidden Gems** initiative shines a light on honors programs, major and minor degree programs, and certificate programs that guide students through a high-quality and coherent interdisciplinary education. This year, we added programs at four universities to our growing list of Hidden Gems, including the Frederick M. Supper Honors Program at Palm Beach Atlantic University; the Torrey Honors College at Biola University; the Great Books Honors Program at Faulkner University; and the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics master's program at Georgia State University.

“*Such coursework . . . is especially important today for it shows students the meaning of active citizenship—Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., were ordinary citizens of humble backgrounds whose love and faith in their country inspired them to take action in its name, to redeem its promise and to brighten its future. Learning directly from such minds is excellent preparation for any American citizen.*

—**Bradley Jackson**, Vice President of Policy, ACTA

Note: From Dr. Jackson's testimony before the North Carolina House of Representatives' Education Committee in favor of House Bill 96, titled the Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage Act (REACH Act).



ACCOUNTABILITY

To restore confidence in higher education, colleges and universities need clear policies that promote free expression, rigorous academic standards, and responsible spending. They also need informed trustees who can put these policies into action. In 2023, ACTA traveled across the country, providing trustees with training and resources to balance the budget, set competitive graduation requirements, and protect free inquiry. We also helped state and federal policymakers craft legislation to ensure that universities deliver the outstanding education Americans deserve.

Equipping Trustees

Chosen for their integrity, creativity, and management expertise, many trustees begin their terms without any specialized knowledge of higher education governance. ACTA helps new trustees bridge the vast knowledge gap required to be an informed leader and helps seasoned trustees stay up to date with the ever-changing higher education landscape.

In October, **ACTA trained over 60 trustees from Ohio's 14 public universities at the first-ever Ohio Public University Trustee Governance Symposium**, hosted by Senator Jerry Cirino and Senate President Matt Huffman. ACTA's Armand Alacbay, Kyle Beltramini, and Anna Sillers led presentations on the basic responsibilities of informed trusteeship, including selecting a new president and controlling institutional spending. ACTA President Michael Poliakoff moderated a panel on how trustees can build a campus culture that promotes intellectual diversity. The panel featured several of ACTA's most trusted friends, including Vincent Phillip Muñoz of the University of Notre Dame, Joshua Dunn of the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, Dorian Abbot of the University of Chicago, and Erec Smith of York College of Pennsylvania.

In November, the **UNC–Chapel Hill Board of Trustees invited ACTA to lead the board's annual retreat**. ACTA's Michael Poliakoff, Stephen Balch, Kyle Beltramini, and Alex Wolf led several sessions on accreditation, academic requirements, and free speech. Over the last two years, we worked closely with the board as it took bold action to advance the free exchange of ideas and civic education. In addition to affirming its commitment to free expression and accelerating the creation of the School of Civic Life and Leadership, the board recently passed a nondiscrimination resolution that applies to both admissions and hiring.

Started during the pandemic, ACTA's **webinar series** has attracted trustees all over the country. Our April 18 webinar, "**Student Debt and the Spending Crisis**," featured former University of Northern Colorado president **Robert Dickeson**, U.S. Senator **Hank Brown**, economist **Matthew Hendricks**, and former Appalachian College Association president **Alice Lee Williams Brown**. At our August webinar, "**Defending Free Expression and Intellectual Diversity**," attendees heard from four bold proponents of free speech: UNC-Chapel Hill trustee **Marty Kotis**, University of California-Davis professor **Abigail Thompson**, former Arizona Board of Regents member **Karrin Taylor Robson**, and York College of Pennsylvania professor and co-founder of Free Black Thought, **Erec Smith**.

Assisting Lawmakers

State legislatures play an important role in keeping universities accountable to the public they serve. Like trustees, many lawmakers need assistance to determine how to help universities deliver a rigorous education and spend public funds wisely. In 2023, ACTA offered our expertise to reform-minded governors and provided testimony on current legislation that can make positive differences in higher education.

In March, ACTA Vice President of Policy Bradley Jackson testified before the **North Carolina House of Representatives' Education Committee** in favor of House Bill 96, titled the Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage Act (REACH Act). The bill would require public university and community college students to take three credit hours of instruction in American government in order to graduate, including the study of core texts such as the Declaration of Independence and the Federalist Papers.

ACTA also testified before both the **Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee** and the **House Higher Education Committee** in favor of Senate Bill 83. This expansive bill requires trustees to take training courses on their fiduciary duties and requires students to take at least three credit hours in American government in order to graduate. It also would ban or limit functions related to DEI offices, such as mandatory diversity training. In his March testimony before the **Ohio Senate**, ACTA President Michael Poliakoff said, "Some programs at Ohio's public universities are already using mandatory diversity statements for hiring and promotion. Such requirements are likely to spread without bold legislative action such as SB 83. . . . We are pleased to see that Ohio lawmakers are both asking how your state can be a leader in campus freedom of inquiry and expression and recognizing that fostering the free exchange of ideas will require remedial action."



STUDENT DEBT and the SPENDING CRISIS

What Trustees Need to Know to Spend Wisely

a webinar from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni

April 18, 2023 - 1:00 p.m. EST



Defending FREE EXPRESSION and INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

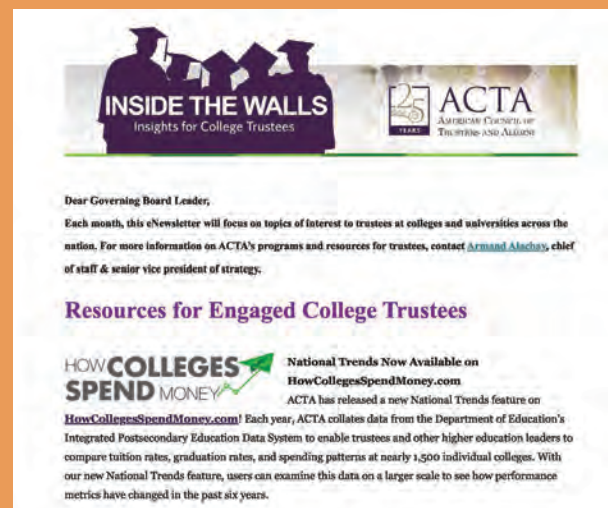
What Trustees Need to Know

a webinar from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni

August 9, 2023 - 2:00 p.m. EDT

IEG ACTA

Scan the QR code to check out ACTA's trustee webinars.

INSIDE THE WALLS
Insights for College Trustees

Dear Governing Board Leader,

Each month, this eNewsletter will focus on topics of interest to trustees at colleges and universities across the nation. For more information on ACTA's programs and resources for trustees, contact **Armand Alachay**, chief of staff & senior vice president of strategy.

Resources for Engaged College Trustees

HOW COLLEGES SPEND MONEY National Trends Now Available on HowCollegesSpendMoney.com

ACTA has released a new National Trends feature on HowCollegesSpendMoney.com! Each year, ACTA collates data from the Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System to enable trustees and other higher education leaders to compare tuition rates, graduation rates, and spending patterns at nearly 1,500 individual colleges. With our new National Trends feature, users can examine this data on a larger scale to see how performance metrics have changed in the past six years.

Sign up for ACTA's trustee eNewsletter, **Inside the Walls: Insights for College Trustees** at InsideTheWalls@GoACTA.org.

IMPACT

Resources

1,900+

ACTA resources downloaded or accessed in 2023.

GoACTA.org/resources

1,200

state lawmakers and **50** governors received ACTA's annual state rankings that provide higher education performance metrics in all **50** states.

GoACTA.org/policymakers

Training

416,569

Number of students who benefited from trustee training and guidance that ACTA provided to **32** institutions and **2** state systems in 2023.

On November 29, **President Poliakoff was called upon by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin to address the Higher Education Summit on Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity.** Dr. Poliakoff exhorted over **100 university presidents and trustees** to dismantle the internalized culture of offense that exists on many campuses and revive a true marketplace of ideas. ACTA stands ready to assist governors and leaders in every state who seek to prioritize open inquiry and free discourse at our colleges and universities.

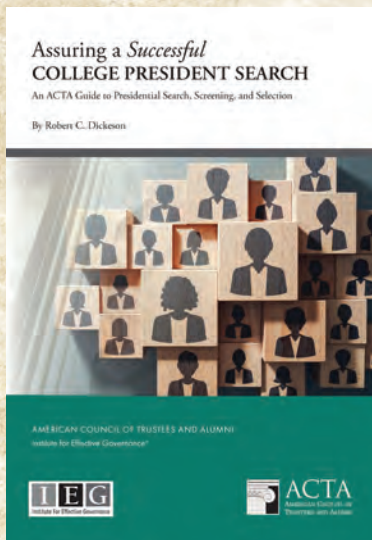
Calling Accreditors to Account

College accreditors do not certify excellence as they should. Instead, they often turn a blind eye to weak academic performance and interfere in areas outside of their purview. In 2023, ACTA took on the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**, whose president, Belle Wheelan, threatened UNC–Chapel Hill's accreditation status over the board's decision to create the School of Civic Life and Leadership. President Poliakoff sent a letter to the Department of Education's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality in which he exposed Dr. Wheelan's egregiously intrusive behavior and requested a review of SACSCOC and its actions related to UNC–Chapel Hill. We are pleased that this action was later broadcast to the nation in a *Wall Street Journal* editorial.

In early 2024, ACTA also submitted a complaint to the **New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)**, Harvard University's accrediting body, requesting a formal inquiry into the Harvard Corporation's apparent violations of its own established procedures in its bungled investigation of the plagiarism allegations against former president Claudine Gay. In its hasty and inadequate investigation, the corporation appeared to have violated several provisions of NECHE's *Standards for Accreditation* and ignored the standards for plagiarism espoused in the *Harvard Guide to Using Sources*. We have simultaneously informed the **House Committee on Education & the Workforce** of the complaint we have submitted.

Cutting-Edge Resources

Recent university leadership scandals—including the resignations of Dr. Gay and former University of Pennsylvania president Liz Magill—demonstrate how critical it is for trustees to pick the right president for the right reasons. In 2023, ACTA published a key resource for trustees, ***Assuring a Successful College President Search***. In this guide, **Robert C. Dickeson**—cofounder of the Academic Strategy Consortium and former president of the University of Northern Colorado—provides a start-to-finish breakdown of the presidential search process, including standards that every board should use to evaluate new leaders; pitfalls to avoid when selecting and interviewing candidates; and advice on



RECENT UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP SCANDALS DEMONSTRATE HOW CRITICAL IT IS FOR TRUSTEES TO PICK THE RIGHT PRESIDENT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

ACTA's new report, ***Assuring a Successful College President Search: An ACTA Guide to Presidential Search, Screening, and Selection***, by Academic Strategy Consortium cofounder **Robert C. Dickeson**, offers trustees a road map for the search process to help them make the right decision for their institutions.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A COPY.



restarting a failed search. The new guide emphasizes that boards must seek evidence of commitment to intellectual diversity and freedom of expression when considering candidates.

ACTA Policy Research Fellow Kyle Beltramini presented this guide at a **statewide symposium on governance for trustees in Ohio**, and board members from 12 institutions have requested copies of the report for use in their searches. In the first half of 2023 alone, **over 1,600** people accessed copies of ACTA's resources on the **U.S. Department of Education's ERIC library**, and throughout the year ACTA fulfilled resource requests for over **300 publications to higher education leaders** across the country seeking to apply ACTA's best practices at their institutions.

Each year, ACTA releases annual state rankings of college performance to provide trustees and policymakers with the information they need to make crucial decisions that impact the future of higher education in their state. This tool allows higher education stakeholders to see how their institutions compare among the rest of the nation on spending, cost-effectiveness, graduation rates, and speech code policies. ACTA sent this year's state rankings to **50 governors** and **1,200 state lawmakers**. In our 2023 state rankings, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Mississippi tied for first in speech code policies. Their public institutions have the least restrictive policies on campus speech. Delaware's public universities have the highest average four-year graduation rate at 65%, and Oklahoma's universities have on average the most rigorous core curriculum requirements.

HowCollegesSpendMoney.com

In 2023, we incorporated a new **National Trends** feature on our college spending website, **HowCollegesSpendMoney.com**. The interactive graph allows trustees, policymakers, and journalists to explore how higher education spending and tuition have changed over the past 10 years. Additionally, ACTA's signature report on administrative spending originally released in 2021, entitled **The Cost of Excess**, continues to be one of our most popular publications, with over **425** copies requested since the report's publication.

“*My “go to” for higher education insights and help is the American Council of Trustees and Alumni ACTA’s expertise in the areas of engaged board governance, promoting a liberal arts curriculum, and protecting free speech and intellectual diversity on campus is unmatched.*”

—Ohio Senator Jerry Cirino



NATIONAL REACH

On the air, in print, and online, ACTA's policy experts provide the public with the most accurate analyses of the most urgent problems facing America's universities and the best solutions for fixing them. From January to December, reporters representing hundreds of outlets sought out ACTA for our unique and hard-hitting insights on the biggest headlines in higher education news.

Getting the Word Out

In the Headlines

In our best year on record, ACTA made **727** appearances in over **450** online, print, and broadcast outlets, reaching over **1.4 billion** people in **38** states. ACTA's op-eds, interviews, and commentary were featured in the **New York Times**, the **Washington Post**, the **Wall Street Journal**, **FOX News**, **CNN**, the **New York Post**, the **National Review**, the **Chronicle of Higher Education**, **Inside Higher Ed**, and **USA Today**.

One of our most influential pieces in 2023 was an exposé of Stanford's efforts to censor commonsense terms like "American," "white paper," and "extended family" by ACTA's Steven McGuire in **Fox News**, entitled "You won't believe how universities are still trying to control what students say." In September, the **Washington Examiner** featured pieces by President Poliakoff, Dr. McGuire, Director of Alumni Advocacy Bryan Paul, Vice President of Policy Bradley Jackson, and Policy Research Fellow Kyle Beltramini in its **Restoring America** essay series on the state of higher education today.

To date, President Poliakoff has written **40** pieces reaching over **250,000** readers in his regular column for **Forbes**. In 2023, he took on some of the most controversial subjects in higher education, including, "Do Campus Diversity Offices (DEI) Help Or Harm Diversity?" and "Ending Affirmative Hypocrisy." Dr. Poliakoff was one of the nation's most forceful voices condemning the moral equivalency inherent in campus responses to the horrific Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7. In an essay published in **RealClearEducation** on October 20, entitled "Why Was It So Hard for Elite Universities to Condemn Hamas Terrorism?", Dr. Poliakoff and co-author Marc Zvi Brettler, Bernice and Morton Lerner Distinguished Professor in Judaic Studies at Duke University, wrote that the tepid and hypocritical statements made by many elite university leaders reveal "a cancerous moral rot and intellectual confusion."

Online

ACTA's social media presence continues to grow. We reached **1,245,625** people on X (formerly Twitter) and gained **656** new followers. On YouTube, ACTA gained **643** subscribers, and our videos received **432,435** views. On Facebook, we reached over **400,000** users.

GoACTA.org gained **247,884** new users in 2023. The website is a go-to resource for trustees, alumni, policymakers, and students and families, providing each of these groups with the information they need to navigate higher education. Top-visited pages included our CFI campaigns at Stanford and Cornell as well as our College Debates and Discourse Alliance.

Higher Ed Now Podcast

ACTA produced **22** new podcasts in 2023. Unique downloads of **Higher Ed Now** increased by **25%**, surpassing **75,500**. Notable guests included **Carole Hooven**, our **2023 Hero of Intellectual Freedom**; human rights activist **Ayaan Hirsi Ali**; former Wisconsin governor **Scott Walker**; *Washington Post* columnist **George Will**; and author **John Agresto**.

Reaching the Higher Education Community

Trustees. Our growing network includes trustees from nearly every four-year institution across the country that offers a liberal arts degree. We continue to provide guidance and support, and we reach over 23,000 trustees at nearly 1,300 institutions.

Alumni. Our quarterly newsletter **Inside Academe** reaches more than 15,000 alumni from a wide range of colleges and universities. Over 3,000 alumni receive our monthly eNewsletters as well as email updates about our latest initiatives, events, and achievements.

Governors and Policymakers. ACTA reaches out to governors and their education policy staffs, in addition to state policymakers and legislators. ACTA regularly testifies before state legislatures across the country on bills of interest, and our **Higher Ed at a Glance** quarterly eNewsletter reaches over 1,100 lawmakers nationwide.

2023 ATHENA Roundtable and Gala

We thank the hundreds of friends, partners, university leaders, and students who attended our 2023 ATHENA Roundtable and Gala, held on October 26 and 27 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

IMPACT

Spreading the Word

247,884

Number of new users on ACTA's website, GoACTA.org.

1.6 million+

Reach of ACTA's X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook platforms.

250,000

Combined readership to date for ACTA President Michael Poliakoff's 40 hard-hitting articles in *Forbes*.

432,435

Views of ACTA's videos on YouTube.

727

Number of times ACTA appeared in over 450 print, broadcast, and online media outlets in 38 states, reaching over 1.4 billion people.

25%

Increase in unique downloads of ACTA's Higher Ed Now podcast, surpassing **75,000**.



President Michael Poliakoff with Professors Allen C. Guelzo, Alan C. Kors (Merrill Award winner), Robert P. George, and C. Bradley Thompson at ACTA's 2023 Merrill Award Gala.

Honoring Bold Trustees

The conference commenced on October 26 with a dinner at the University Club. ACTA honored the **University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill's Board of Trustees with the Jerry L. Martin Prize for Excellence in College Trusteeship**. The board has shown bold leadership in advancing free inquiry, civic education, and fair admissions. After the Supreme Court struck down UNC–Chapel Hill's affirmative action program, the board embraced the letter and spirit of the law by passing a nondiscrimination resolution that applies to both admissions and hiring.

Reviving Enlightenment Values

"**Dare to be Wise: Enlightenment and the American College Campus**" was the topic of two panels opening the events of October 27. Our first panel, "**Enlightenment, Education, and Liberty**," was moderated by ACTA's **Bradley Jackson** and featured distinguished scholars **Alan Charles Kors**, Henry Charles Lea Professor Emeritus of European History at the University of Pennsylvania; **Peter McNamara**, professor of practice in the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University; and **Thomas Merrill**, associate professor in the School of Public Affairs at American University.

Our second panel, "**Enlightenment on Campus in the 21st Century**," focused on how the appalling campus reactions to the Hamas attack on Israel reveal more starkly than ever the failure of higher education to expose students to the essential Enlightenment ideals of tolerance, equality under the law, and objectivity. Moderated by ACTA's **Bryan Paul**, the panel featured **Pamela Paresky**, director of the Aspen Center for Human Development; **Ilana Redstone**, associate professor of sociology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; and **Molly Brigid McGrath**, associate professor of philosophy at Assumption University.

Carole Hooven: 2023 Hero of Intellectual Freedom

After the panels, we honored **Carole Hooven** as our 2023 Hero of Intellectual Freedom. Dr. Hooven taught at Harvard University for 17 years in the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology. In 2021, she faced a hostile cancellation attempt in response to the



Professors Alan Charles Kors, Peter McNamara, Bradley Jackson, and Thomas Merrill discuss “Enlightenment, Education, and Liberty.”



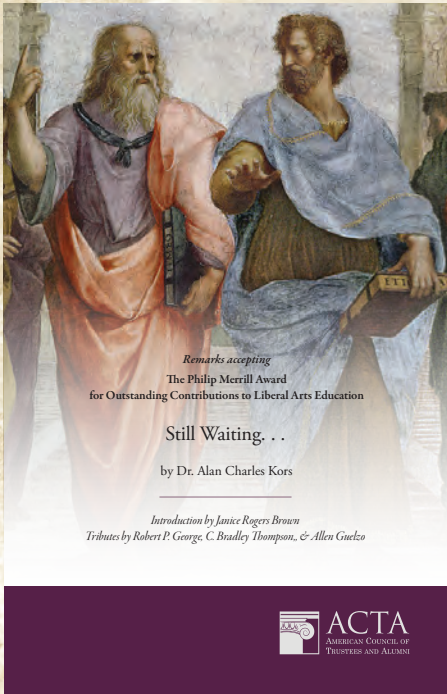
ACTA’s Wm. Bryan Paul, Ilana Redstone, Pamela Paresky, and Molly McGrath explore “Enlightenment on Campus in the 21st Century.”



Heroes of Intellectual Freedom Carole Hooven (2023), Jodi Shaw (2022), Erec Smith (2022), and Luana Maroja (2019).



The Honorable Janice Rogers Brown delivers remarks at ACTA’s 2023 Merrill Award Gala.



Scan the QR code for a copy of **Still Waiting...**, Professor Kors's speech on the failure of higher education to address the deterioration of individual liberty on campus.



View **Ten Minutes to Midnight: ACTA in the Breach**—ACTA's fight to protect Academic Freedom, Academic Excellence, and Accountability in higher education.



publication of her book **T: The Story of Testosterone, the Hormone that Dominates and Divides Us** and her appearance on *Fox and Friends* to discuss the pressure some academics feel to refrain from using terms like “pregnant woman” and “male and female.”

Luana Maroja, chair of the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Program at Williams College and a past winner of the Hero of Intellectual Freedom award, provided a tribute to Professor Hooven. In her acceptance speech, entitled “Is the Juice Worth the Squeeze?”, Dr. Hooven explored the “squeeze,” the cost incurred by those who speak out against campus orthodoxies, and the “juice,” the value of those ideas to the speaker who is censored and the students who are not exposed to competing perspectives. Professors Hooven and Maroja were presented with nineteenth-century engravings of Galileo, threatened at the stake for his own defense of science.

Alan Charles Kors: Winner of the Philip Merrill Award

The 2023 ATHENA Conference culminated with a gala honoring **Professor Alan Charles Kors**, cofounder of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, with the **2023 Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education**. In her opening remarks, **The Honorable Janice Rogers Brown** said, “There is no more ardent and erudite defender of Enlightenment values than Alan Charles Kors.” Tributes to Dr. Kors were delivered by **Robert P. George**, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University; **C. Bradley Thompson**, professor of political philosophy at Clemson University; and **Allen C. Guelzo**, Thomas W. Smith Distinguished Research Scholar and Director of the Initiative on Politics and Statesmanship in the James Madison Program at Princeton University, and a member of ACTA's Council of Scholars.

Judge Brown presented Professor Kors with an early American fire bucket emblazoned with a sun rising over an ancient town, symbolizing the constant progress of civilization. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Kors described how universities today have reversed from rallying for free speech to creating speech codes, from struggling for racial integration and individual dignity to enforcing a new program of racial separation and group identity. He called on the audience to stop subsidizing universities that have become the enemies of a free society and to help create alternatives for the thousands of students who do not have the resources to resist on their own.

ABOUT US

Our Staff



Michael Poliakoff
CEO/President



Lauri Kempson
COO/Sr. VP of Finance



Armand Alacbay
Chief of Staff/Sr. VP of Strategy



Emily Koons Jae
Vice President, Development
& Philanthropy



Bradley Jackson
Vice President of Policy



Leslie Paige
Vice President, Communications



Douglas Sprei
Vice President, Multimedia &
Campus Partnerships



Steven McGuire
Paul & Karen Levy Fellow in
Campus Freedom



Rebecca Richards
Director, Fund for Academic
Renewal



Wm. Bryan Paul, Director,
Alumni Advocacy; Curricular Fellow,
College Debates & Discourse Alliance



Greta Wagley
Senior Researcher/Editor



Kyle Beltramini
Policy Research Fellow



Anna Sillers
Data Analyst Fellow, Trustee &
Government Affairs



Alex Wolf
Research Fellow, Campus Freedom



Tracy Pang
Senior Program Officer,
Foundation Relations



Jimmy Lewis
Major Gifts Officer

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Senior Program Manager,
Communications



Hanna Hotes
Senior Operations Officer



Nicholas Down
Senior Program Officer, Trustee
& Government Affairs



Emily Rees
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Veronica Mayer Bryant
Curricular Improvement Fellow



Gabriella Hsu
Senior Program Manager,
Curricular Improvement



Gregory Brice
Program Administrator, Database
Operations



Sadie Webb
Program Manager, College
Debates and Discourse Alliance



Graham Andreae
Program Associate,
Communications



Clare Doyle,
Program Associate, Trustee &
Government Affairs



Grant Vargo-Willeford
Program Associate, Development

Senior Fellow and Scholar-in-Residence

ACTA continues to benefit from the expertise of our senior fellow, **Anne D. Neal**. Ms. Neal is a cofounder of ACTA and served as our president from 2003 to 2016. She is currently president and CEO of the National Association for Olmsted Parks. Last year, we welcomed **Joshua Katz** as our scholar-in-residence. He also serves as senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Interns

ACTA's internship program offers a unique educational experience to talented college students and recent graduates. The Robert Lewit Fellowship in Education Policy, sponsored by one of ACTA's former chairmen of the board, offers select students the opportunity to engage in special assignments.

2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of December 31, 2023

Assets

Cash/Cash Equivalents (unrestricted)	\$1,543,889
Cash/Cash Equivalents (restricted)	934,339
Marketable Securities	2,407,981
Property/Equipment (net)	601,777
Prepayments & Other Assets	<u>2,606,637</u>
Total Assets	<u>8,094,623</u>

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts Payable	197,902
Deferred Compensation	43,000
Lease Liabilities	<u>3,626,813</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,867,715</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets	3,335,569
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>891,339</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>4,226,908</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$8,094,623</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of December 31, 2023

Revenue & Support

Contributions/Grants (unrestricted)	\$1,851,058
Contributions/Grants (restricted)	2,295,095
Interest/Dividends	47,961
Miscellaneous Income	120,742
Realized/Unrealized Gain	<u>509,080</u>
Total Revenue & Support	<u>4,823,936</u>

Expenses

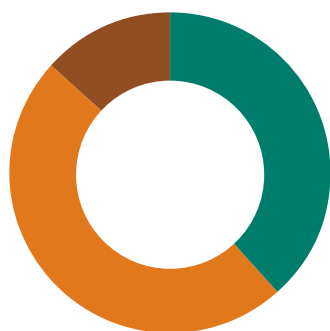
Programs	5,170,147
Fundraising	49,059
Management/General	<u>405,137</u>
Total Expenses	<u>5,624,343</u>

Change in Net Assets **(800,407)**

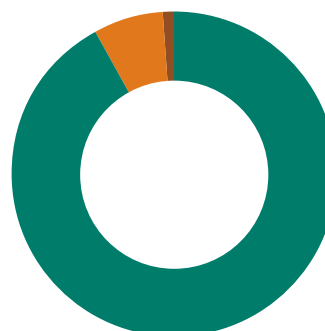
Net Assets, beginning of year **5,027,315**

Net Assets, end of year **\$4,226,908**

2023 OPERATING REVENUES



2023 OPERATING EXPENSES



Unaudited – For Management Purposes Only.

Our Partners

ACTA is grateful to our supporters, whose loyalty and dedication make our important work possible. We rely upon them not just for funding, but for inspiration, collaboration, and assistance in our common goal to ensure that all college students receive an intellectually rich liberal arts education at an affordable price. And because we do not receive government funding, our donors enable us to maintain our independence in forming policies and taking action.

Members of ACTA's Donor Societies are invited to exclusive events throughout the year, where they meet important and influential scholars and leaders of higher education reform. We appreciate these opportunities to engage with our Donor Society members and hear their ideas about the future of higher education.

2023 ATHENA Roundtable Sponsors

John Locke Society (\$25,000)

Kathe & Edwin Williamson, District of Columbia

Montesquieu Society (\$15,000)

Barbara and John Bruning, New York

Benjamin Franklin Society (\$10,000)

Christopher F. Armstrong, Pennsylvania
Classic Learning Test, Maryland
James Doty, District of Columbia
Jack Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles and History, Pennsylvania
Karen & Mark Ridenour, Ohio
Daniel Shuchman, New York
Paul E. Singer Foundation, New York
Stanley Stillman, Virginia
Alice & J. Bruce Whelihan, District of Columbia
Woodford Foundation for Limited Government, Colorado

Mary Wollstonecraft Society (\$5,000)

Jane & Robert Lewit, Massachusetts
Anne D. Neal & Thomas Petri, District of Columbia
Michael Poliakoff, Virginia
Princetonians for Free Speech, New Jersey
Stuart Taylor, Jr., District of Columbia
Princetonians for Free Speech, New Jersey
Edward Yingling, Virginia

Adam Smith Society (\$2,500)

Martha Lewis, Maryland
Edward Stringham, Connecticut
John Whitecar, Mississippi

Sponsoring Tickets (\$1,000)

Lawrence Berlin, Illinois
Abigail & Jason Ford, Maryland
Robert Fuller, Maryland
Joshua Katz, New Jersey
Harvard Alumni for Free Speech, Massachusetts
Institute for World Politics, District of Columbia
UNC Alumni Free Speech Alliance, North Carolina

2022 Annual Contributors

Leadership Society

The Leadership Society consists of grant-making foundations whose generous gifts make ACTA's endeavors possible.

Anonymous
Stewart Baker Charitable Fund, District of Columbia
Barnes Family Foundation, North Carolina
Belz Foundation, Tennessee
Clark Charitable Trust, Massachusetts
Adolph Coors Foundation, Colorado
Ken W. Davis Foundation, Texas
Garvey Kansas Foundation, Kansas
The Kerr Foundation, Oklahoma
Kimmel Fund, District of Columbia
A.P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation, New Jersey
D.W. Gore Family Foundation, Massachusetts
Fletcher Jones Foundation, California
Frankel Family Foundation, New Jersey
Jean K. Lafromboise Foundation, Washington
Fred Maytag Family Foundation, California
The Devereaux F. and Dorothy McClatchey Foundation, Georgia
Phillip M. McKenna Foundation, Pennsylvania
Merrill Family Foundation, Maryland
Jack Miller Family Foundation, Illinois
New World Somewhere Fund, Illinois
The George S. Parker II Charitable Trusts, Florida
The Pittsburgh Foundation, Pennsylvania
John William Pope Foundation, North Carolina
RDM Foundation, Ohio
Sarah Scaife Foundation, Pennsylvania

The Sordoni Foundation, Inc., Pennsylvania
Summerfield Foundation, California
Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, Maryland
John Templeton Foundation, Pennsylvania
Triad Foundation, New York

Thomas Jefferson Legacy Society

The Thomas Jefferson Legacy Society honors donors who make planned gifts to ACTA. Their generosity drives ACTA's work, creating a real legacy by protecting rich liberal arts education for future generations.

Anonymous
John W. Altman, Arizona
M. Blouke Carus, Illinois
Victor Cassidy, Indiana
Lynn & Richard Coyle, Arizona
Jeanne & Gordon Evans, California
Edna Haskell, South Carolina
Arthur D. Hellman, Pennsylvania
Jane Johnson, California
Virginia & Sandy MacNeil, North Carolina
Michael Maibach, Virginia
Margaret F. Miller, Indiana
Philbrook Revocable Trust, California
Angelo Pizzagalli, Vermont
Anne & Michael Poliakoff, Virginia
The Estate of Clifford P. Hackett, District of Columbia
The Estate of Elaine & Ronald Rich, Indiana
The Estate of Alma J. Ryan, Colorado
The Estate of John R. Wilson, Georgia

Founder's Society

Established in 2015, the Founder's Society is ACTA's highest level of individual donors who support ACTA with gifts of **\$50,000 or more**.

Anonymous
John Hillen, Virginia
Karen & Paul Levy, Florida

Chairman's Society

Established in 2011, the Chairman's Society consists of individuals who support ACTA with gifts of **\$25,000–\$49,999**.

Anonymous
John W. Altman, Arizona
Ravenel Curry, New York

Reuben Jeffery III, Florida
Mack Lindsey, Texas
Kathe & Edwin Williamson, District of Columbia

Trustee's Society

Established in 2016, the Trustee's Society consists of individuals who support ACTA with gifts of **\$15,000–\$24,999**.

Amy & James Bennett, Connecticut
Dargar Bjorksten, Florida
J. Bayard Boyle, Tennessee
Paul Boyle, Tennessee
Barbara & John Bruning, New York
Karen & Mark Ridenour, Ohio
William Walton, Florida

Decade Society

Established in 2005 to commemorate ACTA's 10th anniversary, the Decade Society consists of individuals who donate **\$10,000–\$14,999**.

Christopher F. Armstrong, Pennsylvania
Margaret & James Costan, District of Columbia
Harold Dittmer, California
James Doty, District of Columbia
Roger Howe, Ohio
Charles B. Johnson, Florida
Kathleen Justice-Moore, California
Daniel Shuchman, New York
Stanley Stillman, Virginia
Alice & J. Bruce Whelihan, District of Columbia
Joseph C. Woodford, Colorado

Society of Fellows

Established in 2011, the Society of Fellows consists of individuals who contribute at least **\$5,000–\$9,999** in support of ACTA's work.

Anonymous
Electra & James Agras, Pennsylvania
Kent Croft, Maryland
William Dembski, Texas
Marsha Frey, Montana
Michael Keiser, Illinois
Jane & Robert Lewit, Massachusetts
John Lillard, Illinois
Jerry Martin, Pennsylvania
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