

CONVOCATION SERIES

In keeping with Converse's liberal arts education, the Convocation Series exists to encourage the development of all aspects of the human spirit. It stems from the core values of the College: *Excellence, Integrity, Diversity, Respect, Community, Exploration and Progress*. Through participation in a broad base of programs provided by the institution, it is believed that Converse women will gain a greater appreciation of life experiences beyond their area of study. The Converse College Convocation Series strives to enrich the student experience and encourage the development of women educated to succeed in an ever changing world.

All undergraduate Converse students (residential and commuting) are required to attend Opening Convocation and Founder's Day. These two celebrations bookend the academic year and serve as ties to and the foundation of the College. These two events bring students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni together to honor and celebrate the course of another year for the college. Students who miss either of these events are required to petition within one week of the event to the Civitas Council, through civitas@converse.edu, in order to be excused. These dates should be reserved by every student and held open to attend.

In addition to Opening Convocation and Founder's Day, every traditional undergraduate student is expected to attend 5 additional Convocation events for each semester. January term is counted with the spring semester. These additional events may be selected from the categories listed below. Students must attend at least one event from each category. Students must then pledge Convocation attendance online at https://my.converse.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/Convocation_Series.jnz **within one week (7 days) of the event** to receive credit for attendance. Students will be given advance notification via campus email of abbreviated pledge cycles at the end of terms to meet billing deadlines.

Student Teachers are required to meet the Convocation requirements but for these exceptions: 1) may miss Opening or Founders Day if actively student teaching and cannot leave their placement during the event, 2) if they are student teaching outside of Spartanburg County and are additionally living off campus, however they must notify the Director of Residential Life and Student Conduct of their situation.

A student will be fined \$30 for each event less than the six required per semester (Opening Convocation plus five selections in the fall and Founders Day plus five selections in the spring). Students may attend and receive credit for as many events as they would like.

The College encourages students to experience all that Converse has to offer.

- **Opening Convocation and Founder's Day must be attended by all.**
- Students must attend at least one from each category and submit an electronic pledge for a total of 6 each semester.

The five categories from which to select Convocation events are:

- I. Arts and Humanities**
 - Art exhibits and openings
 - Creative writing workshops and speakers
 - Music recitals
 - Theater and Opera performances
- II. Campus Celebrations**

SGA Town Hall Meetings

Called/Special meetings with the President or college administration

Honor Code signing for all new students

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Honor emphasis programs and speakers

Celebration Weekend

Including May Day, Sophomore Sisterhood Dinner, Junior Ring, Freshmen Pinning, Academic, Athletic & Leadership Awards

III. Community Engagement

Community service events

Including Impact Day of Service and College Town service projects

Athletics events

Wellness Center Programs

Service trips sponsored by the college

Other programs/events that promote engagement in the Converse community may be petitioned to Civitas for consideration

IV. Diversity

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Black History Month Events

Religious Life events

Model programs events

Other programs/events that promote diverse perspectives, knowledge of different cultures, methodologies, and world views may be petitioned to Civitas for consideration

V. Leadership Development

Student Government election speeches

Student Government installations

Student Government leadership retreat

Center for Professional Development workshops and guest speakers

Other programs/events that promote leadership development and education may be petitioned to Civitas for consideration

****Guest speakers hosted by College departments or Student Organizations may be petitioned to Civitas for consideration and will be assigned the appropriate category.***

Students are expected to show respect for the caliber of the program, for the stature and historical nature of the event and for the positive representation of Converse College and its students. Rev. 7/2016