



Great CONVERSATIONS

Please join

The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life

With Co-Chairs

Rusty Kelley & Del Williams



For Great Conversations 2019

“The Renewal of Common Ground”

Presenting the Shirley Bird Perry Longhorn Citizenship Award to

Dr. Larry Faulkner

The Annette Strauss Institute’s seventh annual Great Conversations Dinner will feature a lively discussion on each citizen’s role in democracy. Each dinner table will feature a notable civic leader and student leader who will facilitate an engaging conversation.

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

AT&T Conference Center Zlotnik Ballroom • 1900 University Ave. • Austin, Texas 78705

5:30 p.m. Private VIP Sponsors Reception • 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Conversations

Great Conversations 2019 Sponsor Recognition

\$25,000 Platinum Level

- Eight guest passes to VIP Reception
- Eight seats at a reserved Platinum Sponsor 10-top table
- A civic leader of your choice from among those invited by the Institute and a student leader
- Recognition as a sponsor of the VIP reception
- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor in the program and slides at the event
- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor on the Annette Strauss Institute website for a full year

\$10,000 Gold Level

- Eight guest passes to VIP reception
- Eight seats at a reserved Gold Sponsor 10-top table
- A civic leader of your choice from among those invited by the Institute and a student leader
- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor in the program and slides at the event
- Recognition as a Gold Sponsor on the Annette Strauss Institute website for a full year

\$5,000 Silver Level

- Eight guest passes to VIP reception
- Eight seats at a reserved Silver Sponsor 10-top table
- A civic leader of your choice from among those invited by the Institute and a student leader
- Recognition as a Silver Sponsor in the program and slides at the event
- Table may include individual ticket holders

***Great Conversation Leaders and VIPs**

The Annette Strauss Institute invites federal, state, and local current and former elected officials and staff, historians, demographers, university faculty, administrators and members of the press to be civic leaders and honored guests along with students from UT and other Austin area colleges and universities. Sponsor preferences for civic leaders and other VIPs from among those invited as guests of the Institute will be honored based on sponsorship level and date of sponsor commitment.

Reply Form – Great Conversations 2019

Platinum - \$25,000 Gold - \$10,000 Silver - \$5,000

SUSTAINING SPONSORSHIPS

5-year pledge 4-year pledge 3-year pledge 2-year pledge

Sustaining Sponsors make multi-year pledges that help the Strauss Institute budget to continue its civic education programs from year to year. Sustaining Sponsors receive year-round recognition at Strauss events like the *Speak Up! Speak Out!* civics fairs and other seminars, workshops and forums through event materials, programs, on-site signage and special recognition on the Strauss Institute website for the duration of their pledge.

Contributions support the general operations of the Institute and are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. Individual tickets are also available for \$350 online at <https://moody.utexas.edu/centers/strauss/great-conversations-2019>. Please reply by February 9 to ensure you are listed in the printed program.

Sponsor name to be listed on event materials

Company

Mailing address

City

State

Zip

Contact Name

Title

Email Address

Home Phone

Office Phone

Mobile Phone

I will gift my seats back to ASI I will use my seats and invite guests Send invoice to address above

If paying by credit card, go to <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/utgiving/online/nlogon/?menu=COS8>

If paying by check, please make payable to The University of Texas at Austin OR Annette Strauss Institute and mail to: Annette Strauss Institute / 2504 A Whitis Avenue, Stop R2000 / Austin, TX 78712-1538.

If you have any questions please email christy.bright@austin.utexas.edu.

Return this form to susan@susanharry.com, mail to the address above or submit online at <https://shconsulting.wufoo.com/forms/p1tz0e1i0naonkb/>.

ENGAGED CITIZENS. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

“We’re an important investment in the long game of civic and political life. We focus on the citizen in democracy, and the ways that small actions — such as voting and doing a favor for a neighbor — or large endeavors — like running for office — contribute to stronger, more vibrant communities in Texas and beyond.”

Susan Nold

Director, The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life



Today’s political rhetoric has become increasingly polarized, often fueling division rather than uniting friends, neighbors and citizens. Talking heads and viral trends too often fail to inform or enlighten our public debates. Discussions characterized by too much shouting and not enough listening do little more than to spark anger, anxiety and resentment. This is no foundation for the hard work and diligent governing that our cities, states and country require to solve our most important public problems.

The **Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life**, housed in the Moody College of Communication, was founded in 2000 on the belief that active, engaged citizens are made, not born, and that society benefits when citizens take part. In the years since, the institute has become known for upholding the values of civil discourse and civic habit. The institute is



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a living laboratory for the research activity and intellectual inquiry needed to cultivate future generations of citizens and leaders who are prepared to preserve and defend our most basic democratic ideals.

The institute measures civic health by:

Political engagement, including voting and participating in government meetings.

Connected communities, where people know, trust and help their neighbors.

Voluntarism and philanthropy, such as joining groups and donating time or money.



COMPARED TO OTHER STATES, TEXAS RANKS NEAR THE BOTTOM IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

- 47TH** in voter turnout
- 50TH** in discussing politics a few times a week
- 39TH** for volunteering



- 45TH** in trusting their neighbors
- 40TH** in donating \$25 or more to charitable causes

*2018 Texas Civic Health Index



BETTER CIVIC LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Strauss Institute creates and offers educational programs in K-12 schools and on college campuses that lay the foundation for strong communities, elevate the tone and nature of our discourse, teach the habits of engaged citizenship and highlight the civic character of the American people.

The Strauss Institute conducts academic research that considers how interaction and behavior—in the classroom, online or through the news—enhance or diminish the civic experience and the quality of our engagement with one another. We also seek to identify problems and test solutions at both the level of individual responsibility and at the scale of institutional systems. This research has influenced how governments work, reintroduced civics in classrooms, encouraged local and national conversations and nurtured a new generation of civic leaders.

INVEST IN A STRONG TEXAS

Established in 2000, the Strauss Institute now carries an annual budget of approximately \$1.2 million. Endowment income, research grants and philanthropic gifts made up more than two-thirds of the institute's budget. To maintain its position as a national leader in civic education and research, and to expand its impact, the institute requires significant philanthropic investments. You can make an endowed gift that helps:

- Increase the number of teachers and students who benefit from civic education programs
- Examine timely and critical interdisciplinary research questions
- Attract and retain faculty and graduate students
- Develop and test communication messages and methods that increase civic engagement
- Increase internship opportunities for undergraduates
- Grow the number of engaged citizens and informed voters

ENDOWMENT NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Director's Chair	\$2,000,000
Visiting Community Leader/Fellow in Residence	\$500,000
Graduate Research Fellowship	\$250,000
Excellence Fund	\$100,000



Susan T. Nold serves as the third Director of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life. Nold's civic roots run deep as generations of her East Texas-based family have been active participants in civic and political life at the local, state and national levels. Formative experiences around politics and government as a child and young adult led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in political science from Southern Methodist University and a law degree from UT Austin. Before joining the institute, Nold worked in the trenches for political committees, practiced law and worked in the Texas legislature as an advisor and general counsel for a state senator.



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