



## Students For Liberty

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September 12, 2008

Dear Students,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the first Midwest Students For Freedom Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. This conference is a collaborative project of Students For Liberty (SFL) and Students for a Free Economy (SFE), hosted by the University of Michigan College Libertarians. SFL is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a student-driven forum of support for students and student organizations dedicated to liberty. SFE, a project of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, promotes the ideas of liberty primarily through campus events and activities at universities throughout Michigan.

In February, 2008, SFL hosted an international conference with significant SFE participation and collaboration that spurred student interest in the cause of liberty. Following in the footsteps of this international conference, the Midwest Students For Freedom Conference will bring the most dedicated students and leaders of liberty in the area together to discuss liberty and best practices for promoting liberty on campus. With **Keynote Speaker Larry Reed**, former President of the Mackinac Center and current President of the Foundation for Economic Education, and a slew of other speakers from the Midwest, we are certain that this will be a rallying event for the cause of liberty in the region.

In this letter you will find a description of the conference including a preliminary schedule, logistical information, and registration information. If you have any questions after reading this invitation, feel free to visit the conference webpage to find more information at: [www.studentsforliberty.org/college/conferences/regional/midwest/](http://www.studentsforliberty.org/college/conferences/regional/midwest/). You may also email either Jonny Slemrod ([slemrod@umich.edu](mailto:slemrod@umich.edu)) or Will Freeland ([wfreeland@studentsforliberty.org](mailto:wfreeland@studentsforliberty.org)).

Yours In Liberty,

Alexander McCobin  
Students For Liberty

Isaac M. Morehouse  
Students for a Free Economy

Jonny Slemrod  
UMich College Libertarians

Will Freeland  
SFL & SFE



# Students For Liberty

## 1. Schedule

This is the tentative schedule for the Midwest Students For Freedom Conference as of September 12, 2008. The schedule may be subject to change for logistical purposes, but the start and end times of the conference will remain the same. An updated and comprehensive schedule with information on room locations will be sent to conference participants as the date of the conference approaches. This schedule merely serves to provide an illustration of what students may expect at conference.

### Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

8-10PM	Meet and Greet	This event is optional and provided solely for students and speakers that arrive to the conference a day early. This is an opportunity to socialize and get to know other students and speakers in an intimate setting. Students must still register on Saturday morning.
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### Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

7:30-8:30AM	Registration and breakfast
8:30-9	<b>Welcome and Introductions,</b> <i>Will Freeland, Isaac Morehouse, Jonny Slemrod</i>
9-10:15	<b>Marketing and Communications for Liberty</b> <i>John Tillman, Gerry Nichols, Michael Jahr</i>
10:30-12:15PM	<b>Activism and Strategy</b> <i>Joe Lehman, Leon Drolet, Harry Veryser</i>
12:15-2	Lunch
2-3:15	<b>New Media</b> <i>Jason Talley, Leslie Graves(tentative), Nick De Leeuw(tentative)</i>
3:30-4:15	<b>Writing a Good Op-Ed</b> <i>Tom Shull</i>
4:30-6:30	Student Panel: Best Practices for Student Groups
6:30-7:30	Dinner
7:30-8:30	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> <i>Larry Reed</i>
8:30-On	Social



## Students For Liberty

### 2. Logistics

**LOCATION:** The Conference will primarily take place in Palmer Commons.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served for all conference participants on Saturday.

**HOUSING:** The Conference is unable to provide housing to all participants. There are a *very* limited number of housing slots available where participants may be housed by students at UMich. If you wish to request UMich housing, please email Will Freeland at [wfreeland@studentsforliberty.org](mailto:wfreeland@studentsforliberty.org) with the subject “Midwest Conference Housing” and provide your name, gender, nights in Ann Arbor, and reason for requesting housing. We recommend that students attending the Conference stay with a friend in the area for the duration of the weekend at all possible. If you are looking to reserve hotel rooms, though, we recommend the hotels listed below.

1. *Bell Tower Hotel*, 300 S. Thayer Street, Ann Arbor, MI, (734) 769-3010, [www.belltowerhotel.com](http://www.belltowerhotel.com)
2. *Holiday Inn Near the University of Michigan* (15-20 min. walk), 3600 Plymouth Road , Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105, (734) 769-9800
3. *The Campus Inn*, 615 E. Huron St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 1-800-666-8693

### 3. Registration

There is no application process for this conference. The first 50 students to register for the Conference will be accepted to participate. Changes to acceptances will not occur barring extreme circumstances. To register for the Conference, please visit the conference webpage: [www.studentsforliberty.org/college/conferences/regional/midwest/](http://www.studentsforliberty.org/college/conferences/regional/midwest/). Scroll to the bottom and complete the two-step registration process.

1. Students will fill out our online registration that includes contact info, background in liberty, and a description of why you want to participate in the conference. (*Note: We are interested in making sure both that a diversity of schools attend the conference and that those who represent their schools will be the leaders who take the ideas they learn from the conference and use it to further the cause of liberty in some way.*)
2. Once you have completed the online registration, each student must pay their \$20.00 registration fee. This fee covers all conference meals and socials. Payments are accepted online via PayPal. (*Note: You do not need a PayPal account to use PayPal, only a credit card.*)



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### **4. Speaker Bios**

**Larry Reed**, *Foundation for Economic Education*. After serving as President for the Center's first two decades, Lawrence W. (Larry) Reed, 55, became president emeritus of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a Midland-based research and educational institute on September 1, 2008. The Center's mission is to equip Michigan citizens and other decision-makers to better evaluate Michigan public policy options and to do so from a "free market" perspective. On September 1, 2008, Reed assumed the presidency of the [Foundation for Economic Education](#), headquartered in Irvington, New York. In this article, [FEE: A Lighthouse for Freedom](#), FEE's history and importance were highlighted by Reed.

**Jason Talley**, *Atlas Economic Research Center*. Jason currently manages the Atlas Economic Research Center's Web Media project. Prior to joining Atlas, Jason was manager of the Bureaucracy Activist Network. Affectionately known as the Crasher-In-Chief, he worked with Crashers around the world to resist bureaucracy and promote freedom.

**John Tillman**, *Illinois Policy Institute*. John Tillman serves as Chairman and CEO of the Illinois Policy Institute. A successful entrepreneur, John has built and led organizations in the arenas of political activism, retailing, e-commerce, and internet access. His years of experience in the business world have given him firsthand knowledge of the power of free markets and the importance of accountable government.

**Gerry Nichols**. Broadcaster Charles Adler calls Gerry Nicholls a "political warrior", *Toronto Sun* Money Editor Linda Leatherdale says he's a "fierce defender of democracy", John McLaughlin, a top Republican pollster, describes him as a "brilliant strategist", while the Fraser Institute has dubbed him a "non-partisan ideologue." But Gerry is really just a libertarian guy from Windsor who believes in free markets, free speech and free minds. For more than 22 years, Gerry fought for the values he believes in as a senior executive with the National Citizens Coalition, Canada's largest organization for the defence of economic and political freedoms, where he was the chief creative force behind the organization's communication campaigns.

**Michael Jahr**, *Mackinac Center*. Michael D. Jahr is director of communications for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. He joined the Center's staff in September 2005 as a communications specialist after working 10 years in Washington, D.C., as communications director for a member of Congress. In that capacity, he served as the congressman's spokesman and wrote Op-Eds, press releases and speeches.

**Joe Lehman**, *Mackinac Center*. Joseph G. Lehman is president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, an independent, nonprofit research and educational institute based in Michigan. The Mackinac Center is the largest of more than 40 affiliated think tanks that focus primarily on state economic policy. Mr. Lehman joined the Mackinac Center in 1995 to direct its publications and media outreach. He later became vice president for communications at the Cato Institute in



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Washington, D.C. In 2000 he returned to the Mackinac Center as its executive vice president. He succeeded Lawrence W. Reed as president in September 2008.

**Leon Drolet**, *Michigan Taxpayers Alliance*. Leon Drolet was elected in November 2006 to represent the residents of District 26 in southern Macomb Township. The 2007-08 term is his first as the representative for District 26, although he was elected twice previously as the County Commissioner for District 16 in northern Clinton Township. Drolet is a founding member of the Michigan House of Representatives' Taxpayer Protection Caucus and is involved with Young Americans for Freedom. He is a member of the Republican Liberty Caucus and is former chairman of both the Macomb Coalition of Republicans and the Macomb Term Limits organization.

**Professor Harry C. Veryser, Jr.**, *Walsh College*. Mr. Veryser is currently the chairman of the Department of Economics and Finance at Walsh College in Troy, Michigan. In addition he is chairman of the Board of Directors of Stampings, Inc., a light manufacturing concern in Fraser, Michigan and treasurer of Perch Research, International, a perch farming concern located in Bay County, Michigan. He is also chairman of the Board of Directors of Vertec Manufacturing Corporation located in Harlingen, Texas.

**Nick De Leeuw**, *RightMichigan.com*. Nick De Leeuw runs the popular Michigan blog, RightMichigan.com.

**Leslie Graves**, *Lucy Burns Institute*. Leslie Graves is the Executive Director of the Lucy Burns Institute.

**Tom Shull**, *Mackinac Center*. Thomas A. Shull is senior editor and publications manager for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. He joined the staff in July 2004 after working for four years as senior analyst at the Coldwater Corporation, an Ann Arbor firm headed by the late political pollster Robert M. Teeter. The company's activities included co-producing the regular NBC/Wall Street Journal survey of public opinion.