

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication

NEWS RELEASE

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CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY, GENDER IDENTITY, FAIR HOUSING EXPLORED AT FIRST AMENDMENT DAY

AMES, IOWA – The public is invited to join members of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in exploring First Amendment rights at An Afternoon with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. This informational session and workshop will take place Monday, April 14, at 3 p.m. at the Iowa State University Memorial Union.

“The Civil Rights Commission is the latest in the history of Iowa being a leader in the civil rights movement,” said Mark Witherspoon, First Amendment Day advocate. “We’ve been a leader in race, gender and most recently, sexual orientation issues.”

The event will begin with a keynote speech by Iowa Civil Rights Specialist Brooke Miller about Iowa’s rich history as a civil rights pioneer.

Following the keynote, two breakout sessions will discuss gender rights and fair housing.

From 4 to 5 p.m. Iowa Civil Rights Specialist Liz Johnson will explore emerging issues transgender people face in schools, workplaces and in public.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Iowa Civil Rights Commission Supervisor Don Grove will review and discuss fair housing laws scenarios.

The event is part of First Amendment Day, a weeklong celebration of the five freedoms granted by the First Amendment through events that showcase these rights.

“It’s important for people to get involved with First Amendment Day because not only are people learning about the amendments and landmark cases that set the precedent today, they are given a chance to promote change and to address any issues that they see here specifically at Iowa State,” said Samuel Vander Forest, a public relations student at Iowa State.

First Amendment Day, sponsored by Lee Enterprises and the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication, gives Iowa State students, faculty, alumni and community members the opportunity to celebrate their rights and make their voices heard.

For more information, visit <http://www.jlmc.iastate.edu/fad/2014/first-amendment-day>.

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The Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication is the largest program within Iowa State's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. As of February 2014, it has 228 advertising majors, 369 journalism majors and 119 public relations majors. There are also 128 minors and 50 graduate students.

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