

UNiversitas: Journal of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

Volume 11
Number 1 *Forum Theme 1: Building a Culture of Academic Integrity & Forum Theme 2: Constitution Day 2015: The Voting Rights Act of 1965*

Article 10

3-2016

Introduction

Donna R. Hoffman
University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/universitas>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©2016 Donna R. Hoffman

Recommended Citation

Hoffman, Donna R. (2016) "Introduction," *UNiversitas: Journal of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity*. Vol. 11: No. 1, Article 10.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/universitas/vol11/iss1/10>

This Forum Theme 2 is brought to you for free and open access by UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in UNiversitas: Journal of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.



Forum Introduction

Part of the journal section “Forum: Constitution Day 2015: The Voting Rights Act of 1965”

Donna R. Hoffman “Forum Introduction”

On September 23, 2015, the University of Northern Iowa celebrated Constitution Day with a forum marking the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. I served as moderator of the panel, and we were fortunate to have four distinguished speakers who discussed various aspects of the history, legacy, and current status of the VRA. The Rev. Dr. Michael Blackwell, UNI Director for Multicultural Education Emeritus, and President and Executive Director of the Project for the Beloved Community, Inc., commemorated the passage of the VRA by discussing some of the background and personalities involved in the years before the VRA became law, as well as talking about the current challenges related to voting rights. Professor John Johnson from the Department of History at UNI looked at the conditions in the United States before the passage of the VRA, in particular discussing methods used to disenfranchise voters. Scott Peters, Associate Professor of Political Science, explored current issues related to recent and upcoming Supreme Court decisions. Finally, Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate talked about voting rights in Iowa and the importance of voting. What follows are the remarks each panelist made for UNI’s forum on The 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act: Progress, Problems, and Perils.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

