

# 2017 { Year -in- Review }

This was a year of enormous growth for the David Mathews Center for Civic Life. We are grateful for the growing number of individuals and organizations we have been privileged to collaborate with on our mission of strengthening civic life in Alabama. We have added to our staff to keep up with demand, and expanded our statewide reach, while even garnering national attention as well.

**We are witnessing a tectonic shift in American political life—a shift that demands people rediscover their own power—not power over one another, but power with one another.**

*-Dr. David Mathews*

Moderated  
52  
Forums

1,282 Participants

- What's Next, Alabama?
- Safety & Justice: How Should Communities Reduce Violence?
- Charting Our Course: Our Community, Our Children, Our Future.

Attended  
21  
Conferences

From CA to D.C.

- "Imagining America" Conference in Davis, California
- National Council on Citizenship Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Alabama Young Professionals Summit in Birmingham, Alabama

Held  
15  
Students' Institutes

650 Students

- Montevallo High School
- Thompson High School

497 Participants

17,000+  
Miles Traveled



Of Coffee Enjoyed

+275  
New Likes

6,810  
Video Views

Held  
25

Coaching Community  
Innovation Workshops

31,599  
Webpage Views



3 New JOIP Institutions

2017 saw the expansion of the Jean O'Connor-Snyder internship program to three new institutions of higher learning: Spring Hill College, Alabama A&M, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham! These new partnerships, along with our ongoing partnerships with the University of Alabama and Auburn University, are integral to our goal of cultivating the next generation of Alabama's civic leaders by giving the opportunity to work hands-on in communities across our state as part of a truly immersive civic learning experience.



The DMC and Reckon by AL.com are teaming up to launch a new public journalism initiative dedicated to sharing the stories of Alabamians across our state as they struggle together to reimagine their communities. Reckon will dispatch a dedicated journalist to What's Next, Alabama? forums in order to find the stories that go unreported in our state.

2017 saw the renewal of our Civic Fellows Program. In addition to having Civic Fellow Jessica Holdnak working directly with us in our Montevallo office, we were also able to partner with Renaissance Marion to create an embedded Civic Fellowship in the heart of the Black Belt. Civic Fellow Martha Grace Mize lives and works in Marion, partnering with Main Street Marion to build civic infrastructure and catalyze local economic development.



## What's Next, Alabama?

What's Next, Alabama? was officially launched at the 2017 Civic Institute. The forum series will span three years, and its conclusion will coincide with Alabama's celebration of its Bicentennial. WNAL is different than any other forum series we've attempted at the DMC. Each community will host no fewer than three forums, focused loosely on topics of community, economic, and workforce development.

If you are interested in bringing WNAL to your community, please visit [www.mathewscenter.org/whatsnext](http://www.mathewscenter.org/whatsnext) for more information.

## CIVIC INSTITUTE

The 2017 Civic Institute exceeded all expectations, with over 200 attendees from all over the state and the nation! Attendees selected to participate in specific sessions focused on topics of "building civic infrastructure, renewing civic education, and creating civic media."

The second annual Jean O'Connor-Snyder Award was given to Ms. Tina Nolen of Ashland, for her incredible work focused on early childhood literacy and the importance of reading to children.

