

NOTRE DAME DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR ONE *(academic year 2023–24)*

The Democracy Initiative at Notre Dame will establish the University as a leader in the study of democracy both in the U.S. and worldwide, as a convener for conversations about and actions to preserve democracy, and as a model for the formation of civically engaged citizens and public servants.

“In our first year, the Democracy Initiative has already demonstrated the distinctive voice Notre Dame brings to the study, promotion, and defense of democracy. Highlights include The Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy’s Keeping The Republic conference and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies’ inaugural Global Democracy Conference. These convenings are only two of many examples of how Notre Dame’s scholars and students are at the center of the conversation about the challenges facing democracy both here and abroad.”



David Campbell

*Director, Democracy Initiative; Packey J. Dee
Professor of American Democracy*

EXPANDING DEMOCRACY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Democracy Initiative is working to supercharge democracy research and education programming across the University. Highlights from the first year include:

Tracking public sentiment on democratic values and civic attitudes through the

Notre Dame Health of Democracy Survey

This ongoing study has already produced a pipeline of original, highly placed research, including a special issue of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*.

Launching

4

new research labs

in the **Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy** supporting research on polarization, legislative institutions, religion and democracy, and women’s representation in politics and government.



EXPANDING DEMOCRACY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

(CONT'D)



Supporting an innovative, **cross-disciplinary research project** bringing together political scientists, computer scientists, and linguistics experts to examine how authoritarian regimes spread misinformation within democracies to achieve their goals. The project is an official U.S. Defense Education and Civilian University Research Partnership.



Hiring **3 postdoctoral research fellows** across the College of Arts and Letters and Keough School of Global Affairs and beginning to recruit star faculty that bridge the two units, responding to the strategic framework's call to "think as an institution."



Creating the **Democracy Catalyst Grants**, a \$1 million fund supporting student and faculty research projects on civic engagement starting in the 2024-25 academic year.



Piloting a **Democracy Fellows** program for undergraduates, which will expand in the coming year.

CONVENING SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In positioning the University as an essential voice in conversations about democracy and solutions, the Democracy Initiative led several campus-wide and public and scholarly engagement events throughout the year.

The Kellogg Institute's inaugural **Global Democracy Conference**

convened leading defenders of global democracy at the University of Notre Dame for a series of profound, actionable conversations about the state of democracy around the world.

39
speakers

from

12+
countries



The Rooney Center's **Keeping the Republic Conference** convened the nation's top scholars on the state of American Democracy and how to revitalize it.



The Initiative played a leading role in the **2023-24 Notre Dame Forum: The Future of Democracy**, which featured prominent speakers including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, renowned social scientist Robert Putnam, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Maria Ressa.



The Initiative identified and engaged with the **120+ democracy-related entities on campus**, from departments, centers, and institutes to student groups, interdisciplinary minors, and internship programs.



Piloted a **Democracy Talks** series that will expand significantly in the coming year to attract broad campus and public engagement.