

## Steve Williams

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**From:** Dorey Diab  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** Full-Time Faculty; Full-Time Staff; Part-Time Staff; Adjunct Faculty  
**Subject:** September 17, 2023 - Constitution Day

Dear Colleagues,

This email is being sent to you in honor of this Sunday being [Constitution Day](#). Other than reading this email, my only request is to set politics aside and reflect on this great document, the bedrock of our nation - The United States Constitution, with its common values that bond us together.

Two hundred and thirty-five years ago, on September 17, the United States Constitution was ratified and became the supreme law of the land. To celebrate the anniversary of the Constitution's ratification, I ask that you to take a moment and consider how the Constitution impacts your personal life as well as our collective lives as a national community.

Written in 1787, ratified in 1788, and in operation since 1789, the [United States Constitution](#) is the world's longest surviving written charter of government. Its first three words — "We the People" — affirm that the government of the United States exists to serve its citizens. For over two centuries the Constitution has remained in force because its framers wisely separated and balanced governmental powers to safeguard the interests of majority rule and minority rights, of liberty and equality, and of the federal and state governments. Since 1789, the Constitution has evolved through amendments to meet the changing needs of a nation now profoundly different from the eighteenth-century world in which its creators lived.

The United States enjoys a representative form of government, shaped by three separate branches as established in the Constitution:

- [Article I](#) states that "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives."
- [Article II](#) states that "The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America."
- [Article III](#) provides for a "judicial Power of the United States."

A system of checks and balances, which the Constitution also sets forth, limits the powers of each branch.

Article I of the Constitution created and defined the United States Congress, granting to the two houses of the legislative branch such powers as the ability to collect taxes, coin money, raise and support an army, declare war, establish post offices, create patent laws, and establish a federal judicial system. It gave to the Senate the exclusive right to provide advice and consent to the president on treaties and nominations, and the sole power to try and remove from office an impeached governmental official.

More than two centuries after its ratification, the United States Constitution remains a vital and living document, strengthened by amendments, serving as both guide and protector of U.S. citizens and their elected officials. It has survived civil war, economic depressions, assassinations, and even terrorist attacks, to remain a source of wisdom and inspiration.

The creation of the U.S. Constitution depended upon the knowledge, experience and dedication of its framers, just as its endurance depends upon the knowledge and experience of each succeeding generation of Americans. For this reason, it is important for us to learn and understand the governing principles of our nation, set forth in the Constitution.

To encourage all Americans to learn more about the Constitution, Congress in 1956 established Constitution Week, to begin each year on September 17th, the date in 1787 when delegates to the Convention signed the Constitution. In

2004, Senator [Robert C. Byrd](#) of West Virginia included key provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2005 designating September 17th of each year as Constitution Day and requiring public schools and governmental offices to provide educational programs to promote a better understanding of the Constitution.

Take a look at this YouTube video to see a visual presentation of how the Constitution came to be, and how it has formed our federal government: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMoymqXB4Cs> (you may want to skip the ads)

Our nation's traditional motto, E Pluribus Unum, which means *out of many, one*, serves to remind us that although our country has over three hundred and thirty million individual citizens, we are together a single nation. While a number of cultural facets serve to help define our collective uniqueness, it is our Supreme Law, the Constitution, which has, and does, and will continue to mold us toward our "more perfect union".

*Dorey Diab, Ph.D.*

**President & CEO**

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