

WTOO Issues Programming

October 3, 2023 at 8:30

October 6, 2023 at 8:30

October 7, 2023 at 4:30

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Addressing graduating high Schools senior's options whether college or a job.

Century Promise

Can we promise our graduating high school students College enrollment or a job after High School Graduation. Our guest thinks we can and is taking steps to accomplish this.

The Century Promise Organization addresses this opportunity by developing skill-based and career-focused pathways that lead to industry certifications, community college credits, jobs at or above the median area wage, and college opportunities.

Allentown school district has a College Readiness of just 7.7 out of 100. Most youth are not equipped to delve into the challenges of higher education. Why are so many students not job or college ready after graduating high school? How can that change? Century Promise works to create a different reality. Century Promise helps students who commit to the program, making them college ready and guaranteeing them a job after completing the program. Guest Yusef Dahl, Executive Director of Century Promise, joins Sam Chen to talk about the work being done in the Allentown area.

Yusef Dahl, Executive Director of Century Promise, explains why this project is meaningful to him and why he invests so much time into it. He was brought up by a single mother and eventually ended up in prison. While there, he met a man who thought he was smart and invested in him. After getting out of prison, Dahl was eventually awarded a full scholarship to Princeton University. He is now returning that encouragement he received and investing in the community through Century Promise.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 10, 2023 at 8:30 PM

October 13, 2023 at 8:30 PM

October 14, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Rental discrimination and the Thurmond Amendment and how it affects our communities

Passed in 1988, the Thurmond Amendment has legally allowed owners to refuse rent to anyone convicted of manufacturing or distributing drugs. Who was Senator Stom Thurmond? What impact does this amendment have on the black community today? Is the effort to repeal the Thurmond Amendment being resolved and what is its progress? Our guest, Yosuf Dahl, executive director of Century Promise, joins Sam Chen to discuss the impact this amendment personally has had on him, his family, and the larger community.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 17, 2023 at 8:30

October 20, 2023 at 8:30

October 21, 2023 at 4:30

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Options in Elementary Education – Charter Schools.

With the ever increasing strain on our education system, today's discussion centers around the pressing questions of what determines a good school and what is the best way to educate children? Alternatives to traditional education are many and our parents are faced with choices not available even 10 years ago.

Stephen Flavell is the founder and chief operations officer of Executive Education Academy Charter School in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He joins us to talk about those questions and more and spotlights and explains exactly what is a Charter School and if it may be an option for our viewers.

Steven Flavell, founder, and chief operations officer of Executive Education, discusses the running of a charter school and how it differs from that of a traditional school. Historically, charter schools promote innovation, and as part of the approval process, they must be unique and different from the school district they are in. Steven tells how the staff approach education, with teams assigned to a group of students meant to build a community, be an example of a leader, as well as a reliable resource. What sets this school apart is its goal of promoting business and leadership, building leaders of the next generation.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 24, 2023 at 8:30 PM

October 27, 2023 at 8:30 PM

October 28, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Judicial Elections and the effect our election of Judges has on our communities.

Each state chooses their judges differently. In Pennsylvania, we the people elect who will be our arbiters of the law. In this segment we ask some tough questions such as: What are the consequences of a judicial election? What biases might the judge bring? How does that judge interpret the constitution? What is the difference between a constitutionalist and a progressive judge? And how does choosing the right judges shape our local community? Frank DeVito, attorney at Napa Legal Institute joins with Sam Chen to discuss these topics and more.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 31, 2023 at 8:30 PM
November 3, 2023 at 8:30 PM
November 4, 2023 at 4:20 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Serving those who served and addressing Veteran Suicide

Did you know that the veteran suicide rate is at least 1.5 times higher than regular rates in the country? The Department for Veteran Affairs or VA is meant to help veterans but often falls short of that mark. Generally, veterans that come looking for help need a more holistic approach, not just treating the leg that's broken, but also the brain that is dealing with PTSD. America's Warrior Partnership stands in that gap partnering with organizations and communities around the nation. Not only do they help veterans that come to them, but they actively search out those people who might be contemplating suicide. Darrel Owens joins Sam Chen as they discuss what this organization does and its impact on our communities.

Darrel Owens is the Director of Government relations with the America's Warrior Partnership. He himself is a veteran and after returning home from deployment in Poland, got a sense of the hopelessness many veterans go through. Shortly after returning home, he was given the opportunity to work for the America's Warrior Partnership, helping his fellow veterans navigate life after deployment.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 7, 2023 at 8:30 PM

November 10, 2023 at 8:30 PM

November 11, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Serving Those Who Serve – Raising Awareness of Veteran Suicide.

We continue in our discussion on veteran suicide, making people aware of this issue, and the impact for good we can have on those veterans.

Did you know that the veteran suicide rate is at least 1.5 times higher than regular rates in the country? The Department for Veteran Affairs or VA is meant to help veterans but often falls short of that mark. Generally, veterans that come looking for help need a more holistic approach, not just treating the leg that's broken, but also the brain that is dealing with PTSD. America's Warrior Partnership stands in that gap partnering with organizations and communities around the nation. Not only do they help veterans that come to them, but they actively search out those people who might be contemplating suicide. Darrel Owens joins Sam Chen as they discuss what this organization does and its impact on our communities.

Darrel Owens is the Director of Government relations with the America's Warrior Partnership. He himself is a veteran and after returning home from deployment in Poland, got a sense of the hopelessness many veterans go through. Shortly after returning home, he was given the opportunity to work for the America's Warrior Partnership, helping his fellow veterans navigate life after deployment.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 14, 2023 at 8:30 PM

November 17, 2023 at 8:30 PM

November 18, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Financial Literacy, Budgeting and Financial Pitfalls

How do we learn financial literacy? What impact will it have and what are some programs available to the community? Gabriel Rendon is the founder and executive director of the Financial Literacy Center of The Lehigh Valley. He joins Sam Chen to break down those questions and more on this episode of Face the Issues.

Rendon explains that financial literacy is basically understanding your relationship to money, learning and understanding what it takes for you to go from where you're at today to where you want to be and understanding the steps that you need to take to reach your goals. Only a third of Americans have a budget, and for those who don't they may be open to a lot of financial pitfalls. Rendon explains that just because someone has low income doesn't mean they are bad with finances and inversely just because someone might be wealthy it doesn't mean they are making good decisions with their finances, so everyone can benefit from learning financial literacy skills, like understanding interest, credit and how to budget.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 21, 2023 at 8:30 PM

November 24, 2023 at 8:30 PM

November 25, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Choosing College

Colleges aren't one size fits all. Different colleges have unique strengths that fit different kinds of students. Dr. Mark Erickson, senior director of International Development at Lehigh University and president emeritus of Northampton Community College, joins Sam Chen today to reflect upon his career in higher education and the advice that he has for students trying to choose a college.

Dr. Erickson details the impact mentors have had on his personal and professional life, encouraging students to make sure they seek people they can learn from in all walks of life beyond the classroom. For students looking to go to college he underlines the importance of visiting the campus, talking to the students, and imagining if they can see themselves there. Find out the kind of place that's going to push and challenge them and expand them in terms of what they need to be doing with different options. And to not go in with a preconceived notion of needing to go to a four-year university or community college, but to be open minded when choosing the path that is right for you. He also encourages students to take full advantage of their time at their college of choice, whether that be studying abroad, extra curriculars, or classes outside their major; he says that students fundamentally have a chance to create their futures in themselves in a much deeper, richer way when in the right college for them.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 28, 2023 at 8:30 PM

December 1, 2023 at 8:30 PM

December 2, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Veterans Supporting Veterans

Veterans in need in our communities often feel isolated and some cannot relate to others upon returning from active duty even to ask for help. Having a Veteran reach out to a Veteran often opens doors where they were previously closed.

Sam Chen speaks with Christopher Yarnell, the founder and president of Battle Borne and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps to talk about how to support our veterans. Chris expands on the idea that each veteran's experience is different, from their service to their generation and with that comes a host of different needs some may have from their transition out to the military to mental health support. Discussion includes the rise of suicide rates in veterans, the different types of injuries veterans face, from the physical to PTS, and recommendations on getting connected to a veteran group after returning home from deployment. Chris shares his personal stories and experiences on the topic.

WTOO Issues Programming

December 5, 2023 at 8:30 PM

December 8, 2023 at 8:30 PM

December 9, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Emergency Services, Volunteers and the risk of losing such services in our communities.

Sam Chen speaks with Anthony Hennen, a journalist for the Center Square, about the risk of the collapse of emergency services in Pennsylvania. In 2018, the Senate issued a report examining what's going wrong with EMS, Anthony says essentially, we have many fewer volunteer firefighters to staff a lot of fire departments; as well as simple funding issues to deal with EMS and ambulance providers where ambulances are not reimbursed enough to meet costs, let alone turn profits and keep surviving. Discussions include factors that have caused this like less volunteers than in past generations, and what has been done in the past to keep these services afloat and what is being done now.

WTOO Issues Programming

December 12, 2023 at 8:30 PM

December 15, 2023 at 8:30 PM

December 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Antisemitism in our Communities and steps we can take to help.

Antisemitism is nothing new, but with the recent bombing of Israel by Hamas, it seems to have made a visible and shocking comeback. What is Antisemitism? When was it first given name and how much older is that hate in when you look back in history. Why is there so much conflict between Jews and Palestinians? Our guest, Jason Horowitz assistant vice president of Israel and Global Initiatives at the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore joins San Chen as we discuss the history of this conflict and if there is any possibility of it ever being cleared up in the future.

WTOO Issues Programming

December 26, 2023 at 8:30

December 29, 2023 at 8:30

December 30, 2023 at 4:30

30 min.

Program: Face the Issues

Addressing graduating high Schools senior's options whether college or a job.

Century Promise

Can we promise our graduating high school students College enrollment or a job after High School Graduation. Our guest thinks we can and is taking steps to accomplish this.

The Century Promise Organization addresses this opportunity by developing skill-based and career-focused pathways that lead to industry certifications, community college credits, jobs at or above the median area wage, and college opportunities.

Allentown school district has a College Readiness of just 7.7 out of 100. Most youth are not equipped to delve into the challenges of higher education. Why are so many students not job or college ready after graduating high school? How can that change? Century Promise works to create a different reality. Century Promise helps students who commit to the program, making them college ready and guaranteeing them a job after completing the program. Guest Yusef Dahl, Executive Director of Century Promise, joins Sam Chen to talk about the work being done in the Allentown area.

Yusef Dahl, Executive Director of Century Promise, explains why this project is meaningful to him and why he invests so much time into it. He was brought up by a single mother and eventually ended up in prison. While there, he met a man who thought he was smart and invested in him. After getting out of prison, Dahl was eventually awarded a full scholarship to Princeton University. He is now returning that encouragement he received and investing in the community through Century Promise.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 9, 2023 at 8:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

Presidential Race, and Opening PA's Primaries

This week's Pennsylvania Newsmakers features journalists Tom Lehman, Capitol Reporter for WGAL News 8, and Stephen Caruso, Capitol Reporter for Spotlight PA, who discuss presidential primary dates. Then, David Thornburgh, Chairman of Ballot PA, joins host Terry Madonna to discuss the reasons why Pennsylvania should adopt open primaries.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 16, 2023 at 8:30

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

Manufacturing Legislation, Primary Date, and Automatic Voter Registration

This week's Pennsylvania Newsmakers features David Taylor, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, who examines the state of the economy, with an emphasis on manufacturing and tax legislation. Then, journalists Marc Levy of the Associated Press, and Angela Coulumbis of Spotlight Pa, join host Terry Madonna to discuss the debate over changing the date of the state's presidential primary, the budget stalemate, and automatic voter registration.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 23, 2023 at 8:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

Construction Initiatives, and Emergency Room Overcrowding

This week's Pennsylvania Newsmakers features Bob Latham, Executive Vice President for Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, who discusses the success of highway construction in PA, legislative initiatives that are important to maintain that success, and electric vehicles. Then, Dr. Kristen Sandel, President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, joins host Terry Madonna to discuss the overcrowding of emergency departments, including the causes of the overcrowding, and the steps that need to be taken to address the problem.

WTOO Issues Programming

October 30, 2023 at 8:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

Avoiding Holiday Scams, and Holiday Debt

This week's Pennsylvania Newsmakers features Brian Roche, Anchor/Consumer Investigator for WGAL News8, who discusses the latest scams: holiday mystery packages, shipping text scams, Facebook account hacks, Medicare calls, and remote access scams. Then, Patrick Conway, President and CEO of the CrossState Credit Union Association, and George Rudolph, President and CEO of PSECU, join host Terry Madonna to discuss the importance of avoiding holiday debt, preparing for the holidays, and victims of fraud.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 6, 2023 at 8:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

Journalists' Final Election Preview

This week's Pennsylvania Newsmakers features journalists Jan Murphy, Capitol Reporter for PennLive/Patriot News, Tom Lehman, Capitol Reporter for WGAL, and Stephen Caruso, Capitol Reporter for Spotlight PA, who join host Terry Madonna for a discussion of the November 7th general election, including mail-in ballots and voter turnout. They also discuss funding for State-related universities, and a cost of living increase for retirees.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 13, 2023 at 8:30

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

Republican Whip and School Funding

This week state Representative Tim O'Neal, House Republican Whip, District 48, discusses energy policies, funding and reforms for the state related universities, and state budget issues. Then, Jeff Ney, Vice President, Pennsylvania State Education Association, host Terry Madonna for an update on the school funding and staff crises, and National Education Week.

WTOO Issues Programming

November 20, 2023 at 8:30 PM

30 min.

Program: Pennsylvania Newsmakers

State Universities, and COVID's Effects on Energy

This week's Pennsylvania Newsmakers features Marc Levy of the Associated Press and Charlie Thompson of Harrisburg Patriot News/PennLive, who discuss funding for the state related universities, cost of living adjustments, and more. Then, Donna Clark, Vice President and General Counsel of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, and Nicole Luciano, the Energy Association's Manager of Policy and Research, join host Terry Madonna for an explanation of weather assistance, being energy wise, and the effects of COVID on energy.

WTOO Issues Programming

Weekdays 11am to 12pm

Repeated 9pm to 10pm

60 Minutes

1 hour live call in

Program: Your Health with Richard and Cindy Becker

Live call in program regarding all things Health related. Viewers are encouraged to call to ask questions.

Richard L. Becker, D.O. is a physician and he and his wife, Cindy, host the daily television talk show, Your Health with Dr. Richard and Cindy Becker. The Becker's bring a practical approach to health education through timely topics, interesting and renowned guests, and live viewer calls. Cindy demonstrates healthy cooking with easy to make economical dishes for a healthy lifestyle.