

# Penn State to pass out pocket Constitutions Monday

BY ALEXIS COLLINS | FOR THE UNDERGROUND ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Penn State's Department of Communications Arts and Sciences will kick off Constitution Day, which fell on a Sunday this year, by handing out pocket Constitutions from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 134 HUB-Robeson Center Monday.

In addition to the pocket Constitutions, students from at least three Penn State classes will create posters intended to educate visitors about the important document, while online resources sponsored by CAS faculty members and the University Libraries will also be available.

Constitution day is an annual event that highlights the historical significance of the U.S Constitution. Since 2004, any educational institution that receives federal funding must implement programming that discusses the constitution. The legislation was championed by West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd, who was passionate about spreading awareness for the document. He required that the national holiday falls on Sept. 17 each year given that the U.S constitution was signed on Sept. 17 in Philadelphia's Independence Hall 230 years ago.

Byrd was adamant about properly giving credence to the document, stating that, "our ideals of freedom, set forth and realized in our Constitution, are our greatest export to the world," according to archives from the National Constitution Center.

Last year, the Department of Communications Arts and Sciences teamed up with the Center for Character, Conscience, and Purpose to create a medley of constitutional-related events. The two departments organized an event about the First and Second Amendments to reflect issues that surrounded the presidential election. In addition, 14 faculty members and graduate students addressed topics such as race relations and immigration in order to stimulate student conversation.

The faculty and staff hope to achieve those same goals this year, deciding to focus on the Thirteenth Amendment as their next topic of discussion.

Rosa A. Eberly, associate professor of communication arts and sciences and English and director of the Intercollege Minor in Civic and Community Engagement, who has been involved in constitution day for over a decade, believes that the amendments listed in the constitution are still relevant today.

According to Eberly [in a release to Penn State News](#), "understanding even the basic structure of the Constitution — the arrangement of its articles, how and why it has been amended or not, and what the several amendments accomplished or did not — is fundamental to understanding the problems of democracy."