

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty Members

SUBJECT: Constitution Day 2009

On May 24, 2005, the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education announced that, pursuant to legislation passed by Congress, educational institutions receiving federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. To comply with the federal requirement, Texas A&M has scheduled a variety of exhibits and programming for the official campus observance on Thursday, September 17, as well as during the following week. Watch for a schedule of activities that will be published in early September.

Compliance aside, our students should learn about the importance of Constitutional government, and who better to teach them than ourselves—the faculty of Texas A&M University. As part of the core curriculum, our students are required to take Political Science 206—American National Government. However, during the week of September 14, I encourage you to include in your classes a brief discussion of the importance of the United States Constitution, especially how it relates to your academic discipline or the practice of your profession. For your information, I have listed a variety of online resources at the end of this email message.

In a survey released by the National Constitution Center, evidence of a lack of knowledge about the Constitution is quite apparent. More students have greater knowledge of pop culture than the United States Constitution. Please join your colleagues to help increase student awareness and appreciation of this important document of freedom.

Sincerely

Robert S. Bednarz  
Speaker of the Faculty Senate

### **Resources for Observing Constitution Day**

- Text of Constitution – <http://www.ConstitutionDay.com>
- Constitution Day resources – <http://www.constitutionday.cc>
- Annenberg classroom Constitution Day resources – <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org>
- U.S. Courts Constitution Day website – <http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/constitutionday.html>

- Library of Congress Constitutional documents and information – <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/bdsds/bdsdhome.html>
- From *The New York Times* “About Guide,” the following links.  
[Transcript of the Constitution](#)  
Complete text of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and all subsequent amendments.

### [Constitutional Resources](#)

More articles and Web sites for learning about the Constitution and its interpretation and enforcement by the Supreme Court over the years.

### [Bill of Rights -- the Original Version](#)

Transcript of the Bill of Rights as originally submitted to the people for ratification. There was an amendment that failed to be ratified.

### [George Washington's Farewell Address](#)

Washington says goodbye and offers advice to the people on how to go forward with freedom. Complete text of the 1796 address.