

UW-Stout Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation (CSII)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation?

CSII will provide leadership in Wisconsin and beyond on issues pertaining to civil liberty and related institutions (governmental, civic, business, social, scientific, religious, etc.) and innovations through scholarly inquiry, educational activities and community outreach. CSII will be housed in the College of Arts, Communication, Humanities and Social Science, and will be subject to UW System, UW-Stout, and Stout University Foundation policies and procedures.

How will CSII be funded?

All CSII expenses will be funded by a grant from the Charles Koch Foundation. The award for 2017-2018 is \$425,000 and is renewable for up to three years, meaning the total funding could be \$1.7 million, subject to annual agreement by the university and Charles Koch Foundation.

What is the Charles Koch Foundation?

The Charles Koch Foundation supports research and educational programs focused on advancing an understanding of how free societies improve well-being. This includes support at over 300 universities and colleges around the country, in addition to other organizations working to advance our understanding of the institutions that foster societal well-being. Their academic giving principles can be found at: <https://www.charleskochfoundation.org/our-giving/why-and-how-we-give/>

Why is the university creating CSII?

The university and Charles Koch Foundation recognize a significant need exists for increased education and discussion—guided by civil and rational debate reflecting a diversity of perspectives—regarding civil liberties and their relationship to institutions and innovations.

How will the funding be used?

The grant will fund personnel, programming and office expenses. Personnel include a faculty director with a three-course per semester release from teaching, an office coordinator and student workers. The center will award up to four \$5,000 faculty research stipends and up to three \$5,000 student research stipends. Programming on campus and across the state will include speakers, workshops and other activities. Guided by the principles of freedom of expression, center programming will address a multitude of differing issues and viewpoints.

Will CSII have academic freedom?

Yes. CSII will have academic freedom as defined by UW System and UW-Stout policies.

Will the university have control of the center?

Yes. CSII will be controlled by the university's faculty and administration, with final authority resting with the chancellor.

Will the public be able to see the agreement?

Yes. A copy of the agreement can be obtained by contacting Samantha Thompson at the Stout University Foundation, at (715) 232-1151 or thompsonsam@uwstout.edu.

How can campus groups or individuals become involved with CSII?

- A. Campus groups and individuals should contact Tim Shiell at (715) 232-1490 or shiellt@uwstout.edu with questions about the center or ideas about potential programs or research.