

Pilot

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE & RADIO



Equipping **Servant-Leaders**
to **Impact** the Halls of Government



Equipping **Servant-Leaders** to **Impact** the Halls of Government

The Minnesota House of Representatives chamber in the State Capitol.

Are you tired of the relentless campaign ads? Have government bureaucracy and “politics as usual” left you cynical and skeptical of the American democratic process? Take heart! Through its alumni, faculty, staff and students, Northwestern College is equipping servant-leaders to impact the halls of government. So can you!

Emily Cromwell is excited about November’s General Election: she’s now old enough to vote for a U.S. president. “It’s my opportunity to make a difference, to make an impact. Every vote does count, as we found out four years ago,” says Cromwell, a Northwestern senior.

Cromwell sees Nov. 2 as her official entry into America’s unique democratic process. She’s hopeful and energized. Yet she is also critical.

“Christians have taken a back seat in government and politics. We’ve let others take charge,” she says. “For all that’s happened – abortion, God out of schools, marriage under fire – it’s a wake-up call to Christians who have taken a passive role. It’s more important than ever to get involved.”

“The Scriptures command us to be ‘salt and light’ in our world and that can take many forms,” says Joyce (Springer ’61) Henry who served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1986-90. “Although the Bible doesn’t

specifically say we are to vote, this is our form of governance. We influence society by voting for moral and righteous people.”

It's more than just casting a vote in the election, adds Northwestern president Dr. Alan Cureton. “It's being involved in the entire governmental process. It's knowing your representatives and contacting them when legislation concerns you.”

Charmaine Lelm, a senior graphic design major, admits politics is confusing and complex. “It took me a long time to care,” she says. Then, as a high school senior, Lelm attended Girls State, the nationwide program that simulates city, county and state levels of government.

“I learned about government. I tuned in,” Lelm adds. “Know the issues and candidates. Talk to friends. Listen to what others say about the issues; ask questions.”

Lelm was old enough to vote in 2000's controversial and historical election. “I knew that every vote does count, but



The 2003 intercultural internship team shared their insights about Africa with U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (front row, second from right).

it was hard to see that significance – until Florida!”

The Christian responsibility in government and politics is discussed in the Northwestern classroom in political science courses, and such topics surface in Bible, history, communication and business classes. Northwestern students are involved through legislative internships, Political Science

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Find a candidate you can believe in and stand firmly behind

Emily Cromwell jokes that her summer job title was Adhesive Propaganda Technician – handing out campaign stickers at parades, festivals and fairs.

Working with the campaigns of South Dakotans Sen. John Thune (uncle of Jeff Thune '00) and congressional hopeful Larry Diedrich, Cromwell's job included registering voters and identifying voters precinct by precinct. A senior music education major and political science minor from Sioux Falls, Cromwell found campaign work valuable. “You learn about the issues and the candidates. You see how a campaign works and how the nation's political process works.”

Her interest in politics began through her state's Speaker of the House who attended her church and was a family friend. In high school she served as a page in the state House of Representatives, and after her freshman year at Northwestern, took a summer job in Sen. Thune's office. This year she is president of the Northwestern College Republicans and finance director for the Minnesota College Republicans.

Cromwell is a big believer in grassroots involvement. “Find a candidate you believe in and can stand firmly behind. Help out at mailing sessions. Go door-to-door,” she advises. “It can also turn into a great opportunity to be a witness for Jesus Christ.”



Emily Cromwell

Give back through time, talent, treasures

"I believe in giving back through the Three T's: Time, Talent and Treasures," says Daniel Stoltz '83.

He's given back through local government. He served on the city council of Circle Pines, a Twin Cities suburb, from 1994-2000, giving up his seat when his family moved to neighboring Lino Lakes. He was elected to a four-year term on the Lino Lakes council in 2003.



Daniel Stoltz

"I prefer local government. It's nonpartisan. It's framing the city and being proactive with development. You work with neighborhood, environmental and educational issues."

Stoltz didn't have any particular issue in mind when running for office. "I ran a servant-leadership campaign. I was there to represent the citizens and make a better city."

His Northwestern education and financial expertise have been assets to local government. After receiving his B.A. in business administration, he earned an M.B.A. from the University of St. Thomas. He served as Northwestern's chief financial officer (CFO) from 1991-97 and has been CFO at Twin City Co-ops Federal Credit Union for five years. The credit union is the sixth largest in the state with 10 branches and \$500 million in assets.

Dan and his wife, Robin (Ingalls '83), have three children: Dustin, a freshman at NWC; Heidi, 16; and Krista, 13.

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Club, College Republicans and Pro-Life Ministries. Chapels feature professors in panel discussions about government-related topics. In fall 2002 Neal Beets, Roseville city manager, spoke to students about issues on the ballot and the importance of voting.

The Fall 2003 intercultural studies internship team was invited to visit Betty McCollum, Minnesota's representative in the U.S. House. "The team spent time working in Africa and Sen. McCollum, a member of the International Relations subcommittee on Africa, wanted to hear the team's insights and experiences," explains team leader Dr. Garry Morgan, assistant professor of intercultural studies.

Dr. Ardel Caneday, professor of biblical and theological studies, has received an insider's perspective on America's executive branch. For two years he has attended the invitation-only Presidential White House Briefing for Christian Leaders & Pastors in Washington, D.C.

"It was a behind-the-scenes look at policy-making and the complexity, breadth and depth of thought that forges those policies," he said.

This year the audience of 100 pastors, publishers, educators and broadcasters heard directly from President George H. W. Bush, who spoke openly and from his heart for an hour. "This was an event that only happens in a free society," Dr. Caneday adds.

Be Informed, Get Involved

Daniel Stoltz '83 has spent seven years serving on city councils in the Twin Cities suburbs. "A good starting place is to focus on your passion. Is it schools, environment, development?" he asks. "The committees are out there; they need your input, participation and leadership. If you enjoy the process, look into further opportunities."

That's what happened to Joyce Henry. She got involved after seeing some of the curriculum from her sons' school. Soon she was running for school board, then won a seat in the Minnesota House.

"When we see that an elected official supports legislation that is ungodly or immoral, we have a responsibility to contact them and express our opinion in a polite and articulate manner," she says. "We are to pray for those in authority over us. That takes God's grace when we strongly disagree with them. But remember, God can change the hearts of the kings - and legislators!"

Henry admits the legislative process can be a pressure cooker. "It's helpful to build relationships with people on 'both sides of the aisle.' That gets tricky when you don't agree with them, but it makes it easier to get your own bills passed."

While in office Henry joined a nonpartisan Bible study. "It didn't take long before people figured out I was a Christian because of my stand on abortion, the lottery, etc.," she says.

The first step to involvement can be the local precinct caucus. Olivia Loudon, administrative assistant in the public relations department, signed up as an election judge after attending a caucus. "Attend a caucus and learn how the process works. You will feel like you're involved in something worthwhile."

Ralph '55 and Eleanor (Rogers '50) Anderson will be precinct election judges on Election Day, something they've been doing for years. "Why just stand around complaining about the political process? Do something about it!" Ralph charges. "As judges, we are there for a common cause, helping the process. We want all the votes to count."

Jonathan Papik '04 has a different view of government as an appointed employee. A history major and political science minor, Papik is communication director for the Minnesota State Auditor.

His government involvement started as a high school delegate at the Nebraska state convention. While at Northwestern he had an internship with a Hennepin County commissioner, which led to an internship at the Center of the American Experiment, a conservative free-market think tank. He also served as a researcher/writer for a Metropolitan Council task force.

Christians working in government have a unique opportunity, Papik has learned. "As in any position, we influence personally everyday. But working in government and politics we also have a positive influence through the laws that govern us and the resources allocated to society."

Modeling Good Citizenship

As a responsible member of the local, state and national communities, Northwestern College & Radio endeavors to model being a good and contributing citizen by cooperatively working with governmental authorities and agencies at all levels, explains Douglas Schroeder, vice president of business and finance/CFO.

"For example, there are Department of Education requirements at the federal and state levels for financial aid and student work study programs. The College deals with local, state and federal laws when obtaining tax-exempt bonds. At the local level are zoning and fire marshal codes and recycling requirements. Other areas include consumer privacy laws, sales tax and entertainer tax issues and anti-spam legislation. In addition, Radio works with Federal

We need to hear from the people

Although Bruce Anderson (FOCUS '99) has served the Minnesota House of Representatives for the past decade, his government involvement dates back to 1978 when his daughter was born with cerebral palsy. "The social worker advised us keep up with local, state and federal governments as their actions could impact our health-care issues," he explains.

Anderson began at the precinct level and worked up to district and state levels. When he was first asked to seek office, he hesitated.



Bruce Anderson

"I was already involved and we had five kids. Where would I find the time?"

Yet he knew he could make an impact; he could make the time. His first run was for U.S. Congress; he lost to the incumbent. He tried again, but didn't get his party's nomination. Yet his backers would not let him give up, so he focused on the Minnesota House, winning on his second try in 1994.

"People run government, government doesn't run the people," he stresses. "Sometimes we [politicians] think we have all the answers, all the solutions, but we don't. We need to hear from the people. Let us know if something isn't right."

He says a quick phone call, a simple note or a letter to the editor is all it takes. "I often get calls and letters that tip me off to an issue. The more we hear, the more it gets to the proper leadership. Who knows, there may come a time when you can be a resource at a committee hearing.

"Be willing to take a stand," he concludes. "God took a stand for us through His Son, so take a stand for what you believe is right."

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Some who have served

Ron Carey '81 – Secretary/Treasurer, Republican Party of Minnesota

Deborah Hedlund, adjunct faculty – Hennepin County District Court Judge

Mary Ho F92 – Head Librarian, Attorney General Law Library, Singapore

James Knutson, Trustee – Municipal and District Judge, Anoka, MN

Joe Lefto F97 – Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Revenue

Peter Meintsma, professor – Mayor of Crystal, MN

Corey Miltimore F99 – Executive Director, Republican Party of Minnesota

Joanne (Nickel '61) Monaghan – Councillor, District of Kitimat, British Columbia

Sean Nienow '88 – Minnesota State Senate

Dr. Ray Smyth '54, Trustee – Crosslake (MN) City Council

Ron Soderquist '65 – Christian Embassy, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Jacob Swisher, '00 – Third District Vice President, Kansas Republican Assembly

Harvey Thomas '62 – Public Relations Adviser, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Chris Tjornholm '84 – Minnesota House of Representatives

Biblical basis for America's three branches of government

JUDICIAL

Isaiah 33:22

LEGISLATIVE

Deuteronomy 1:13

EXECUTIVE

Exodus 18:21

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Trade Commission and Federal Aviation Administration issues.”

As president, Dr. Cureton knows it's important to make contact and stay connected, so he tries to meet with local, state and federal government representatives when possible. While in Washington, D.C., for a Council for Christian Colleges and Universities conference, he met with Rep. McCollum, “We share some common interests. She serves on the Education and Workforce Committee, so she's tuned into the issues facing higher education and media, such as the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. Our dialogue illustrated why democracy is such an intriguing blend of ideas and concepts. Yet these differences in perspective still unite us as a country.”

The radio ministry's governmental role ranges from public affairs programming to regulations from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

KNWC (Sioux Falls) is working with South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds to broadcast a three-part series outlining Initiative 2010, a state program for economic growth, education and tourism spending.

“The governor requested 30 minutes from stations around the state to carry pre-recorded interviews with him,” explains Jeff Rapp, KNWC manager. “We were willing to fulfill our role as broadcasters in serving the public interest.”

Northwestern Radio partners with the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), which maintains rapport with the FCC and other government bodies in Washington, D.C. Recent issues have focused on the Houses of Worship Free Speech Resolution and localism in broadcasting.

Harv Hendrickson, vice president for network support, serves as the chair of NRB's Music Licensing Committee for noncommercial radio. The committee is active in negotiation, litigation and legislative action to obtain fair music license agreements.

The Lord calls Christians to engage culture, Dr. Cureton stresses. “We can't pull away from the governmental or political realm. My hope is that from Northwestern will emerge people who are willing to accept the role of statesmen and serve the Lord by serving their country.” ■