



Susan Barber &lt;sbarber@cnu.edu&gt;

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## CNU Conference to Explore 'Civic Movements and Their Impact on Democracy'

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**Announcement-Do Not Reply**

Fri, Sep 5, 2014 at 9:38

&lt;announcement@cnu.edu&gt;

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To: faculty &lt;faculty@cnu.edu&gt;, employees &lt;employees@cnu.edu&gt;

On Saturday, September 6, 2014, Christopher Newport University will partner with the Washington, D.C. - based Rumi Forum to present a daylong conference titled "Civic Movements and Democracy," analyzing the ways in which individuals and civic movements — political, social, spiritual, environmental, artistic and humanitarian — make their voices heard for the freedom and welfare of all people. The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at CNU's Freeman Center, and is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending the luncheon and keynote session should register online at [democracyandcivicmovements.org](http://democracyandcivicmovements.org).

The conference will feature keynote speakers Professor Thomas Hill of NYU's Center for Global Affairs, and Professor Ihsan Yilmaz of Fatih University in Turkey, who will discuss the impact of citizen activism in peacebuilding and democracy, exploring how citizens of all countries make their voices heard for the common good. Several panel discussions will also be held, including "Civil Rights and Activism," "Student Activism in Higher Education," "Civic Movements in the Arts, Religion and Culture," "Women: Leadership in Politics and Science," "Civic Movements and International Economics and Justice," and "Power of Narrative Texts to Create Social Change."

The conference takes its inspiration from the words of anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." For the complete event program, visit [democracyandcivicmovements.org](http://democracyandcivicmovements.org).