

**From:** [Matthes, Peter S](#)  
**To:** [Kregel, Kevin C](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Invitation to Inaugural Event – Center for Intellectual Freedom (Dec 5–6)  
**Date:** Sunday, November 9, 2025 12:12:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Event-Program.pdf](#)

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FYI

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "De Castro Filho, Luciano I" <luciano-decastro@uiowa.edu>  
**Date:** November 9, 2025 at 12:48:48 PM EST  
**To:** "De Castro Filho, Luciano I" <luciano-decastro@uiowa.edu>  
**Cc:** "Sawyer, Collin M" <collin-sawyer@uiowa.edu>  
**Subject:** **Invitation to Inaugural Event – Center for Intellectual Freedom (Dec 5–6)**

Dear Advisory Council Members,

I am delighted to invite you to the inaugural event of the Center for Intellectual Freedom on Friday and Saturday, December 5–6, to take place in the Old Capitol Building in Iowa City.

The event will kick off on Friday at 3:30 p.m. to accommodate travelers coming from out of state. The tentative program is attached, but a summary of the panels is as follows:

Friday, December 5

- Panel 1: What is wrong with universities?
- Panel 2: How did we end up here? The causes

Saturday, December 6

- Panel 3: Lessons from past center-building efforts
- Panel 4: The current effort: the CIF plan
- Panel 5: Can universities be reformed?
- Panel 6: Possible actions and next steps
- Panel 7: Capstone Panel

We are in negotiations to bring Chris Rufo, a best-selling author, to be the capstone speaker of our event. We also expect the presence of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds.

U.S. Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education David Barker, who leads the Department's higher-education initiatives, is confirmed to attend, along with several scholars from top universities in the country, like Chicago, Stanford, and Princeton.

We also expect businessmen, policymakers, legislators, and other leaders from Iowa, alongside Iowa Board of Regents members and you, Advisory Council members!

Please confirm your participation by writing to my assistant, Collin Sawyer, cc'ed.

I look forward to welcoming you to our event!

Best regards,  
Luciano I. de Castro

Interim Director, Center for Intellectual Freedom  
University of Iowa