



THE NEW ALBANY
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presents

THE

NEW ALBANY LECTURE

SERIES

**JAMES CARVILLE &
REINCE PRIEBUS**

Moderated by
LINSEY DAVIS

A discussion from the
New Albany Center for Civil Discourse and Debate

April 28, 2026

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A DISCUSSION FROM THE NEW ALBANY CENTER FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE AND DEBATE

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME BY

PHILIP DERROW

Founder, New Albany Center for Civil Discourse and Debate

PROGRAM

JAMES CARVILLE

Political Icon

REINCE PRIEBUS

White House Chief of Staff (2017) & Republican National Committee Chair (2011-2017)

Moderated by

LINSEY DAVIS

Host and Radio Correspondent, 'World News Tonight Sunday' and 'ABC News Live Prime'

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A limited number of listening devices for the hearing impaired are available for tonight's New Albany Lecture Series program. Devices can be used with headphones or the option of a neck loop to be used with hearing aids. Devices can be retrieved from the box office in exchange for a driver's license or similar form of ID and must be returned to the box office at the end of the program. Please see an usher or visit the box office if you have any questions.

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Dear Friends, Donors and Sponsors:

Thomas Jefferson said, “An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy.”

When The New Albany Community Foundation launched its lecture series 13 years ago, our motivation was to promote community dialogue on important issues and to present different perspectives from leading thought leaders. Ultimately, our hope is that this makes us all better informed citizens. Tonight we continue with that mission by hosting two political influencers, James Carville and Reince Priebus.



This is part of the “Civil Discourse and Debate” programs established by the Foundation and the Derrow family. Barb and Phil Derrow have generously supported the series since its inception and we are grateful to them.

We are proud of the series and the caliber of speakers we have been able to bring to New Albany and central Ohio through the generosity of our sponsors and donors. Robin Roberts launched our season in October with what many described as one of the best conversations we’ve hosted.

We expect another great program tonight!

This lecture series is one of the best in the country thanks to forward-thinking visionaries and our sponsors.

We also are proud that more than 36,000 students representing 50 area schools have interacted with some of the most influential thought leaders of our time.

We’ve hosted Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, respected diplomats, military leaders, economists, mental health advocates and more.

Earlier today, Carville and Priebus met with area students from more than a dozen areas high schools. They had the unique opportunity to lead the discussion, ask questions and participate in a stimulating discussion.

The Foundation is grateful to the sponsors and donors whose generosity makes this all possible. We look forward to seeing all of you again at the remaining programs as part of the 2025-2026 season.

With appreciation,

Craig Mohre, President
The New Albany Community Foundation



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JAMES CARVILLE

Political Icon



JAMES “THE RAGIN’ CAJUN” CARVILLE is America’s best-known political consultant. His long list of electoral successes evidences a knack for steering overlooked campaigns to unexpected landslide victories and for re-making political underdogs into upset winners.

His winning streak began in 1986, when he managed the gubernatorial victory of Robert Casey in Pennsylvania. In 1987, Carville helped guide Wallace Wilkinson to the governor’s seat in Kentucky.

Carville continued his winning streak with a win in New Jersey with Frank Lautenberg elected to the US Senate. He next managed the successful 1990 gubernatorial campaign of Georgia’s Lieutenant Governor Zell Miller, including a tough primary win over Atlanta mayor Andrew Young, and in 1991, Carville – who had already become prominent in many political circles – drew national attention when he led Senator Harris Wofford from 40 points behind in the polls to an upset landslide victory over former Pennsylvania Governor and U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. But his most prominent victory was in 1992 when he helped William Jefferson Clinton win the Presidency.

In recent years, Carville has not been a paid political consultant for many domestic politicians or candidates, instead focusing on campaigns in more than 23 countries around the globe stretching from the continents of South America to Europe to Africa and most recently Asia.

James Carville is also a best-selling author, actor, producer, talk-show host, speaker and restaurateur. His titles include *We’re Still Right, They’re Still Wrong: The Democrats’ Case for 2016*, *Love & War: Twenty Years, Three Presidents, Two Daughters and One Louisiana Home*; *It’s The Middle Class Stupid!*; *All’s Fair: Love, War, and Running for President (with wife Mary Matalin)*; *We’re Right, They’re Wrong: A Handbook for Spirited Progressives*; *And the Horse He Rode In On: The People vs. Kenneth Starr*; *Buck Up, Suck Up... and Come Back When You Foul Up*; *Had Enough? A Handbook for Fighting Back*; *Stickin’: The Case for Loyalty*; his children’s book, *Lu and the Swamp Ghost*; and 2006’s *Take it Back, 40 More Years: How the Democrats will Rule the Next Generation*.

Along with pollster Stanley Greenberg, Carville founded Democracy Corps, an independent, non-profit polling organization dedicated to making government more responsive to the American people. He now co-hosts the weekly Politicon podcast *Politics War Room* with journalist Al Hunt.

Carville also serves as a fellow at LSU’s Manship School of Mass Communication and lives in New Orleans with his wife Mary Matalin. ~

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REINCE PRIEBUS

White House Chief of Staff (2017) & Republican National Committee Chair (2011-2017)



REINCE PRIEBUS is a decisive, pragmatic bridge-builder who modernized the Republican National Committee, chaired the Republican National Convention, and served as the first Chief of Staff to President Trump. He also played a key leadership role as Finance Chairman of the 2024 Presidential Inauguration. Today, he continues to advise on national security and political strategy as a member of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and the Intelligence Oversight Board—offering audiences a rare vantage point on the inner workings of Washington and the evolving national security landscape.

A skilled negotiator who knows how to persuade competing factions to unite behind a common goal, he is credited as one of the chief architects of the historic Republican victory in 2016. Named White House Chief of Staff within days of Trump's win, Priebus managed daily operations, collaborated with Members of Congress, and worked to advance the President's agenda.

Prior to his White House service, Priebus served three terms as RNC Chairman, emerging as one of the longest serving and the most successful leader in party history. First elected in 2011, he helped rescue the RNC's finances, repair its operations, and rebuild their ground organization, priming the party for their momentous win.

"I took the RNC from oblivion," says Priebus, "without drama, mistakes, or infighting."

Admired by his GOP colleagues for offering hard work, determination, and trust, Priebus put out administrative brushfires as well as articulated strategic vision.

Before breaking onto the national scene, Priebus honed his skills working his way up through the leadership ranks of the Wisconsin GOP, becoming its youngest Chairman in 2007 at age 35. During his tenure as Chairman, the Wisconsin GOP won control over both chambers of the state legislature, reclaimed the governorship, and scored two additional congressional seats, as well as a Senate seat.

Priebus is a regular political commentator for major news channels and is an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Previously, he served as a visiting Fellow at Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School. Priebus was recognized as a "Rising Star" in 2009 by Super Lawyers magazine. In 2016, *TIME* magazine named the then RNC Chairman to their "100 Most Influential People in the World" list, and then named Priebus to the list again in 2017 when he was the White House Chief of Staff.

With audiences, Priebus is a compelling and energetic storyteller. The former RNC chief shares stories from behind-the-scenes at the White House, the machinery of insider Washington, and triumphs and failures from his long career. He articulates his opinions with frankness and candor, and keeps the conversation lively and entertaining. ~



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LINSEY DAVIS

Host and Radio Correspondent, 'World News Tonight Sunday' and ABC News Live Prime'



LINSEY DAVIS is currently the anchor of ABC News Live "Prime with Linsey Davis," ABC News' Emmy® Award-nominated streaming evening newscast, and "World News Tonight" Sunday. She is a correspondent filing reports for "World News Tonight with David Muir," "Good Morning America," "20/20" and "Nightline."

Davis has conducted powerful, exclusive newsmaking interviews with world leaders, influential figures, health officials, and politicians. Interviewees include former Vice President Kamala Harris, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Vice President Mike Pence, former First Lady Karen Pence, Gov. Ron Desantis, Nikki Haley, Speaker Mike Johnson, Beto O'Rourke, Gov. Wes Moore, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Herschel Walker, Sen. Raphael Warnock, Kanye West, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Anita Hill, Bill Gates, Halle Berry, Dionne Warwick, Huma Abedin, Dave Grohl, Billy Porter, nearly two dozen senators from both sides of the aisle and dozens of House representatives.

Davis helped lead ABC News' coverage of the 2024 presidential election, notably co-hosting the 2024 presidential debate alongside David Muir, and ABC News' election night coverage "Your Voice, Your Vote." She was an integral part of the 2022 midterm elections and was at the forefront of ABC News' coverage of the 2020 presidential election, spanning all eight nights of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. She co-anchored major political events such as two presidential primary debates, the vice-presidential debate, presidential election coverage and Inauguration Day.

Davis has received several honors for her reporting, including two Emmy Awards, a duPont-Columbia Award and a regional Edward R. Murrow Award. In 2023, "ABC News Live Prime with Linsey Davis" won the Gracie Award for Best National News Program and a Front-Page Award for the feature "Water Warriors." In 2022, she also won a 2022 On Air Talent - News Magazine Gracie Award.

Davis is the author of six books, including *The New York Times* bestsellers "Girls of the World" (March 2024) and "The Smallest Spot of a Dot" (January 2023), and the titles "How High Is Heaven" (February 2022), "Stay This Way Forever" (February 2021), "The World Is Awake" (February 2019) and "One Big Heart" (August 2019).

Davis earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Virginia and a Master of Arts degree in communications from New York University. ~

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New Albany Center for Civil Discourse and Debate

“The Personal is Political”

~Title of a 1969 essay by Carol Hanisch

It's rare that the headline of an essay in an obscure publication takes on a life of its own to become not just a mantra, but a defining characteristic of the generations that followed. The essay itself is worth reading as it's not only a reasonable call to action but a warning about risks of assuming ill motives of those who disagree with you.

In the years since that essay, we've seen endless calls to political action with virtually no heeding of the warning. As a result, that phrase is more accurately inverted today such that the political is personal, and assuming ill motives of those who disagree with us is a virtue.

It's not.

It's personally, socially, and politically cancerous.

As religious affiliation and observance of sacred texts has waned, political analogues of party and platform have largely replaced it. Just as blasphemers and heretics who rejected the dogma of their clerics were shunned by their religious communities, so too are those today who stray from the ideologies espoused by the leaders of their political party.



Claire McCaskill and Ben Sasse were the featured participants in the 2025 Civil Discourse and Debate Student Lecture Series program and the community lecture.

While dogma demands compliance, politics demands compromise.

It is in an effort to bridge our divides that we bring to you this 7th annual program of the New Albany Center for Civil Discourse and Debate, in conjunction with The New Albany Community Foundation.

Tonight's guests are no strangers to fighting wars of political rhetoric and yet both maintain many healthy relationships, including a 30 year marriage — not to each other, across party lines.

Please join us in welcoming Democratic commentator “Ragin’ Cajun” James Carville and Republican strategist Reince Priebus to our stage tonight, moderated by broadcast journalist Lindsey Davis.

Sincerely,

Phil, Barb, and Anna Derrow



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have to listen.
To improve, you
have to try”

- Thomas Jefferson

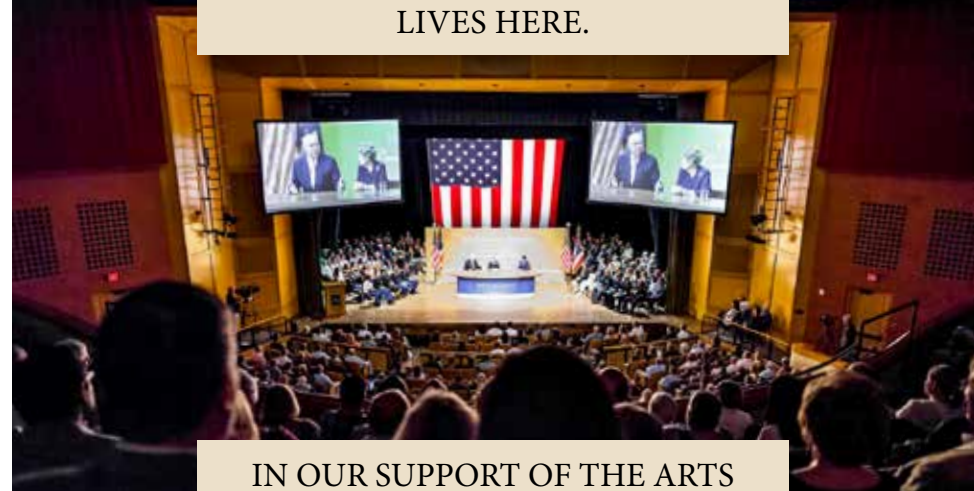
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A priority for the Foundation moving forward is to endow The New Albany Lecture Series. This will enable the Foundation to continue to present high-quality speakers while keeping lectures accessible to the entire community, including students, senior citizens and veterans. Additionally, endowing The New Albany Lecture Series would allow the Foundation to continue to invest in other transformative projects and initiatives in the community. Already, several families have established endowment funds to support the series.

If you are interested in establishing a fund or simply making a contribution to The New Albany Lecture Series Endowment Fund, please contact Craig Mohre at 614-939-8150 or craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org to support The New Albany Community Foundation's programming.





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In response to its donors' desire to support The Student Lecture Series, The New Albany Community Foundation established The Lifelong Learning Circle. Visit newalbanyfoundation.org to become a member of The Lifelong Learning Circle and help the Foundation underwrite the cost of the series so that central Ohio students can benefit from these programs.

Today the Foundation hosted students from more than a dozen area high schools at the McCoy Center for a lecture featuring James Carville and Reince Priebus. Guest speakers were interviewed by New Albany High School students and the lecture was live streamed allowing central Ohio students to participate virtually from their schools. In May, the student lecture will cover the topic of mental health in a discussion with award-winning actor and mental health advocate Christian Slater.



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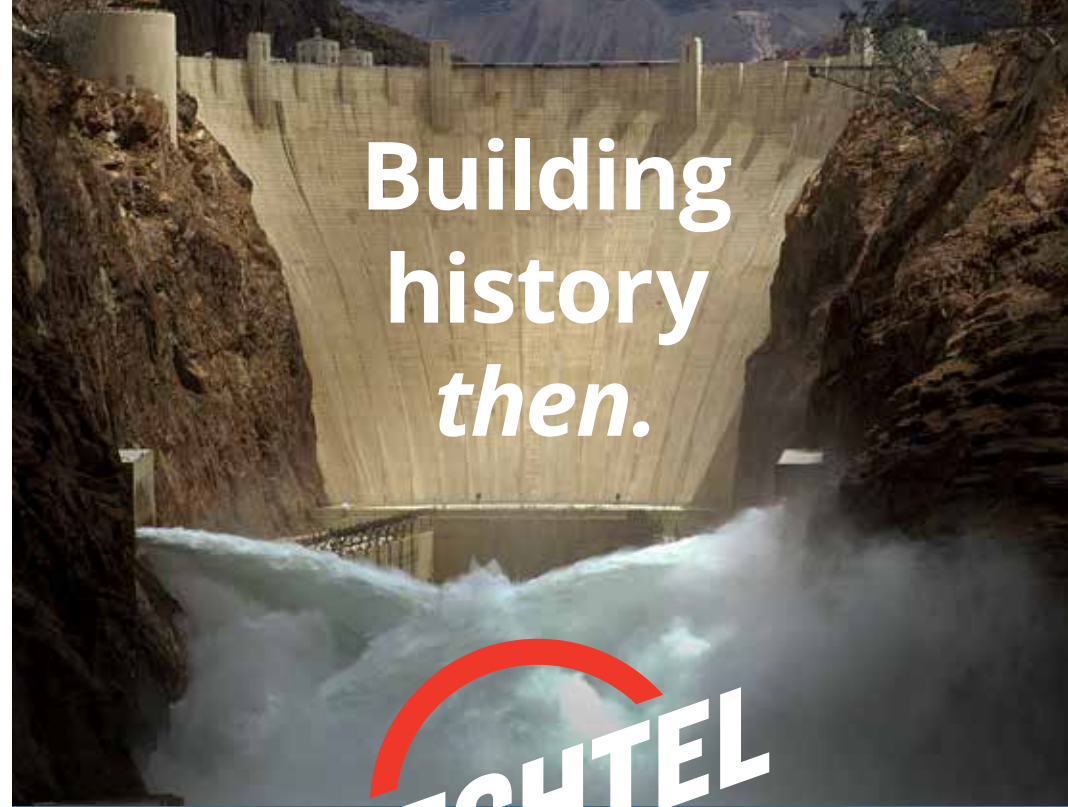
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REMARKABLE HONOREE

SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL SAWYERS

New Albany-Plain Local School District

Continuing a storied history of dedicated recipients, we're proud to announce Michael Sawyers as this year's McCoy Award honoree. As New Albany-Plain Local School District Superintendent, Michael embodies the values held so dear by Jeanne and John G. McCoy, who believed every student deserves an education that prepares them for future success. Serving as Superintendent since 2016, Michael has led the district to top state honors, while raising academic outcomes and the prospects of every student and protecting the fiscal stability of the school district. But it's more than what Michael does, it's how he does it. Those who work with Michael will tell you he leads with compassion and upholds the district values of fostering an environment of kindness, dignity and respect.



“Michael is the kind of leader who truly inspires those around him. His vision extends beyond the success of our 5-Star school district of 5,100 students—he sees our schools as an integral part of the entire community. Michael genuinely values the relationships he builds with the City, Township, Foundation, local businesses, and other key partners, always striving to strengthen the bonds that make New Albany such a special place to live and learn. His passion for education and steadfast commitment to helping every student reach their fullest potential have left an enduring mark—not only on our schools, but on the very heart of our community. Michael leads with integrity, compassion, and collaboration, and his influence benefits everyone who lives, works or attends school in New Albany.” –DEBRA KALINOSKY Former President, Board of Education

Michael is quick to credit the community, the school board and his faculty and staff for the district's success, noting his pride in the achievements of the school district and the united front he feels from the community. “I'm very proud of everything that we've achieved, but there's more to be done. Tomorrow provides new possibilities and new opportunities for our schools. There is an expectation for continuous improvement, and I think the community should expect that of us every day. We are here in service to children and our incredible team is grateful for the support we receive that allows us to

focus on achieving the best academic and developmental outcomes for students.”

Sawyers's leadership and service have been recognized through multiple honors, including the 2024 Exemplary Leadership Award and the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), as well as the New Albany Chamber of Commerce Delta Award for Outstanding Business Leader.

The Foundation selected Sawyers not only for the positive impact he's had on thousands of students, but also because of his engagement in the broader community. Widely viewed as a valued collaborator, passionate advocate and visionary leader, Michael works closely with the City of New Albany and Plain Township and serves in other roles such as an ex-officio member of the New Albany Chamber of Commerce, McCoy board and the Foundation's board of trustees. He actively represents the district through service with the Ohio School Plan, BASA Communications Committee, and as a member and past President of the Central Ohio Superintendents' Association. Sawyers also participates at the State and National levels to advocate for public education and leadership advocacy.

“Michael is the gold standard for district leadership. His entire approach is anchored in one guiding star: Students First. This isn't jargon; it's his deeply felt “why” that powers his work, ensuring that every decision starts and ends with the question: “What is best for the student?” –LORI LOFTON
Assistant Superintendent Teaching and Learning

The Foundation congratulates Superintendent Sawyers on receiving the 2025 McCoy Community Service Award.



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**Alone, we can do so little;
Together we can do so much.**

-Helen Keller

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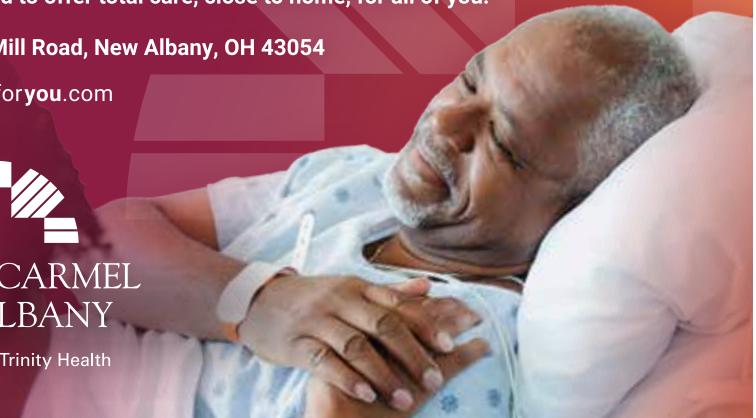
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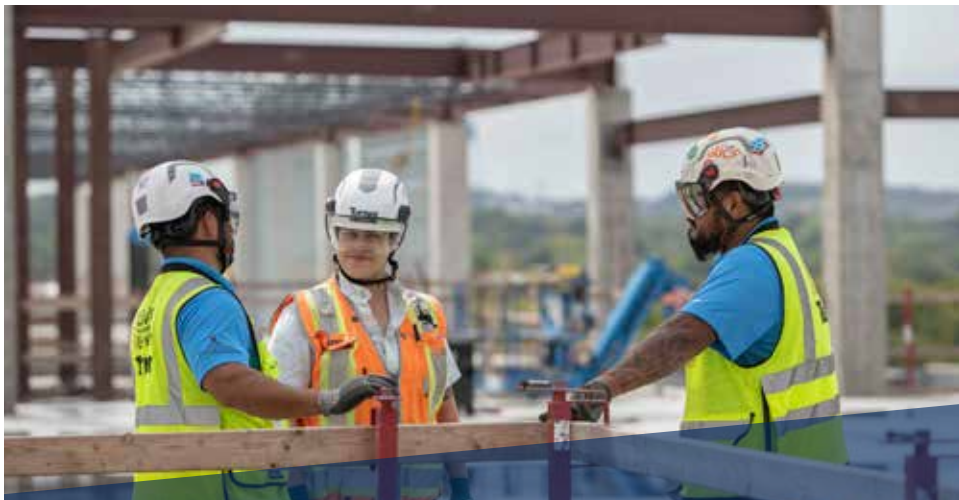
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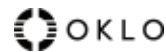
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Grants to the community recently surpassed \$24 million since the Foundation's inception, thanks to generous donors who give annually or have established 93 funds at the Foundation.

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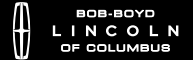
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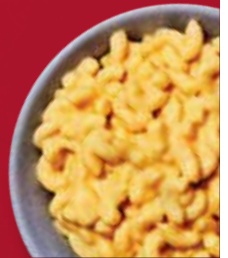
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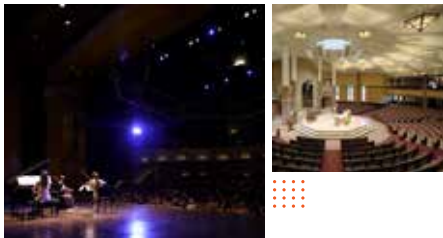
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Special thanks to New Albany High School seniors, Oliver Frericks and Disha Purkar, for interviewing our speakers at The Student Lecture Series this afternoon.



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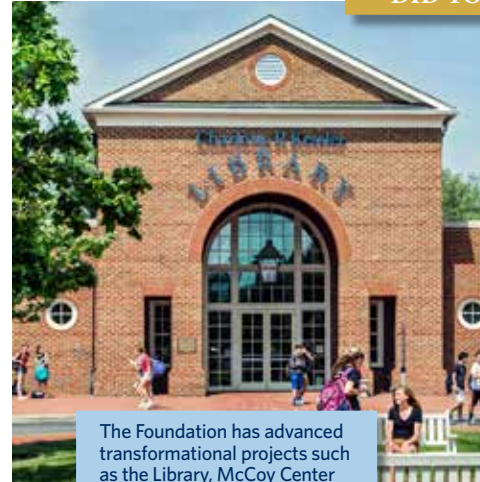
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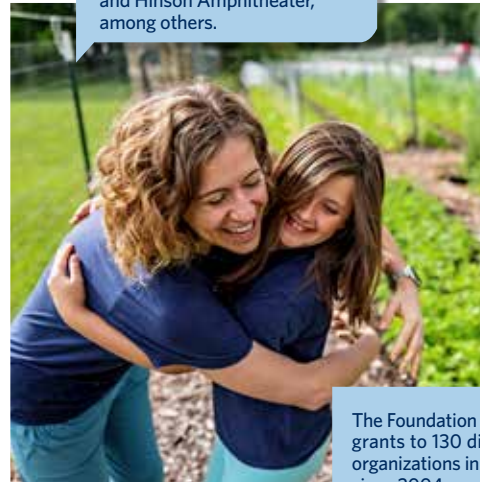
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