

Attachment 2

Tom Vontz

Candidate for Faculty Senate President Elect

Why am I running for President Elect?

I am running for Faculty Senate President Elect for several reasons. *First, I believe the work of the Faculty Senate is important.* In short, the work of the Faculty Senate matters; our decisions directly influence the lives of students, staff, and faculty. From working with the administration to resolve budget shortfalls, increase dependent tuition for faculty and staff, or devise a more equitable merit system to working with the students to enhance learning experiences, educate politicians on the importance of higher education, or establish new rates for tuition and fees, our voices and perspectives make a difference. *Second, I believe all of us have a responsibility to make our world (or at least our part of it) a better place.* As a high school government and civics teacher, I taught my students about an ancient, yet important idea—civic virtue. In my view, human beings are at their best when they are contributing for the common good. In fact, promoting the common good through service is in our best self-interest; what Alexis de Tocqueville, referred to as self-interest rightly understood. *Third, I enjoy my work on the Senate.* I like debating important issues, seeing ideas from different perspectives, and working toward practical solutions. My research focuses on political ideas and exploring better ways to teach about them. My work in the Senate has provided me the opportunity to apply my understandings of politics to the political landscapes of Kansas State University. *Fourth, and finally, I believe I could be an effective Faculty Senate President.* I have established positive relationships with Senate colleagues, students, staff, and administrators.

Who is Tom Vontz?

Tom Vontz's professional career began at Lincoln Southeast High School in Lincoln, Nebraska from 1993-1996 where he taught United States History, American Government, and United States Foreign Relation; coached swimming and basketball; and sponsored Fishing Club and served as commissioner of the Fantasy Football League.

After teaching at Lincoln Southeast, he attended Indiana University to pursue a Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies with an interdisciplinary minor in Law and History. His studies focused on social studies education and education for democracy. At Indiana University, he directed the Indiana Program for Law-Related Education, served as co-director of Civitas: An International Civic Education Exchange, and coordinator for both *We the People. . .the Citizen and the Constitution* and *We the People. . . Project Citizen*. Since 1998, has worked with colleagues in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Bosnia, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and, most recently, Kazakhstan to promote education for democracy. In 2001, Dr. Vontz accepted a faculty position at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri where he taught courses in social studies education, teacher education, and geography.

In 2005, Vontz accepted a faculty position at Kansas State University where he teaches undergraduate and graduate education courses and directs the Center for Social Studies Education. He also served as the President of the Kansas Council for the Social Studies, Associate Director for Publications for *Civics Mosaic*, and as a reviewer for several journals. Dr. Vontz has authored or coauthored a number of journal articles, book chapters, curriculum materials, ERIC Digests, evaluation reports, and two books. Most recently, *Exploring Political Ideas: Concepts that Shape our World*—a reference book for high school students published by Congressional Quarterly in 2010. Vontz was elected to Faculty Senate in 2007 and appointed as chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning in 2008.

THOMAS S. VONTZ

EDUCATION

2000 Ph.D. Indiana University-Bloomington
1993 M.S.T. University of Nebraska-Lincoln
1992 B.S. University of Nebraska-Lincoln

HONORS & AWARDS

2006 James Coffman Award, Outstanding Service, KSU-Honor & Integrity System
2005 Phi Alpha Theta
2004 Kauffman Faculty Scholar
2002 Kappa Delta Pi
2000 Commencement Speaker, Indiana University School of Education Commencement
2000 Social Science Education Consortium
1996-98 Indiana University Graduate Fellow
1997 Graduate Student Speaker, Indiana University School of Education Honors Convocation
1994 Phi Delta Kappa
1992 James Madison Fellow
1992 Pi Lambda Theta
1992 Golden Key National Honors Society
1992 Outstanding Student Teacher Recognition, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2009 – Present Kansas State University, Associate Professor
2005 – 2008 Kansas State University, Assistant Professor
2001 – 2005 Rockhurst University, Assistant Professor
2001 Indiana University, Assistant Professor (adjunct)
2000 Indiana University, Research Associate
1996 – 2000 Indiana University, Associate Instructor
1993 – 1996 Lincoln Southeast High School (Lincoln, NE)

RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2007 – Present Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning
2007 – Present Founding Director, Center for Social Studies Education
2006 – Present Coordinator, Block B
2005 – Present Associate Director for Research and Publications, Civics Mosaic
1999 – 2001 Director, Indiana Program for Law-Related Education, Indiana University
1996 – 1998 Staff Assistant, Social Studies Development Center/ ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, Indiana University
1996 – 1997 Field Experience Supervisor, Teacher Decision Maker Program, Indiana University

COURSES TAUGHT AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

DED 320 Honors Seminar: Democracy and Education
EDEL 430 Block B Practicum
EDEL 472 Elementary/Middle-Level Social Studies Methods
EDCI 786 Topics: Teaching and Learning about the United States Constitution
EDCI 786 Advanced Methods of Teaching

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Stephen L. Schechter, and Thomas S. Vontz with contributions from Margaret Stimmann Branson.
Exploring Political Ideas: Concepts that Shape Our World. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2010.

Vontz, Thomas S., Kim K. Metcalf, and John J. Patrick. *Project Citizen and the Civic Development of Adolescent Students in Indiana, Latvia, and Lithuania.* Bloomington, IN: ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, 2000.

Curriculum Materials

Vontz, Thomas S. *Moyers: Report from Philadelphia. The Constitutional Convention of 1787. Teacher's Guide*. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 2006.

Leming, Robert S. and Thomas S. Vontz. *Teaching Constitutional Issues with Scripted Trials: Search and Seizure, Freedom of Expression, and the Establishment Clause*. Bloomington, IN: ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, 1998.

Book Chapters

Vontz, Thomas S. (Russian Translation). "Creating and Maintaining a Positive Learning Environment." In Stephen Schechter, Anna Zelenstova, and Kevin Spensley, eds., *The Active School*. Moscow, Russia: Civitas Russia, 17-21, 2006.

Vontz, Thomas S., and Robert S. Leming. "Promoting Civic Learning in the Preparation of Social Studies Teachers: Criteria and Principles for Selecting Exemplary Methods and Materials." In Greg Hamot, John J. Patrick and Robert S. Leming, eds., *Civic Learning in Teacher Education. Volume Three*. Bloomington, IN: ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, 75-98, 2004.

Vontz, Thomas S. and Robert S. Leming. "Using Supreme Court Cases to Foster Civic Learning." In John J. Patrick, Robert S. Leming, and Greg Hamot eds., *Civic Learning in Teacher Education. Volume Two*. Bloomington, IN: ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, 75-98, 2003.

Patrick, John J., Thomas S. Vontz, and William A. Nixon. "Issue-Centered Education for Democracy through Project Citizen." In Walter C. Parker, ed., *Education for Democracy: Contexts, Curricula, and Assessments*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing, Inc., 93-112, 2002.

Patrick, John J. and Thomas S. Vontz. "Components of Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Preparation of Social Studies Teachers." In John J. Patrick and Robert S. Leming, eds., *Principles and Practices of Democracy in the Education of Social Studies Teachers: Ideas and Examples for Teacher Educators*. Bloomington, IN: ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, 39-63, 2001.

Vontz, Thomas S. "Creating and Maintaining a Positive Learning Environment." In Stephen Schechter, ed., *The Active School*. Washington, DC: American Councils for International Education, 23-36, 2002.

Vontz, Thomas S. and William A. Nixon. "Issue Centered Civic Education Among Early Adolescents in the United States and Abroad." In Charles F. Bahmueler and John J. Patrick, eds., *Principles and Practices of Education for Democratic Citizenship*. Bloomington, IN: ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies/Social Science Education, 1999, 141-161.

Refereed Journal Articles

Clark, J. Spencer, Thomas S. Vontz, and Kristoffer Barikmo. "Teaching about Civil Disobedience: Clarifying a Recurring Theme in Secondary Social Studies." *The Social Studies* (March/April 2008), 51-56.

Vontz, Thomas S., ed. "Democracy and Education" *Theory and Research in Social Education* 35 (Winter 2007), 1- 144.

Vontz, Thomas S. "Guest Editor's Introduction: Themed Issue (Civic Education)" *Theory and Research in Social Education* 35 (Winter 2007), 1-3.

Vontz, Thomas S., Jim Franke, Brad Burenheide, and Lisa Bietau. "Building Bridges in Social Studies Education: Professional Development School Partnerships." *Journal of Educational Research* 100 (March/April 2007): 254-262.

Vontz Thomas S. and Robert S. Leming. "Designing and Implementing Effective Professional Development in Civic Education." *International Journal of Social Education* 20

(Fall/Winter, 2005 – 2006): 67-85.

Patrick, John J., Thomas S. Vontz, and Kim K. Metcalf. “Learning Democracy through Project Citizen in Lithuania, Latvia, and Indiana.” *International Journal of Social Education* 17 (Fall/Winter 2002-2003): 49-68.

Vontz, Thomas S. “International Perspectives from ERIC on Methods and Materials for Civic Education.” *International Journal of Social Education* 13 no. 1 (Spring/Summer 1998): 126-133.

Leming, Robert and Thomas S. Vontz. “Implementing New Civic Education Programs in Indiana and Eastern Europe.” *International Journal of Social Education* 13 no. 1 (Spring/Summer 1998): 134-144.

FUNDED GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Authored or co-authored over one million dollars in grants since 1997—including more than \$500,000.00 at KSU.