**Annual Undergraduate Conference on the American Polity**

 **Keynote Speaker: Michael P. Zuckert, Nancy Reeves Dreux**

 **Professor of Political Science, The University of Notre Dame**

**Colgate University**

**March 31-April 1 2017**

*Sponsored by the Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization and Colgate University’s Center for Freedom and Western Civilization*,

**Event Description**:

Colgate University will host the Annual Undergraduate Conference on the American Polity, March 31-April 1, 2017. The Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization (AHI) and Professor Robert Kraynak’s Center for Freedom and Western Civilization will co-sponsor the event.

The AHI will pay for the meals for all participants and honoraria for faculty participants on the panels. As was the case in 2016, when Skidmore College hosted the conference, participating programs and institutions are responsible for paying the costs of transportation and lodging for their students and all supervising faculty who may accompany them.

The conference is modeled in part on academic conferences in which gifted undergraduates will have the opportunity to present their work to an audience that will including peers and professors. A formal reception and catered dinner will precede Friday’s keynote address. Saturday’s activities will feature formal presentations by students, commented on by faculty, and a special directed group discussion of a prescribed reading chosen by the keynote speaker.

As usual, presentations at this year's conference will range widely across the theme of American politics. Papers related to the American founding, political institutions, political thought, law, political history, political economy, literature, and politics and religion are encouraged. The conference is designed to provide outstanding undergraduates with the experience of presenting an academic research paper to an audience of their peers and commented on by faculty with expertise on the subject. The conference also welcomes students who wish to participate in the conference for the first time as observers and as discussants on Saturday evening.

For those who need to make flight arrangements, the Hancock County/Syracuse (NY) International Airport is about a one-hour drive from Colgate University. The AHI will work with those flying to the event to provide transport from the airport to Colgate University.

Questions: Contact Dr. Beth L’Arrivee at elarrivee@colgate.edu or Dr. Robert Paquette at bob@theahi.org

**Event Schedule**

Friday, March 31

Afternoon: arrival and check-in at Wendt University Inn, 175 Utica Street Hamilton, NY 13346, phone: 1.800.218.5449 or 1.315.824.4400, e-mail: wui@whiteagle.com, innkeepers: Wesley and Tammy Wendt

5:30: Reception

6:00: Dinner and keynote address by Professor Michael Zuckert, University of Notre Dame (see bio below) LECTURE TITLE HERE

Saturday, April 1

8:30: coffee, continental breakfast

9:00-12:00: student panels

12-1:15: Lunch

1:30-4:30: student panels

6:30: Dinner and Directed Discussion with Professor Michael Zuckert

Sunday, April 2

Depart at your convenience

Hotel information:

Start date: 3/31/17 End date: 4/2/17 Last day to book: 3/6/17

Wendt University Inn is offering your special group rate for 99.00 USD per night Book your group rate for the Undergraduate Conference on American Polity under the Alexander Hamilton Institute group name. Phone: 1.800.218.5449 or 1.315.824.4400, e-mail: wui@whiteagle.com

Colgate Campus Map: <http://www.colgate.edu/about/maps-travel-options/campus-map>

Speaker bio: Michael P.  Zuckert is the Nancy R. Dreux Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame.  He works in the two fields of Political Theory and Constitutional Studies, in both of which he has published extensively.  He has published Natural Rights and the New Republicanism, the Natural Rights Republic,Launching Liberalism, and (with Catherine Zuckert) The Truth About Leo Strauss and Leo Strauss and the Problem of Political Philosophyin addition to many articles. He has also edited (with Derek Webb) The Antifederal Writings of the Melancton Smith Circle. He is currently completing Natural rights and the New Constitutionalism, a study of American constitutionalism in theoretical context, as well as *The Constitutional Science of James Madison*and *A Nation so Conceived: Abraham Lincoln and the Problem of Democratic Sovereignty*.