



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Thompson Center Announces 'Bridging the Divide' Student Leaders

MADISON— The [Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership](#) is pleased to announce that it has selected their 'Bridging the Divide' campus leaders for the 2026 spring semester. 'Bridging the Divide' is a program that brings students of different ideological backgrounds together to foster civil discourse and reduce partisan division. Campus leaders will conduct civil discourse discussion groups once a month on their campuses. The Thompson Center received over 40 applications from all 13 campuses and selected 16 students to lead this year's program. The students range from sophomores to seniors with a wide range of academic backgrounds. Applicants were chosen not only on the strengths of their academics but on their written essays. Students are awarded tuition scholarships for their leadership positions in this program.

The fall Bridging the Divide program engaged over 1,300 students in civil discourse across the UW System. Please help promote the spring Bridging the Divide events on your campus. Students can register via the Thompson Center website: [Bridging the Divide](#).

Campus Leaders

Grace Schnabl

UW-Eau Claire | *Political Science*

Nora Zimmel

UW-Eau Claire | *Elementary-Middle Education*

Paloma Cruz

UW-Green Bay | *Political Science*

Joshua Schulze-Reimpell

UW-La Crosse | *Psychology & Philosophy*

Hallie Haim

UW-Madison | *Political Science*

Isaiah Chang

UW-Milwaukee | *Freshwater Science*

Abby Slieff-Vogt

UW-Oshkosh | *Communications*

Dakota Cherry

UW-Parkside | *Interdisciplinary Art*

Amanda Dent

UW-Platteville | *History*

Hannah Woelfel

UW-River Falls | *Marketing & Communications*

Abbey Hayek

UW-Stevens Point | *Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences*

Emily Avila

UW-Stout | *Interior Design*

Oreoluwa Sofolahan

UW-Superior | *Biological Sciences*

Bryson Clarson

UW-Whitewater | *Social Work*

Gabriel Gotcher

UW-Whitewater | *Political Science*

"The mission of the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership is the facilitation of research, teaching, outreach, and needed policy reforms regarding effective public leadership that improves the practice of American government. The Center shall endeavor to carry out its mission throughout all the universities of the system."