

Kennesaw State University can be added to the list of schools successfully hosting the American Democracy Project-South conference. Clayton State University hosted in 2005 and Morehead State University in 2006. In 2008 we will be at Middle Tennessee State University, in 2009 at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, GA, and in 2010, we will be at Norfolk State University in Virginia.

We have added leadership to our consortium. Molly Kerby of Western Kentucky University has agreed to serve as Secretary. In this capacity Molly will send out newsletters updating us on news and plans. Gregg Kaufman of Georgia College and State University will serve this coming year as Vice Chair. Ron Kates of Middle Tennessee is the Chair for 2007-08. Amelia Ross-Hammond of Norfolk State will serve as the board member in charge of finding new program initiatives. Derek Sutton of North Georgia College will be the board member charged with student initiatives. Greg Granger of Northwest Louisiana State will serve as a board member at large, along with Ron Sitton of the University of Arkansas – Monticello. Remaining on the board will be David Locascio from Longwood University in Virginia, and the past Chairs, Bev McCormick of Morehead, Gene Hatfield of Clayton State and Jackie Tisdell of the Louisiana System.

During our first two years we bemoaned how few students were attracting to the conference. We met the challenge this year with students numbering nearly 40 of our participants. Our first Student Think Tank, resulted this way:

Winning group:

Texas St-San Marcos: Maira Garcia, Alexis Dabney
WCU: Joe DeLong, Brandon Ward
GCSU: Chris Thibodeaux, Tom Andris, Justin Mays

All participants in Think Tank:

Eastern Kentucky State U: Billy Colemire, Angela Cravens
Western Carolina University: Claire Karriker, Kayla Rufty, Marley Cunningham,
Michael Frixen, Joe DeLong, Brandon Ward
Longwood: JaBari Scott, Darian Bratten
Morehead State: Whitney Bailey, Casey Hufford, Chad Muncy, Miranda Smith
University of Tennessee - Martin: Grayson Uldrich, Tommy York
Georgia College and State U: Chris Thibodeaux, Tom Andris, Justin Mays
Texas St-San Marcos: Maira Garcia, Alexis Dabney
North Georgian College and State U: Nikki Brock, Daniela Rodriguez, Dyana Byrd,
Catherine Ashley, Erin Jones
Middle Tennessee State U: Stephanie Weaver, Chelsea Burnett
Western Kentucky U: Sara Herndon, Crystal Kaya
Kennesaw State: Matthew Cole, Marshallana Land, Thomas Belcher, Melissa Sever

We were also inspired by two great speakers, Judge Charles Price, Circuit Court Judge of Montgomery, Alabama and Ben Keeseey, the CEO of Non-profit Invisible Children. Judge Price reminded us of the historical and ongoing struggle to keep our keep our democracy. Ben Keeseey showed clips from the Invisible Children documentary and challenged us to work for peace and justice around the world.