

A photograph of several students in a classroom, wearing white shirts, gathered around a desk. They are looking at various papers and documents. One student is writing on a document. The papers on the desk include a 'Pencil Production Sheet' for the 'Oranga Team', a 'Capital Trar' sheet, and a 'Land Transaction Ledger'. There is also a small chart with colored boxes (yellow and red) and some handwritten text in a non-Latin script. The background shows a blue door and a white wall.

Notes from

FEE

Spring 2017

INSIDE:

- *The latest attack on homeschooling in America*
- *FEEcon: The 2017 conference you won't want to miss*
- *FEE's Student Seminars in 2017*

From the Desk of the **PRESIDENT**



Dear Friend of FEE,

Frederick Douglass, the eloquent abolitionist and former slave, may have never uttered the phrase, “return on investment,” but he certainly knew how powerful an investment in ideas can be. A month after his 70th birthday in 1888, he dazzled an audience with these encouraging words:

When a great truth once gets abroad in the world, no power on earth can imprison it, or prescribe its limits, or suppress it. It is bound to go on until it becomes the thought of the world...Now that it has got fairly fixed in the minds of the few, it is bound to become fixed in the minds of the many, and be supported at last by a great cloud of witnesses, which no man can number and no power can withstand.

With the same enthusiasm for truth and optimism for the future that Douglass possessed, all of us at FEE look forward to seeing hundreds of you at our FEEcon event in June in Atlanta (details at FEEcon.org). We anticipate what Douglass called “a great cloud of witnesses”—young people fired up to change the world alongside older friends and FEE donors eager to help them do it.

As always, thanks for partnering with us in the knowledge that what we do together genuinely makes a difference in the lives of real people!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence W. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawrence W. Reed
President



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Our **vision** is a world where the ideas of liberty are
familiar and *credible* to the rising generation.

FEE has defined three strategic objectives to guide every program and inform opportunities for growth:

- ① FEE will be the movement leader in knowing our customer.
- ② FEE will be the leader in introducing freedom as a life philosophy.
- ③ FEE will be a leader in the leveraged distribution of ideas on liberty.



MY LYFT RIDE WITH A BLACK TRUMP SUPPORTER ON MLK DAY

By Jeffrey Tucker

The media narrative on American politics has become so tedious you don't have to listen anymore. Every story seems to follow a formula, and never more so on than on the Martin Luther King holiday. Every headline proclaims how black Americans are horrified at Trump's insensitivity to the historical plight of blacks in the civil rights movement. After all, he attacked Rep. John Lewis, which apparently violates some canon of the civic religion.

I had no interest in engaging this debate, but I did call a Lyft car this morning and my driver, a black woman raised in poverty, was very interested in doing so. The news was on and blaring how Trump was attacking the CIA, which made me laugh, and I said, "I'm no Trump supporter but that's funny."

She immediately shot back, "What do you not like about Trump?" I said a few things about his trade policies, but she was having none of it.

"Here it is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and I'm supposed to be all upset that Trump attacked John Lewis, but Trump is right. Lewis said he is not a legitimate president, so yeah Trump got upset. What exactly is Lewis doing to improve the lives of the poor in this town? Nothing. At least Trump has some ideas. He seems to care."

Ok, now I'm listening.

"I'm glad Lewis marched in the protests so long ago," she continued, "but you have to do more than march. That's all these people do is march. Meanwhile, there are sections of Atlanta I'm afraid to drive in. And I say that as a black woman! It's not even about race. Many blacks in this town live better than white people anywhere in the world. But there's whole communities that have been forgotten. They are paid off with welfare checks but they don't have skills or jobs, and they fear for their lives on their own streets."

She was just getting going, so I wondered how far I could push this. What about Obamacare?

EXPLOSION

"Don't get me started. My premiums are through the roof. I can't afford it. Because I drive all day and night making money, I'm not poor enough to get any subsidies. So this year I'm going to have to pay \$750 on my tax return because I can't afford to buy insurance. But I can't afford the health care either! And have you seen those deductibles? If anything should happen to you, you go bankrupt. I'll tell you who benefited from Obamacare. Not the poor. It's the insurance companies and the government."

I pointed out that Hillary Clinton said she would try to improve it.

"You kidding? The whole campaign, she defended all this #@\$!. She is just like the rest of these people, all talk, no action, just like Trump said. She has been pushing a pen for 30 years. She is not affected by high premiums. Her health care is covered. She has no idea what the rest of us are going through."

But, I said, Trump is rich and well-covered too.

"Yeah but he starts businesses and has to pay workers. He knows how to create jobs. People say he went bankrupt sometimes. That's what you do if you are hardworking and trying to try new things. Bankruptcy is just part of business. You win and lose but at least he knows how to learn and respond. The rest of these people don't do anything but give speeches and defend the way things are."

I asked about Obama and his speech warning about destabilizing important traditions in government.

"See? This is exactly the problem: traditions in government. We need to get rid of those and have something new. Trump is

the man to do it. I'm not saying he is right on everything but someone has to do something. Things have been the same for too long around here. In my own life, I've had to tried something new every few years. I'm taking classes in IT to try something new. Government needs to do that too."

I was feeling pretty persuaded by what she was saying here, so I pushed a bit further. But don't you worry about his thing about foreign trade? I mean, you and I are going to be paying a tax for imports from places he doesn't like.

"You see, Trump thinks just like a good mother. Any mom knows that the most important thing is to keep things right at home. When the home is right, everything else is right. America is home. He says: you can do all the business you want in these 50 states but if you are going to go wandering around the world, you are going to have to pay a price."

At this point, I winced. There it is, nationalism in a nutshell and the reason why protectionism is so popular. It makes some intuitive sense, until you look at the details. It turns out that absolutely everything is made globally now. You can't impose a home-alone attitude and expect to have a modern economy.

THE PERSONAL IS THE POLITICAL

So I changed the subject again. What about Trump's personal issues? He seems to have some odd opinions on women and minorities and so on.

"Everyone I know has odd opinions on things, stuff that's crazy and maybe dangerous. You and I probably have some weird views too. But so long as these views don't affect the country as a whole, it's cool. I don't really care. Plus, I'm a black woman and I'm working hard driving people all over this city. You think if he met me, he wouldn't like me? I think he would like me. I feel more connection to him and his views than I do to Obama and people like John Lewis."

We arrived at the airport, and I wished her the best. She apologized for using our ride for a rant. I said that's perfectly fine. I learned a few things. We smiled and wished each other the best. I only wished that a reporter with the *New York Times* had been there. Not that it would have been reported. The prevailing narrative is much safer.

This article appeared originally at FEE.org on January 16, 2017.



Jeffrey Tucker is Director of Content for the Foundation for Economic Education. You can read more by Jeffrey by visiting FEE.org/Tucker.

Get to know the FEE TEAM



DAVID VEKSLER // *Director of Marketing*

How do you advance FEE's mission?

FEE's mission is ultimately one of marketing. FEE does not focus on public policy research or write academic treatises. We do not contribute to academic journals or conduct economic research. The intellectual foundation in support of a free society and sound economic principles is well-established and our partner organizations do a great job of building on it. FEE's mission is to popularize a set of ideas: the values of a free market and individual liberty. We must, therefore, make effective marketing a core competency of FEE.

What were you up to before joining FEE?

I spent 13 years as a mobile applications developer and web architect for technology, education, and advertising companies such as Education First, Match.com, and VML (a WPP Company).

Who or what is your inspiration to advance freedom with FEE?

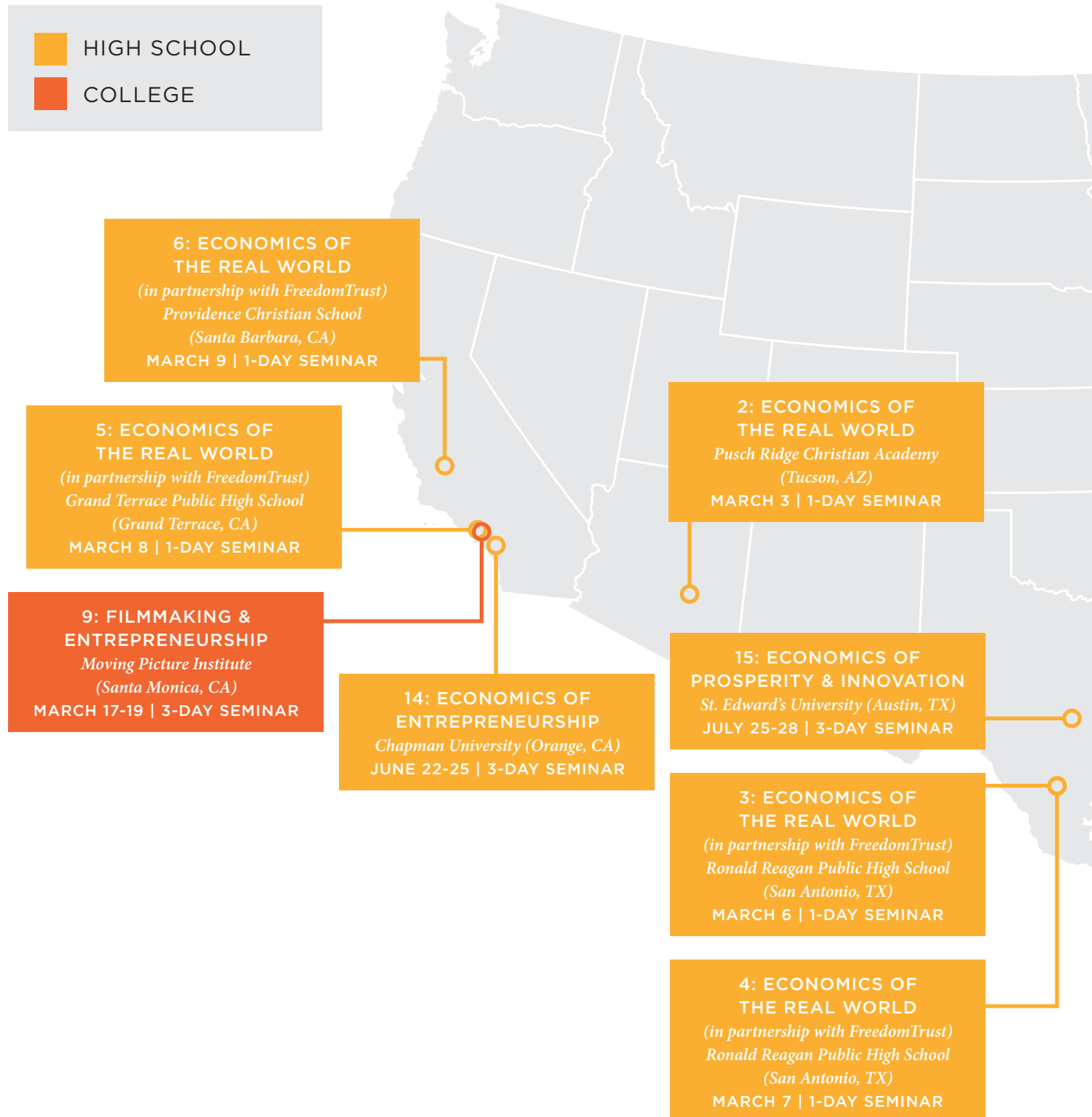
I've worked with Jeffrey Tucker on several projects over the last 10 years while building professional experience in the private sector. In 2016, I decided that FEE would be a great opportunity to apply the skills I had gained and make a big impact in the liberty movement.

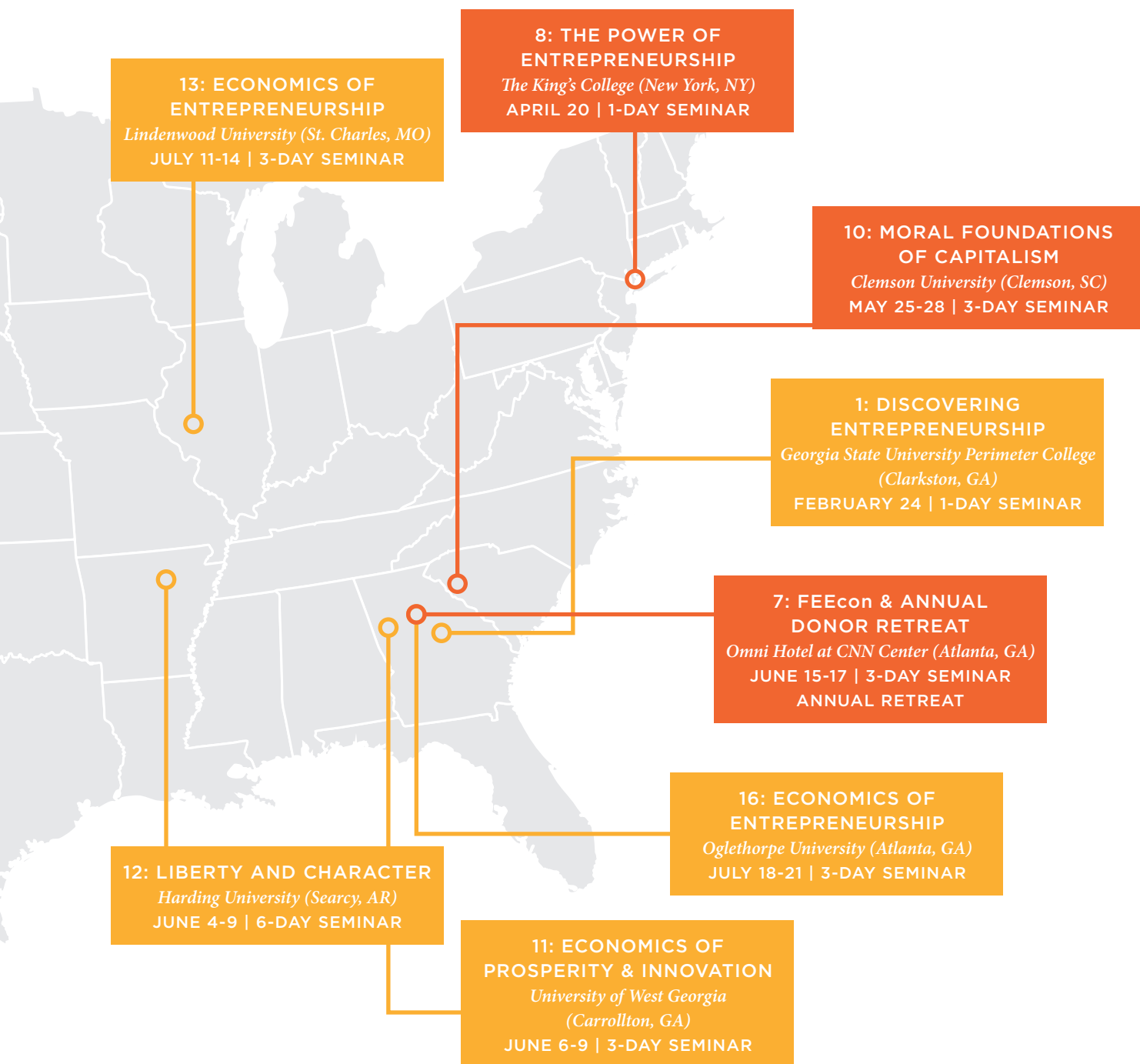
What is something new you're doing at FEE?

We are using a marketing automation platform to pre-program campaigns that drive specific target audiences to FEE's outreach programs, enabling us to grow our subscriber audience and distribute our educational content more widely. In a recent promotion with Mike Rowe, we collected 11,000 new email addresses and distributed 1,500 copies of Henry Hazlitt's classic *Economics in One Lesson*.

FEE's STUDENT SEMINARS in 2017

Note: This map does not include 15+ other One-Day Seminars that have yet to be scheduled for the second half of 2017.





WHAT DOES THE WORLD NEED MORE OF?

By Lawrence W. Reed

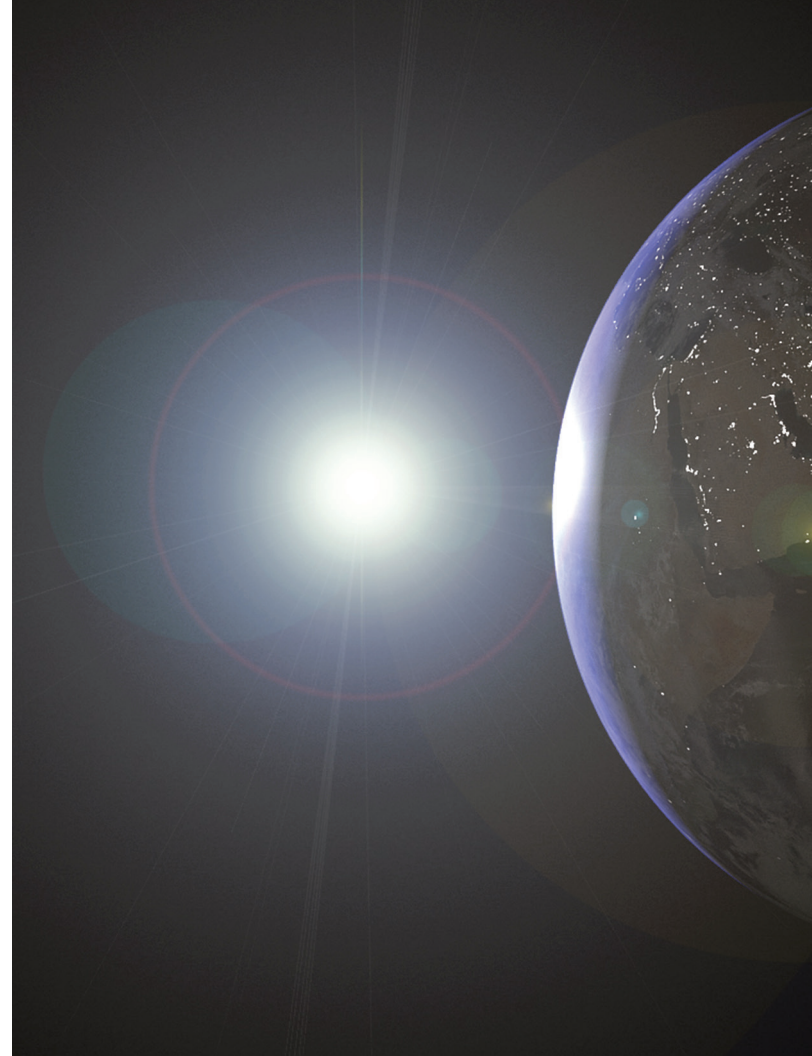
About 30 years ago, I came across a few sentences labeled “The World Needs More.” They might have appeared in *Readers’ Digest*, I’m not sure, and the author was noted as “Anonymous.” I’ve tried many times in the decades since to find the author’s name, but to no avail. Whoever wrote those original three or four sentences was onto something important, and they’ve spurred me to revise and extend them into a much longer piece. I’ve shared them with audiences all over the world, most recently at a Georgia Public Policy Foundation in Atlanta in November 2016. Invariably, people in great numbers approach me afterwards to ask, “May I get a copy of that?”

This little essay expresses well the message of personal character that we at FEE regard as crucial to freedom and happiness. Indeed, I’ve stressed on numerous occasions that freedom and character are two sides of the same coin. Societies cannot possess one without the other and no society that ever lost its character kept its freedoms. This is a message that comes through loud and clear, I believe, in my recent book, *Real Heroes: Inspiring True Stories of Courage, Character and Conviction*, which has proved to be quite popular here in the U.S. and abroad.

If you are inspired by this essay to be a better example to those around you, or if you can put it to use to inspire others to self-improvement, you will totally make my day. Here it is:

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE

The world needs more men and women who do not have a price at which they can be bought; who do not borrow from integrity to pay for expediency; who have their priorities straight and in proper order; whose handshake is an ironclad contract; who are not afraid of taking risks to advance what is right; who

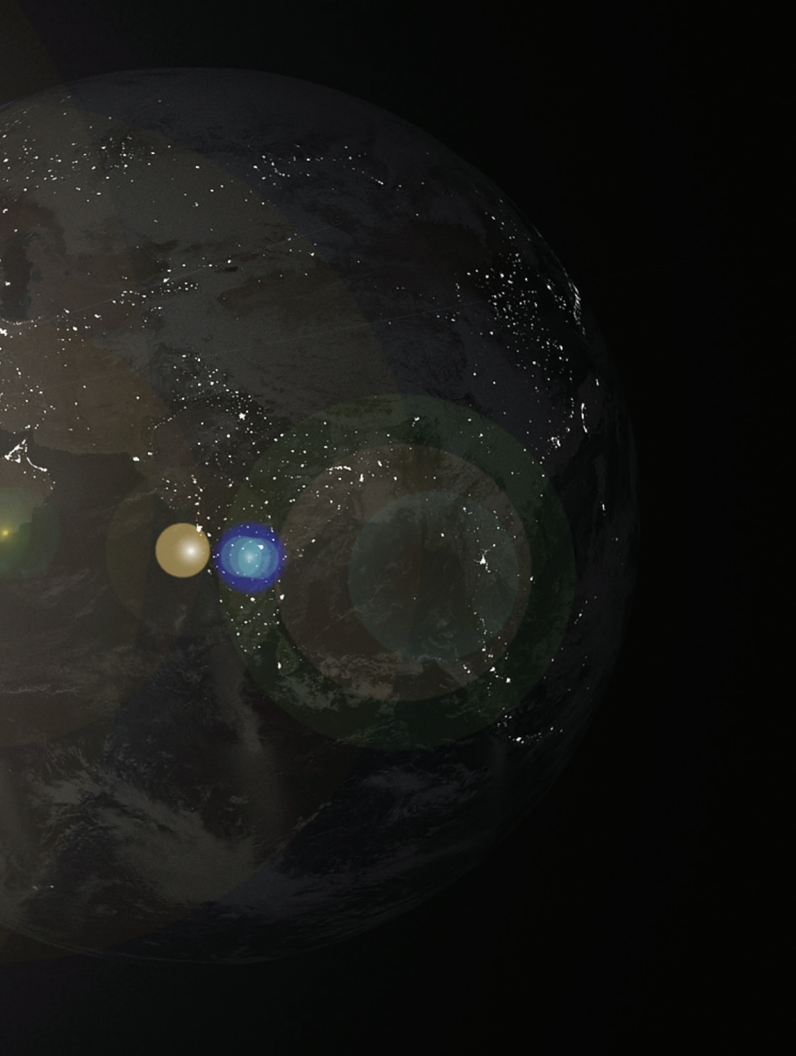


stand for what’s true and not simply what they think others will fall for; and who are honest in all matters, large and small.

The world needs more men and women whose ambitions are big enough to include others; who know how to win with grace and lose with dignity; who do not believe that shrewdness and cunning and ruthlessness are the three keys to success; who still have friends they made twenty or thirty years ago; who put principle and consistency above politics or personal advancement; and who are not afraid to go against the grain of popular opinion.

The world needs more men and women who are humble enough to realize that planning their own lives is a full-time challenge and are therefore not foolish enough to think they can plan the lives or the economy of millions of others. The world needs more men and women unafraid to take responsibility, adult enough to accept accountability, courageous enough to speak truth to power, and smart enough to express gratitude to others when they deserve it.

The world needs more men and women who are tolerant of the differences that make people the unique individuals they are; who don’t feel threatened by opinions or lifestyles or faiths of others who are otherwise peaceful and respectful in their conduct; who are patient enough to win over others through persuasion, not force; who don’t demand that politicians improve their lot in life by diminishing that of another; who understand that adding value through production, innovation



and service is a far higher calling than redistributing the property of others at gunpoint.

The world needs more men and women who do not forsake what is right just to get consensus because it makes them look good; who know how important it is to lead by example, not by barking orders; who would not have you do something they would not do themselves; who work to turn even the most adverse circumstances into opportunities to learn and improve; who muster the integrity to work for a living instead of voting for one, and who love even those who have done some injustice or unfairness to them.

The world, in other words, needs more men and women who possess those traits honored by time, experience and good sense and that we collectively call *personal character*.

This article appeared originally at FEE.org on February 7, 2017.



Lawrence W. Reed is President of the Foundation for Economic Education and the author of *Real Heroes: Inspiring True Stories of Courage, Character and Conviction*.

Get to know the FEE TEAM



ERICKA HARSHAW //

Marketing & Communications Associate

How do you advance FEE's mission?

I work with the entire FEE staff to develop marketing collateral and digital content that inspires, educates, and connects our different audiences with the principles of a free society.

What were you up to before joining FEE?

Before I joined FEE, I worked at several marketing agencies and small businesses helping to manage non-profit accounts, strategies, and campaigns. I also have a background in content management which includes the creation of websites, blogs, landing pages, media, and email campaigns.

Who or what is your inspiration to advance freedom with FEE?

I have always been a liberty supporter at heart. I just never knew it until I started to actively research the ideas and organizations that promote freedom and economic prosperity. Making these ideas familiar and credible to the rising generation is vital to our society. FEE is providing me with the opportunity to do so and improve my skillset in the process.

What is something new you're doing at FEE?

I'm currently working on creating several email campaigns and workflows that will allow us to tailor content to specific audiences based on their preferences and interests. Email blasts are a thing of the past. Tailored content is the future of marketing.



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You are cordially invited to the
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At FEEcon, you will mingle with freedom-loving philanthropists and entrepreneurs, scholars and movement leaders, and hundreds of students and young professionals in a celebration of liberty as a philosophy to live and prosper by.

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A background image of a city skyline at dusk or dawn, with several skyscrapers illuminated. The sky is a mix of purple, blue, and orange. The buildings are silhouetted against the light sky, with some windows glowing. The overall mood is serene and urban.

Your Annual Retreat registration is your ticket, not only to enjoy our traditional VIP gatherings and presentations, but also to attend your choice of FEEcon's educational sessions.

You can mix and match sessions from the 11 distinct learning tracks shown below, including sessions that occur before the official Friday evening opening of FEE's Annual Retreat.

-
- Creativity & Commerce
 - Digital Solutions
 - Economic Essentials
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 - Personal & Professional Development
 - Policies for Economic & Social Progress
 - Political Philosophy
 - Poverty Alleviation, Well-Being & Prosperity
 - Science & Technology
 - Urbanism, Development & Your Neighborhood

Register today by visiting *FEEcon.org*



ENTIRE HOMESCHOOLING FAMILY KIDNAPPED BY THE STATE

By Brittany Hunter

Raising children is no walk in the park, but it's even more difficult when the state dictates what you can and cannot do with your own family. Kiarre Harris is a devoted single mother, trying her hardest to provide her children with the best possible upbringing.

After growing concerned that her children were not receiving an adequate education from the Buffalo public school system in New York State, she made the decision to pull her kids out of their school.

"I felt that the district was failing my children," Harris reported.

Harris' feelings are not uncommon among parents of public school students. Government schooling has been failing children for years. However, since it is funded through tax dollars, rather than being a product of the market, it is incredibly difficult to keep public schools, and public teachers, accountable. This is precisely why many parents have begun considering other options that are better suited to their children's educational needs.

Frustrated and desperate for an alternative, Harris spent time researching homeschooling, which she ultimately decided was the best direction for her family. Unfortunately, the state disagreed.

Most parents believe themselves to be the sole arbitrators when it comes to making choices that directly impact their children, and rightfully so, as kids are perhaps the most obvious fruits of one's labor. But it has unfortunately become all too common for the state to intervene, asserting that government knows what is best for your child.

AN UNEXPECTED VISIT

Harris had done everything exactly right. She familiarized herself with the legal process and followed all the guidelines required by the state of New York in order to homeschool her children.

"I spoke directly to the homeschool coordinator and she told me from this point on my children were officially un-enrolled from school."

But despite filing all the relevant and mandated paperwork and working closely with the district to ensure she was adhering to the proper protocol, Harris received a phone call from Child Protective Services a week later, demanding to know why her children had not been attending school.

She explained the situation to the state representative and even offered to provide them with copies of the paperwork she had already filed with the district. The representative appeared to be appeased by Harris' explanation, and she believed the matter had been fully resolved.

Before even a month had passed since the unexpected phone call, Harris and her family received a visit from social service representatives, who were accompanied by local police officers.

Claiming to have an order from a local judge, ordering the state to remove her children from their home, Harris did what any mother would do and refused to hand her children over to strangers with government badges.

Instead of discussing the matter and attempting to get to the bottom of the situation before uprooting young children from the comfort and safety of their home and mother, police officers arrested Harris for obstructing law enforcement in the line of duty.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

While the school district has claimed they are unable to comment on the matter, they said that homeschooling is a right only granted to those who have full custody of their children, alluding to the possibility that Harris was not the sole custodian of her two kids.

Harris, who is no newbie to single parenthood, has had sole custody of her children for several years. However, the incompetency of the state appears to be enough of a reason to not only remove her children, but to deny her visitation privileges altogether.

It has now been three weeks since Harris has seen her children. By no fault of her own, the state is punishing Harris for doing what she, as their mother, believes is best for the children.

The state, as always, has justified their actions under the guise of “protecting” the Harris children. However, it is unclear how ripping two minors from their home serves any benefit to Harris’ kids. This tragic situation perfectly demonstrates the inherent nature of government failure, not only in the education

system but also with something as simple as proper communication. Since Harris had, in fact, done everything right, the fault here lies with Buffalo officials, and their inability to properly do their job.

For now, the case is ongoing, but even though the blame is on the local government, the young children must wait in foster care, while the state attempts to fix its own mistake.

This article appeared originally at FEE.org on February 10, 2017.



Brittany Hunter is an associate editor at FEE. She studied political science at Utah Valley University with a minor in Constitutional studies.

Get to know the FEE TEAM



SEAN MALONE //
Director of Media

How do you advance FEE’s mission?

My role at FEE is to ensure that everyone’s experience with FEE’s media content is visually beautiful, emotionally engaging, and intellectually compelling. This touches every part of the organization, including development, programs, website design, and daily content, but my main focus is on establishing new media content that reaches new and younger audiences with FEE’s message.

What were you up to before joining FEE?

I was in DC working as the Creative Media Producer at the Charles Koch Institute, where I built their media capability and led a team which produced program advertising,

short films, documentaries, educational videos, and broadcasting for live events.

Who or what is your inspiration to advance freedom with FEE?

I didn’t set out to advance liberty as a career, although I’ve been a life-long classical liberal. I went to school for music performance and composition, ultimately graduating with an MA from NYU. After a few years in the entertainment industry I began to feel concerned about the state of creative media in the freedom movement.

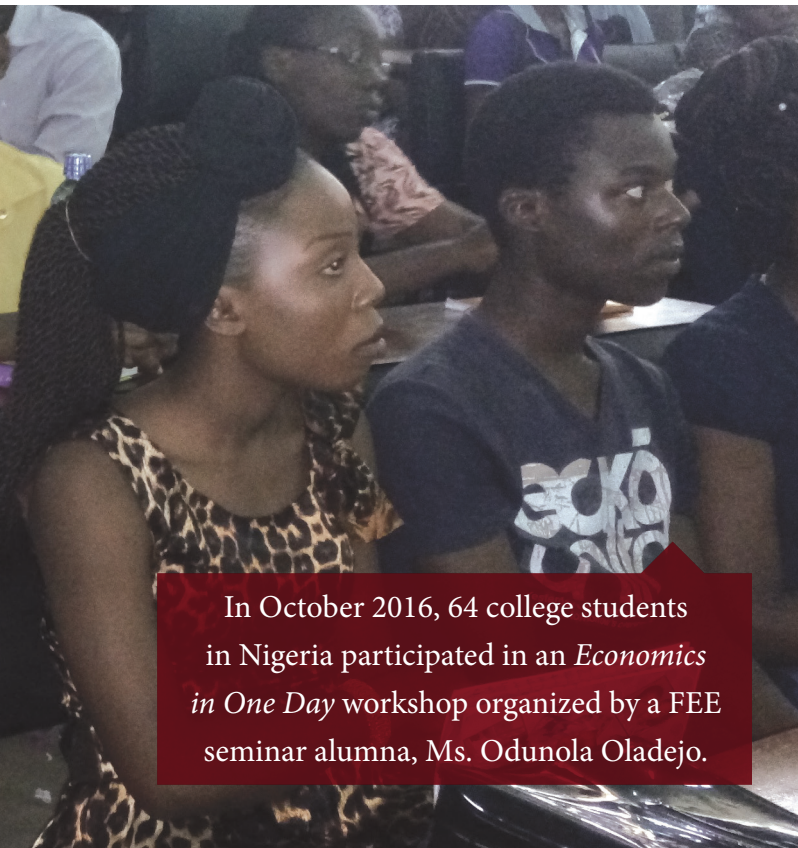
By the end of 2009, I left the entertainment industry to pursue a full time career as a creative producer for freedom.

Cut to seven years later, and I was approached by FEE about an opportunity to head up a very exciting initiative producing original media content and testing its effectiveness through our new Youth Engagement & Audience Research project. It’s basically the job I’ve been working toward most of my adult life!

What is something new you’re doing at FEE?

Nearly everything I am doing is new and exciting as I begin to build out FEE’s digital media library!

FEE Around the WORLD



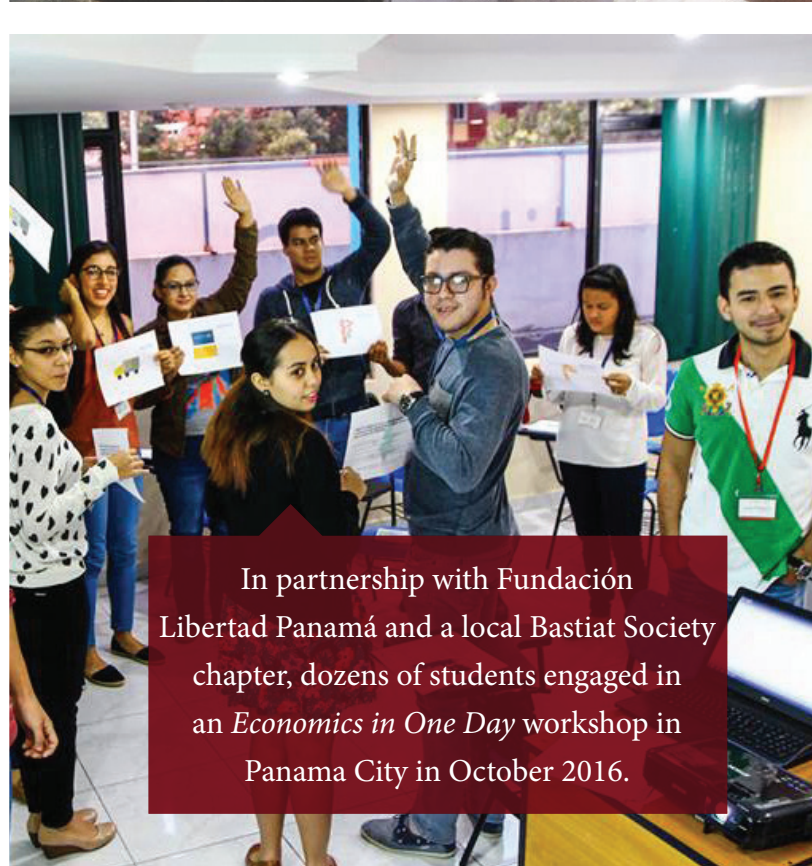
In October 2016, 64 college students in Nigeria participated in an *Economics in One Day* workshop organized by a FEE seminar alumna, Ms. Odunola Oladejo.



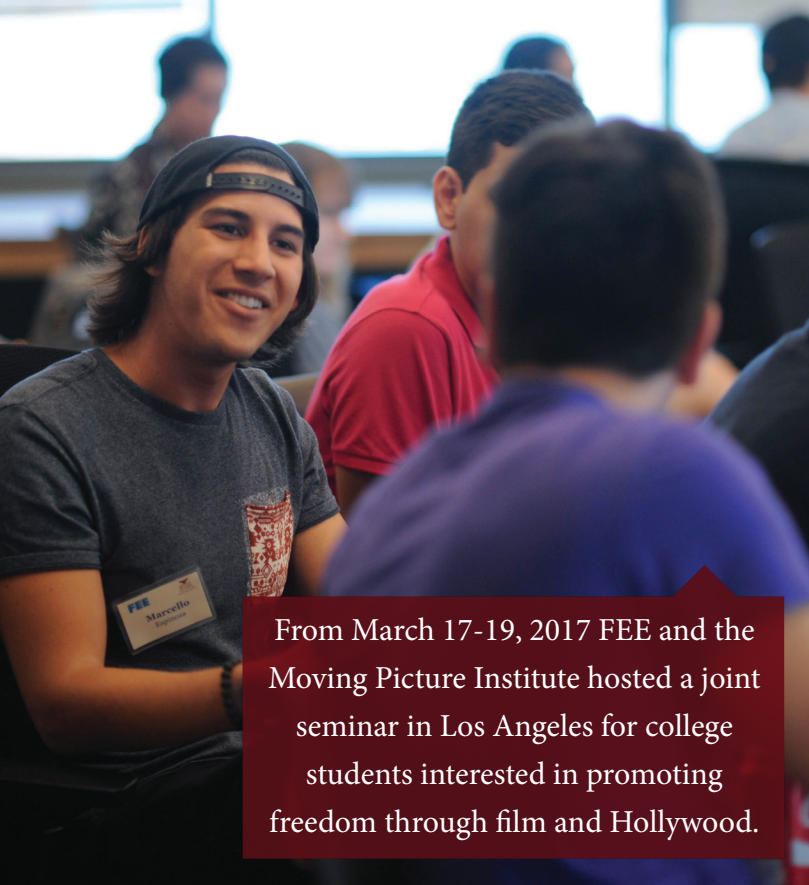
In January 2017, high school students in Sri Lanka participated in an *Economics in One Day* workshop organized by a FEE donor.



In April 2017, FEE's Director of Programs, Jason Riddle, spoke to over 300 Brazilians at the Forum da Liberdade in Porto Alegre about FEE's online and classroom resources, including our *Economics in One Day* workshop.



In partnership with Fundación Libertad Panamá and a local Bastiat Society chapter, dozens of students engaged in an *Economics in One Day* workshop in Panama City in October 2016.



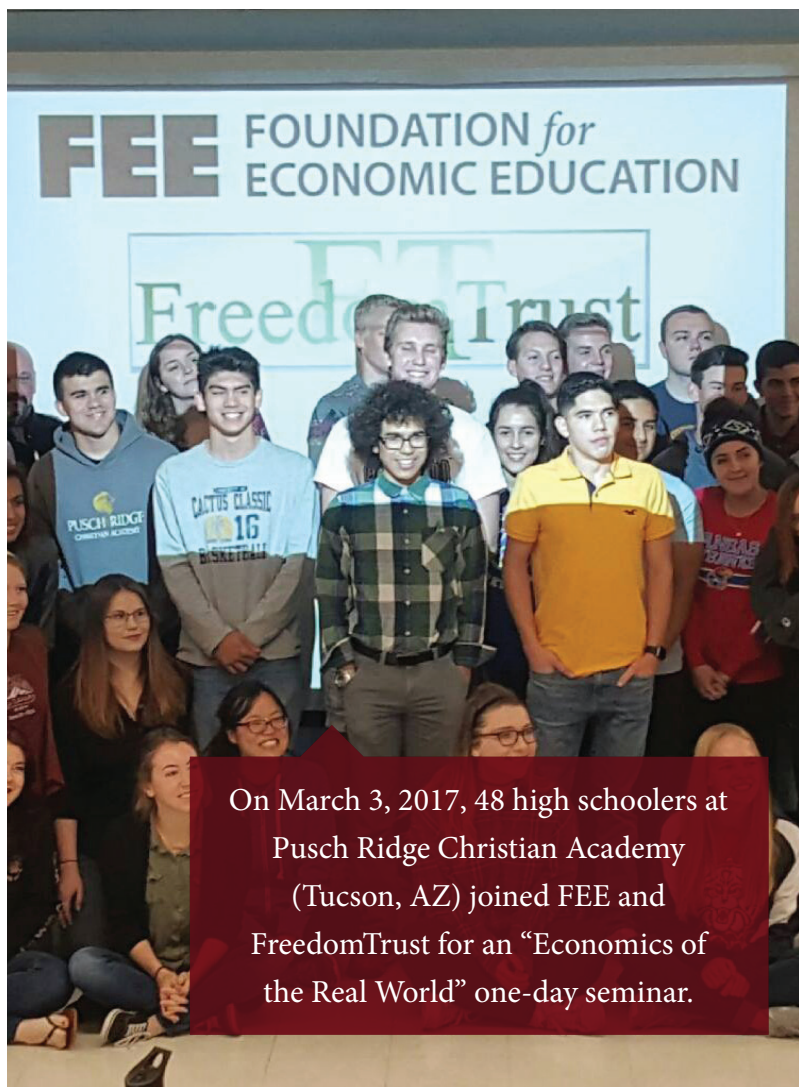
From March 17-19, 2017 FEE and the Moving Picture Institute hosted a joint seminar in Los Angeles for college students interested in promoting freedom through film and Hollywood.



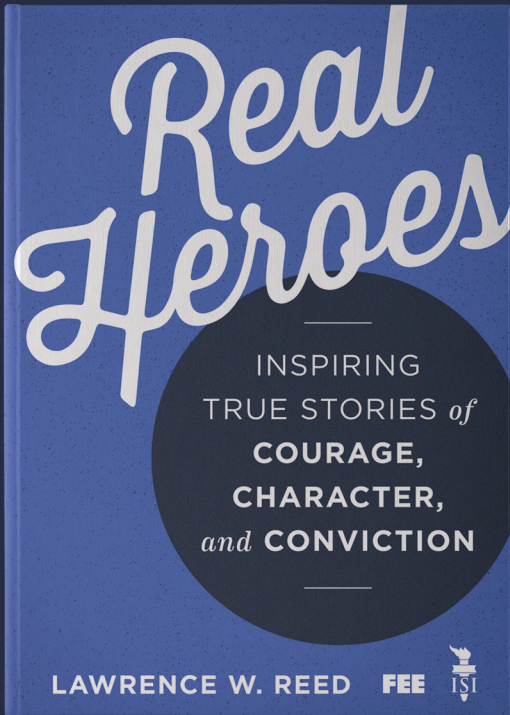
In early March 2017, Larry Reed visited long-time FEE donor Ron Manners and the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation in Perth, Australia for a series of lectures on freedom, markets, and character.



On March 13, 2017, FEE and Atlas Network hosted a joint cocktail reception for 100 supporters in San Francisco at the home of entrepreneur, investor, and author John Chisholm.



On March 3, 2017, 48 high schoolers at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy (Tucson, AZ) joined FEE and FreedomTrust for an "Economics of the Real World" one-day seminar.



Greatness doesn't come from getting your name in the news, piling up degrees, or landing one powerful position after another.

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