



January 3, 2024

Division of Legislative Automated Systems (DLAS)  
Pocahontas Building, Suite W528  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Attention: Legislative Documents and Reports Processing

Dear Sir/Madam:

The report *Christopher Newport University 2023 Annual Report on Free Speech*, is submitted in compliance with Virginia Code §23.1-401.1(D.).

Please contact me with any questions or requests for additional information at 757-594-8589 or by email at [jennifer.latour@cnu.edu](mailto:jennifer.latour@cnu.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer B. Latour".

Jennifer B. Latour  
Chief of Staff

**Office of the President**  
*1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News, Virginia 23606-3072*  
*Voice (757) 594-8589 Fax (757) 594-7864*

**Document Title**

Christopher Newport University 2023 Annual Report on Free Speech

**Author**

Christopher Newport University

**Enabling Authority**

§ 23.1-401.1(D.)

**Executive Summary**

Christopher Newport University is a public institution of higher education, created by §§ 23.1-1400 through 1403 of the *Code of Virginia* and governed by the General Assembly of Virginia. In 2018, the *Code of Virginia* was amended to direct certain actions be taken by all public institutions of higher education in Virginia.

At the direction of Virginia Code §23.1-401.2(D.), this Annual Report on Free Speech is submitted this January 3, 2024. The University adopted a revised Statement on Free Speech and Expression that has been shared broadly and is posted on our website. From this statement, revised policies on facilities use and event scheduling have been adopted. These policies set out the general conditions upon which University facilities may be used, set priorities for the use of facilities, and ensure that decisions related to the use of facilities are based upon clear, objective and consistent criteria limited to the time, place and manner of speech. There have been no complaints filed in the court of law since December 1, 2022, to initiate a lawsuit against the University or a University employee for an alleged violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The University's statement on academic freedom and responsibility is included in the University Handbook and additional policies related to discrimination and harassment and the use of campus facilities are available on the University's website and are shared broadly with students, faculty and staff.