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Hillsdale College Students' America 250 Exhibit on Display in Washtenaw County

The exhibit explores the meaning, history, and enduring relevance of five key documents from America's founding.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Two Hillsdale College students, Brian Knewtson '25 and Hope Schlosser '24, researched and assembled a traveling exhibit for the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium titled "America's Founding Documents." The exhibit honors the 250th anniversary of American independence by exploring the meaning, history, and enduring relevance of five key documents from America's founding.

"It is exciting to see our students not only passionate about history but eager to share that passion with others," said Professor of History David Stewart. "As we approach America's 250th birthday, this exhibit helps people understand what makes America unique and worth celebrating."

The exhibit highlights the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Bill of Rights, the Northwest Ordinance, and the U.S. Constitution. Six copies of the exhibit will be on display at various locations in Washtenaw County throughout 2026.

"We are thrilled to bring this significant exhibit to our community," Terry Cwik, president of the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium, said in a press release. "Understanding our foundational documents is essential to appreciating our nation's journey, especially as we approach this historic 250th anniversary. We invite everyone to explore these pivotal moments in American history."

In April of 2023, Cwik attended a museum poster display put on by Hillsdale College museum studies students. He approached Stewart about the Founding Documents project. When Stewart

presented the opportunity to the class, Knewton and Schlosser jumped at the chance. They completed the project as an independent study under Stewart's direction, allowing them to earn college credit for their work.

"They worked very well, both together and independently, and offered tremendous ideas as we worked through the process," Stewart said. "The ultimate product very much reflects their vision and their efforts."

The exhibit is presented by the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium and funded by America250MI and various local organizations. It is currently on display at the Dexter District Library, Salem-South Lyon District Library, and Ann Arbor District Library.

The Washtenaw County Historical Consortium is a collaborative group of historical organizations and institutions across Washtenaw County, Michigan. Its purpose is to share information and raise public awareness about the value of local history.

For more information about the exhibit and an up-to-date list of locations, click [here](#). For photos of Hillsdale College, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 7.5 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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