The Leadership Institute’s

Profiles of conservative victories on America’s college campuses

RECLAIM the CAMPUS
Dear conservative student,

When conservative students stand up and fight, they win.

My Leadership Institute’s Campus Reform has launched a new project to highlight the heroic actions of students who fought and defeated liberal bias and abuses on their campuses.

Let me first introduce you to two of them.

When administrators at The Ohio State University invented unreasonable environmental regulations to shut down conservatives’ free speech, Andrew Yogmour took a stand.

“When sensible people use effective techniques to fight abuse they win.”

He earned publicity for his cause and used outside resources to threaten a lawsuit against the school. His heroic actions resulted in a swift restoration of free speech rights for all students on OSU’s campus.

Second, for more than a year, Nick Kowalski, a student at Michigan State University, battled administrators’ plan to impose on students a health care policy nearly identical to Obamacare.

Nick led demonstrations and published eloquent op-eds that detailed the devastating effects of the proposed policy. Days before the landmark Supreme Court decision on Obamacare, administrators folded and fully reversed their extremist plan.

Andrew and Nick are just two of many young conservative heroes who took bold action against the liberal abuse and bias on campus. Their victories show you that when conservatives fight for what they believe in, they win.

It is not surprising many of the heroes in these stories have gained fame and notoriety by engaging in similar activities and advancing conservative principles on campus.

Since LI’s Campus Reform began highlighting these heroic actions early this year, our website traffic has increased dramatically. Due, in part, to these stories of activism the site has already receive 30 times more traffic than it did last year.

LI’s Campus Reform now features several of these conservative victors in profile to inspire you to follow in their footsteps.

I encourage you to read their stories and learn from their success as they advanced conservative principles on their college campuses.

Their stories are included in this book and available for download on the Leadership Institute’s Campus Reform website.

When sensible people use effective techniques to fight abuses and bias they win.

Follow the lead of some of the students we have highlighted and take action.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell
President
The Leadership Institute
While attending the University of Virginia, Wes Siler realized there were no classes on the American conservative movement offered in the course selection. As president of the Burke Society, a conservative campus group, Wes proposed the student congress add a class titled Conservatism 101 to UVA’s curriculum. Conservatism 101, a project of the Leadership Institute, is an academically rigorous examination of the conservative intellectual tradition. Initially, the course proposal was rejected in the fall of 2009.

Wes Siler persevered and worked with the Leadership Institute, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, and other national organizations to build support for the course.

The proposal was submitted and approved by the university student council in the spring of 2010.

In the fall of 2010, Conservatism 101 was taught for the first time at the University of Virginia. The Leadership Institute later used the lessons from UVA to bring Conservatism 101 to other colleges and universities across the country.

As president of Young Jewish Conservatives (YJC), Dickinson College senior David Milstein has led the charge to unite politically conservative young Jews. Although most American Jews gravitate to the left, YJC aims to defy this trend and instead create a “grassroots coalition of politically conservative young Jews.” The goal of the group is to foster a strong and proud community of Jews which will actively work to promote conservative principles in the United States. Milstein has used many of the Leadership Institute’s strategies to help recruit and build his organization. When recruiting the group he used LI techniques to craft a plan to identify, recruit, and organize activists on campus and throughout the country.

David’s commitment and effective use of Leadership Institute training techniques have brought him notoriety on his campus and throughout the country as a leader for young, conservative Jews. David’s notable achievements through YJC include organizing a successful YJC Shabbat, with over 70 attendees during CPAC 2012. He also organized Yameena Fellowship trips, which provide full travel scholarships to Jews who want to visit Israel.

Founded Pro-Israel Organization

National organization unites politically conservative Jews, provides free trips to Israel

Created Course on Conservatism

Overcame school bureaucracy to create course on conservative principles at University of Virginia
On April 5, 2010, Alex Rowson, a student at the University of Idaho (UI), attended a school celebration to honor Caesar Chavez. During a break in the ceremony, Rowson went up to the microphone and stated “illegal immigration destroyed my home state of California.”

The school’s student newspaper, The Argo-naut, misquoted Alex and claimed he engaged in hate speech. Mark Edwards, the Assistant to the president for Diversity and Community, launched an investigation which resulted in the administration charging Alex with “discrimination and harassment.”

Alex recruited the Foundation for Individual Rights In Education (FIRE) to help defend his First Amendment rights. FIRE sent a letter to UI President Duane Nellis which claimed Rowson’s actions came nowhere near the legal definition of discrimination or harassment.

UI dropped the two charges and amended them to a lower offense. Despite this slap on the wrist, Alex turned a negative into a positive and used the publicity to recruit for his Youth for Western Civilization chapter and an on-campus conservative newspaper.

In the fall of 2011, Andrew Yogmour, a student at Ohio State University (OSU) created a Young Americans for Freedom chapter. Andrew engaged in an aggressive recruitment drive to increase club membership.

Andrew and other YAF members were recruiting in the student union when a campus administrator told the group they were in violation of school policy.

The administrator informed Andrew and his YAF chapter that the Ohio Union was an environmental “Green Zone.” She said handing out flyers there was strictly prohibited because school policy defined them as “pollutants.”

Andrew Yogmour contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. They wrote a letter to school administrators highlighting the university’s blatant violation of the First Amendment.

The university backed down and changed their policy in the Union to allow groups to distribute flyers.

As a result of Andrew’s actions, OSU no longer restricts speech on campus.

Andrew successfully recruited new members and created a thriving group which defends conservative principles on OSU’s campus.
With the guidance and assistance of the Leadership Institute, Jen Rumpf and the Pro-Life Aggies raised enough money to fund a scholarship for pregnant and parenting students at Texas A&M.

The scholarship is $1,000 per semester and may be renewed.

“We desire to live out our pro-life convictions by supporting families that have chosen life under the difficult circumstance of being a college student,” said Jen.

“The Pregnant and Parenting Student Scholarship shows we love all life, in the womb and out, and we want to help these families as much after birth as we do when the child is in the womb.”

The Leadership Institute helped Jen fundraise by editing her direct mail letters and identifying a list of potential local donors.

On March 3rd the first scholarship was awarded to a full-time Texas A&M single mother raising her 2 year-old daughter.

Jen and the Pro-Life Aggies hope to grow the scholarship and that her group’s model will inspire students to create scholarships on their campuses. Jen hopes the model her group created will inspire other pro-life students to create scholarships on their campuses.

While attending the College of William and Mary, Joe Luppino-Esposito worked with the Leadership Institute to found a conservative student newspaper.

In 2006 William and Mary administrators, led by University President Gene Nichol, removed a cross from the on-campus Wren Chapel in an attempt to create “less of a faith specific space.”

Joe, and the new Virginia Informer, created a coalition of students and alumni to oppose this measure. He created a website, SaveTheWrenCross.org, to serve as a focal point for the campaign.

Joe and his allies then discovered William and Mary had lost millions in donations as a result of this policy.

The negative publicity forced William and Mary administrators to return the cross to the chapel.

Joe’s campaign culminated when President Gene Nichol resigned in as a direct result of the cross controversy.

Joe effectively harnessed the power of the press to preserve the religious heritage of one of the nation’s oldest universities.

The Virginia Informer remains an eloquent voice for conservatives on campus today.

Wielded pen to repel administrator’s attack on school’s religious heritage

Forced Corrupt President to Resign

Started Pro-Life Scholarship

Founded the Pregnant & Parenting Scholarship to provide financial assistance to student parents

W

Jen RUMPF
Texas A&M University

Joe ESPOSITO
The College of William & Mary, Virginia
As an undergraduate at Texas A&M, Justin Pulliam fought the left on a variety of issues.

Justin was the co-founder and leader of the Texas Aggie Conservatives (TAC). He organized a potent team of activists to expose liberal abuses on campus.

When President Obama spoke at A&M, Justin organized a street theater protest.

During that protest, he spoke out against socialized medicine on MSNBC and was profiled by the New York Times.

In the student government, Justin fought the DREAM Act which would have provided in-state tuition for illegal aliens.

He introduced a bill to counter this policy and he became a leading voice against the act.

Under his leadership, TAC exposed a pornographic sex seminar and opposed the LGBTQ Center on campus.

They helped advance legislation for equal funding for traditional family values on Texas public campuses.

Justin is now involved in a lawsuit with Texas A&M for allegedly denying conservative students equal access to student funding on campus.

Through effective activism, Justin earned notoriety for his cause and became a national voice for conservatism on college campuses.
In October 2011, Riverside Community College held its annual fall recruitment fair. Sophomore Benjiman Roden reserved table space to recruit and start a new chapter of Young Americans for Liberty (YAL).

An hour into his first experience as a conservative campus activist, Benjiman encountered Daniel Ortiz, a Marxist activist and elected member of the college’s Student Senate.

Ortiz accused Benjiman of being a racist for displaying the patriotic “don’t tread on me” Gadsden flag.

Ortiz stated he would use his power as a student senator to ban the libertarian group from campus.

Roden caught the entire episode on video and posted it on LI’s Campus Reform. The publicity forced Ortiz to retract his statements and apologize to Roden.

The experience strengthened Benjiman’s resolve. He since attended the Leadership Institute’s 2011 Student Activism Conference and transferred to the University of California – Riverside, where he is starting a new Young Americans for Liberty chapter and a conservative campus publication with the assistance of The Leadership Institute.

In October 2012, a group of Christian students known for painting themselves with school colors and crosses, attended the LSU versus South Carolina game.

A picture of the group was taken and widely circulated by LSU.

However, the school edited the photo to remove the image of the Christian cross.

Cameron Cooke, one of the students, sent the altered photograph to the student media and to the Leadership Institute’s Campus Reform.

He stated that his group opposed LSU’s decision to remove the cross.

“We love LSU, but we love Christ even more, so we felt as though it was important that we take the opportunity to make his name known,” Cooke said.

The story featured on LI’s Campus Reform went viral.

It was featured on Fox News, The Huffington Post, The Washington Times, and The Blaze and other prominent outlets.

As a result of the negative media attention, LSU’s administrators were forced to retreat.

They issued a public apology and said they would change their policy to avoid repeating the incident.
Defeated stubborn bureaucracy

Christian ANDZEL
SUNY, Buffalo

University of Buffalo (UB) Students for Life president Christian Andzel was tireless in his quest to bring pro-life principles to his campus.

Andzel faced numerous administrative roadblocks and logistical setbacks when he initially tried to form the organization.

Administrators at UB were committed to preventing the club from forming. Christian refused to give in and worked with his regional field coordinator in the Campus Leadership Program to craft creative solutions.

This strategy forced the school to live up to its own rule book. Eventually, administrators relented. In April of 2012 they granted the group official recognition.

Christian has continued to learn new skills to help him become an effective activist. He attended Leadership Institute trainings.

UB Students for Life now has an active presence on campus and hosts many events.

Most recently, Christian organized the club’s second annual pro-life banquet.

Created pro-life organization in the face of bureaucratic nightmare

Fought Leftist Hate Speech

Steven LARSON
Winona State University, Minnesota

On Thursday September 27, 2012, Winona State University hosted controversial gay activist Dan Savage for a speech on campus.

Steve attended the event and caught Savage on camera making a number of offensive statements about Family Research Council (FRC) President Tony Perkins.

Savage blamed Perkins for the gay suicide rate and stated Perkins sits “on a pile of dead gay kids every day when he goes into work.”

“Every dead gay kid is a victory for the Family Research Council,” Savage added.

He then attacked Michele Bachmann as an “ignorant ***” and branded her husband a “faggot.”

Steve sent the video to LI’s Campus Reform and the accompanying article was picked up by several national news publications including Buzzfeed Politics and The Huffington Post.

FRC President Tony Perkins responded to Savage’s statements on the Huckabee Show.

“It’s wrong and I will tell you this, we are pursuing every way possible to deal with him because he is out of control,” Perkins stated.

As a direct result of Steve’s actions, Savage may face legal repercussions for his statements.
Last Spring, Michigan State University (MSU) followed in the footsteps of the Obama Administration and required all students to purchase a health insurance policy. If students failed to purchase a policy, the school would charge $1,500 extra to their yearly tuition.

Nick Kowalski, the founder and chairman of the MSU Campus Conservatives fought back. Nick chronicled the healthcare mandate in articles published on The College Conservative and LI’s Campus Reform.

With the help of LI’s Campus Reform, Nick engaged in an aggressive media campaign.

He appeared on local talk radio and wrote numerous op-eds which appeared in local news outlets to create momentum against the healthcare policy.

Nick branded the policy “Simoncare” after MSU President Ruth Simon. He then he organized an email and call-in campaign which instructed students to lodge their complaints with President Simon.

Nick’s hard work paid off. After receiving numerous complaints and negative media coverage, the MSU administration reversed their decision and eliminated the healthcare mandate.

In April 2009 Rep. Tom Tancredo visited the University of North Carolina to speak to a group of conservative students.

Leftists greeted Tancredo with an unruly demonstration and piled into the room to disrupt the speech.

Protestors unfurled a large banner which read “no human being is illegal” as Tancredo began to speak out against illegal immigration.

Moment later, a protestor hurled a brick through a window which resulted in campus security ending Tancredo’s speech and evacuating the event.

Riley Matheson, who organized the event, captured the incident on video and posted it to YouTube.

Riley coordinated a media campaign to bring publicity to the incident which culminated with his appearance on Fox News.

The video went viral and quickly received more than 70,000 hits.

From the video authorities identified and arrested the individual who threw the brick.

Administrators were forced to publicly apologize for lax security and the behavior of the liberal students.

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In September of 2010 Phil Cleary went undercover to expose the far-left agenda of the Gustavus Adolphus freshman orientation.

Cleary attended “Inside Scoop,” a mandatory part of orientation. The session included a number of exercises which promoted a left-wing viewpoint on homosexuality and religion. One portion explored the joys of atheism, while another instructed students how to come out of the closet to their roommate.

Cleary recorded the entire session and posted it on LI’s Campus Reform.

The video went viral and gained over 40,000 views on YouTube.

Cleary’s exposé began a national conversation. National Review and World Net Daily picked up the story and placed pressure on the Gustavus Adolphus administration.

The Dean of Gustavus Adolphus was forced to respond to the radical programming.

School administrators apologized during an open forum discussion on the “Inside Scoop.” They promised to change the format for future orientation sessions.

Phil’s activism ensured future freshmen would not be subjected to a leftist indoctrination during the mandatory orientations.

On Valentine’s Day, 2012, conservative student activists from the Ohio State Buckeyes for Concealed Carry rallied outside the school Starbucks in support of the company’s pro-gun policies. Starbucks had recently come under fire from the left for their controversial decision to support concealed carry in their stores.

Mike Newbern, the group president, organized the “Buycott” in support of an initiative to allow students to conceal carry on OSU’s campus.

Mike and his fellow student activists stood outside the coffee shop in the cold, with signs supporting pro-gun policies. The students encouraged their peers to patronize Starbucks and pro-gun businesses.

Their activism caught the attention of the local and national press. Stories on the “buycott” were featured in the Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, and the OSU student paper.

Through effective activism, Mike became a notable activist for gun rights on college campuses. Mike is often invited to comment on issues related to campus safety and the second amendment. He often appears in local and national media. He is a fixture on NRA radio as a student voice of pro-gun activism.
On Wednesday, April 4, 2012, Tyler Koteskey and other student activists from the Young Americans for Liberty chapter at the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA) hosted one of the largest conservative speaking events the school has ever seen.

Earlier in the semester, Tyler attended the Leadership Institute’s Youth Leadership School (YLS) and learned how to present major public programs for political candidates.

Tyler applied the political technology he learned in YLS. He led an aggressive petition across UCLA to build support for Rep. Ron Paul’s visit.

Tyler used this technique to create a buzz around the event several weeks in advance.

His efforts paid-off when a crowd of over 7,000 people arrived at the stadium to hear Congressman Paul speak.

The venue was filled to capacity and late arrivals climbed trees outside to see Paul.

A photographer uploaded a picture of these passionate conservatives to the Internet under the title “Tree of Liberty.”

The picture went viral and was posted in the Washington Times and USA Today.

Tyler’s effective use of political technology at a major public program was the difference between an average and a historic event.
On March 31, 2011, the Leadership Institute trained 33 conservatives at the University of Colorado-Boulder at our Campus Election Workshop (CEW).

Conservative student Andrew Yoder brought LI’s training program to campus with the goal of taking over the student government.

Andrew used skills he learned in LI’s CEW. He employed messaging methods to get out the vote for their conservative INVEST ticket. Every student who ran on the INVEST ticket won their election, which gave conservatives control of the student government.

Yoder led their team to win the offices of President, VP of Internal and External Affairs, 4 Colorado University Student Government Representative at large positions, 2 ASSG Co-Executive positions, 5 ASSG Representative positions, the UCEC President, 2 UCEC VPs, 2 UCEC Senators, and 7 UCEC Representatives.

Andrew crafted a conservative agenda and were able to cut the $36 million budget by $1 million and defund CoPIRG, as well as other liberal programs which received disproportionate funding.

Andrew’s efforts ensured budget funds would be spent in a responsible manner.

Used Video to Expose Actor Danny Glover’s Claim that 2nd Amendment was to Protect Slavery

Eric Schroeder, chairman of the Texas A&M Aggie Conservatives (TAC), released hidden camera footage of actor Danny Glover’s claim that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution was used to preserve slavery.

Glover was invited to give the keynote speech at the annual A&M Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

TAC activists lead by Schroeder attended the event and recorded Glover making a number of outlandish statements. Glover told the audience “The Second Amendment comes from the right to protect themselves from slave revolts, and from uprisings by Native Americans.”

Schroeder worked with LI’s Campus Reform and the video was published in a story posted on the main page of the website.


Schroeder and the TAC used the media pressure from the story to create a petition which gathered more than 1,200 signatures demanding Texas A&M administrators provide more balance in their speaker selection.
As Chairman of the Texas Aggie Conservatives, Marc Pitts applied for school funds to cover the costs of an event featuring conservative activist Star Parker.

The event was scheduled for February of 2012. At the time, Texas A&M administrators claimed they could not fund the event because it violated a policy against “Social and Political” student groups.

Marc contacted the Leadership Institute who helped him come up with a plan and put him in touch with Alliance for Defending Freedom (ADF).

Marc pointed out that the university often awarded funds to liberal student groups hosting events on social and political issues.

The ADF filed a lawsuit against Texas A&M alleging administrators had violated the rights of conservative students. As a result, in November of 2012 the Texas A&M administration settled the dispute and TAC received $1,0000 in compensation in addition to a change in the school’s funding policy. Marc’s efforts held Texas A&M administrators accountable and made sure campus funding policies treated conservatives fairly.
Tyler Talgo filmed two of his political science professors at the University of Southern California using class time to attack conservatives.

In the first video Professor Darry Sragow went on a rant where he advocated voter fraud and encouraged losing Republicans voter information in the mail.

Then he attacked both Mitt and Ann Romney and claimed California Republicans are stupid and racist.

Tyler released a second video of Professor Richard Dekmejian who attacked former President George W. Bush. Dekmejian said Bush suffered “serious intellectual and mental problems” and that he was “stupid or lying” when he made the decision to go into Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Dekmejian told the students Bush administration officials Colin Powell and Condoleeza Rice were liars and that Christians were salivating over a war in the Middle East.

Both videos went viral after they were published in exclusive stories on LI’s Campus Reform. The videos gained national media attention after it was featured on the Drudge Report, “The Five,” and “America Live with Megyn Kelly.”

Tyler also made a live appearance on popular daytime televisions show The View where he elaborated on why he took the videos and the liberal bias conservatives face at USC.

As a result of Tyler’s activism efforts USC has faced intensive media scrutiny for refusing to reprimand the professors in the videos.
In 2011 Furman University administrators pulled official accreditation for speaking events hosted by the on-campus group the Conservative Students for a Better Tomorrow (CSBT).

CSBT leader Stephen Sebastian fought back and published a story on LI’s Campus Reform which revealed administrators approving liberal speaking events while discriminating against conservative speakers.

Stephen used LI’s Campus Reform to put pressure on administrators and threatened to put out a press release which would provide more media coverage to the abuse. Furman administrators caved into the pressure and overturned many of their prior decisions regarding accreditation for campus speaking events hosted by the CSBT.

Stephen’s dedication his group overcome liberal discrimination and the group continued to provide an institutional platform for students to hear conservative viewpoints from nationally recognized speakers.

Stephen overcame this instance of liberal bias and provided the Furman student body with a conservative viewpoint on a wide variety of issues.

CSBT went on to host other conservative speakers.

In November of 2011 Sara Ottesen was harassed by campus police for wearing a human sandwichboard during a recruitment drive for her pro-life club at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO).

Sara and an LI staff member helping with the recruitment drive caught the entire exchange on video and contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).

FIRE sent a threatening letter which notified UCO administrators that campus police had violated Sara’s free speech rights and they would face legal action if they did not change their speech policies.

As a result of the legal pressure UCO administrators immediately changed campus recruitment rules. Sara’s activism effort held administrators accountable and ensured students free speech rights were protected.

Liberal administrators believe they can abuse the rights of conservative students without scrutiny. Sara stood up to the liberal abuses on her campus and exercised her right to recruit for her campus pro-life group. Sara proved that when liberals are forced to defend indefensible abuses of personal rights, conservative students will always win.