

Computer Science Seminar

Restoring Civility in American Democracy: Lessons from Gettysburg and Lincoln

Dr. Matthew C. Moen

President of the Gettysburg Foundation



Disagreement permeates American public life, with leaders locked in struggle over public policy choices and citizens telling pollsters the steady conflict is becoming a significant source of stress in their personal lives. How do we emerge from this season of ill-will among us as Americans? How do we restore political civility? Part of the answer is looking back for guidance to the epic battle of Gettysburg and the healing words of President Lincoln, when the unfinished work of democracy was evident; another part is experimenting with public policy solutions to foster more civility.

Bio: Dr. Matthew Moen is President of the Gettysburg Foundation.

From 2002-2017, he was Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Professor of Political Science and Lohre Distinguished Professor at the University of South Dakota. The College consisted of 16 academic departments housing over 200 faculty.

From 1986-2002, he worked at the University of Maine, as professor/chair of the Department of Political Science and special assistant to the president; he was also named a University of Maine System Trustee Professor.

Other notable leadership roles:

- President, New England Political Science Association
- President, Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences (national arts and sciences dean's organization)
- Chair, South Dakota Humanities Council, appointed by SD Governor Dennis Daugaard
- Chair, Professional Ethics Committee, American Political Science Association

He is author/co-author of six scholarly books and dozens of articles.

In 2016, supported by the Chiesman Fund, he undertook a democracy and civility tour in his home state; more recently, he has spoken in venues in Baltimore, Nashville, Pittsburgh, and Las Vegas.

He received his B.A. from Augustana College and his Ph.D. through the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma.

Date: March 21, 2018

Time: 11:00 am

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