Finding Our Way Together: Civility, Honesty, Leadership and the Common Good

Friday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.
The JC Penney Conference Center Auditorium, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Please join us for a conversation about the vital need for civility in the social and political discourse that shapes how we move forward as a nation in addressing our common interests and concerns. National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman and former US Congressman Jim Leach will discuss the issue along with a panel of St. Louis-area leaders in fields such as education, English, politics, and media studies. The need for civility is a topic that is increasingly on people's minds in light of recent events—but what exactly does the term mean or not mean in a contemporary context? How does civil discourse fit into our efforts to find shared truths and values that can guide public decision-making processes? How does one balance being civil with being true to one's goals or beliefs? Does this issue extend beyond our local and national concerns, and how should it shape our interactions with other cultures and countries? How can we reconcile the need for civility with the need for dissent and freedom of speech vs. civility? Does civility necessarily entail compromise? What may happen if we cannot substantively address these questions?

We hope you can be with us for this timely and important exploration of an essential topic, jointly sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council, the Center for the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis, the Center for the Humanities at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and the UMSL Public Policy Research Center.

Welcome and Introduction:
Geoff Giglierano, Executive Director, Missouri Humanities Council

Panelists:
Jim Leach, Chairman, the National Endowment for the Humanities
Wayne Fields, Founding Director, the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Lynne Cooper Harvey Distinguished Professor of English, American Literature, and American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis
David Robertson, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis
Amy Shaw, Vice President of Education and Community Education, KETC

Moderator:
Gerald Early, Director, the Center for the Humanities, Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters, Washington University in St. Louis

Parking will be reserved for attendees in Lot C, northeast of the Penney Center. Call 314-516-5698 for more information.