

LUCE LADDER

“Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount.”

– Clare Boothe Luce

From the President

February 2026

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Continuing Charlie Kirk's Legacy: Isabel Brown Brings Honest Dialogue to SUNY Oswego



(Left) **Isabel Brown** speaks to students at **SUNY Oswego** about courage, faith, and the importance of honest dialogue on college campuses. (Right) **Aliza Hopkins** stands with Isabel Brown, a role model for many young people, after hosting the event on her campus.

Five security officers stood watch as students gathered at **SUNY Oswego** on February 19 to hear **Isabel Brown** speak.

Brown is the popular host of *The Isabel Brown Show* on **The Daily Wire** and the author of *The End of the Alphabet: How Gen Z Can Save America*.

Online threats had circulated ahead of the event, and protestors arrived as well—one holding a sign depicting the murder of **Charlie Kirk**.

But what could have turned into a tense standoff instead became something rare on a college campus: an open exchange of ideas.

The event, hosted by sophomore **Aliza Hopkins**, secretary of her campus's TPUSA chapter, brought Brown to share conservative ideas on a New York public university campus where conservative ideas rarely receive a warm welcome. The evening quickly turned from a lecture into a real conversation. **Instead of ignoring the protestors, Brown addressed them directly, inviting dialogue that has become increasingly rare on college campuses.**

“This is my first campus event of the semester,” Brown told the audience, “but more importantly, this is my second campus event since my mentor, Charlie Kirk, was killed on a college campus six months ago.”

She acknowledged the grief still felt across the conservative movement while pointing to a deep sense of purpose that has followed. “Six months ago, our world again forever changed when someone possessed by the forces of evil viciously took the life of our friend... Charlie Kirk,” she said. “I remain utterly devastated... but it’s also beginning to become clear that there is a greater plan in all of this too.”

She described what she believes has followed: “We are watching the good and the beautiful and the true in society become louder and bolder and more unafraid in fighting evil than ever before.”

She asked the students in front of her: “Are we willing to answer the call? Are we willing to say yes? ‘Here I am, Lord, send me.’”

Brown spoke about how she entered the movement not as a would-be commentator, but as a student formed by the pursuit of objective truth. “I had this deep defining passion for the pursuit of objective truth,” she said, explaining why she had originally pursued science: “Science has always been about asking the biggest questions... and then arriving at an objectively true answer... We could understand fact from fiction.”

But she noticed something changing in her classrooms. “My classes most of the time weren’t even really about the pursuit of objective truth anymore,” she said. “We spent six plus months learning about... a child... formed in the womb... only then to be told... that abortion does not end a genetically unique human life.” She described learning about chromosomes—“the importance of XX and XY chromosomes”—and then being told, “your gender is kind of just something you can pick every single day.”

She also named the isolation many conservative students feel. “As I found myself sitting on a campus of 33,000 plus students really feeling isolated and alone as an outspoken Christian and conservative, I felt a tugging at my heart to want to get involved more, to be louder,” she said.

For Brown, that first “yes” was simply showing up—choosing courage before she ever had a platform. “I courageously first said yes to just attending that first conference,” she said.

She described her early connection to Turning Point USA and the young leader she barely knew then: “a young man named Charlie Kirk... just a young man wearing ill-fitting suits and white New Balance dad sneakers, who had no idea what he was doing, but had a heart to change the world.”

Much of Brown’s talk centered on relationships and the kind of lives young people are being encouraged to build. **She warned that our culture increasingly dismisses marriage, family, and faith as burdens that limit freedom, when in reality, they are the commitments that give life meaning.**

From dating with the intention of marriage to the courage to welcome children and build strong families, she argued that the most important choices often begin with a quiet willingness to say yes to something larger than oneself.

Again and again, Brown returned to the idea that integrity begins with surrendering your plans. “I had the quiet courage... to throw my plans away from my life,” she said, “and to simply surrender everything to God.”

After outlining how she first entered the conservative movement as a college student herself, Brown opened the floor for questions.

A student named JP introduced himself as a liberal and began by thanking Brown for coming. “I am happy that you are here because I think free speech is under threat in this country by both sides. And I think it is so brave of you to do this and to continue the legacy of Charlie Kirk.”

Brown responded warmly. “We welcome disagreement,” she replied. “That’s what our country’s all about.”

Another student asked how to respond when people assume conservatives “hate them.” Brown answered with advice she credited directly to Kirk: “You always have to keep your heart rate lower than the person that you’re talking to,” she said. “If you can take a really deep breath... you will probably have a really interesting conversation.”



(Left) Brown meets with conservative students at SUNY Oswego after inspiring and challenging them to stand by their values on campus. (Right) Aliza Hopkins, who will join the Luce Center as a summer intern in 2026, stands with **Nicole Gillis**, Luce Center program officer and a 2023 Luce Center summer intern.

She also noted that persuasion requires more than arguments—it requires human connection. “The facts do matter,” she said, “but when we can marry them with feelings, we have such a powerful vehicle to transform society, because how do you argue against objective truth when you also get to feel it in your heart?”

As the evening drew to a close, Brown addressed Aliza and other conservative students on campus. “It is hard to show up and be loud and proud and out there with your values on a college campus right now,” she told them. “Thank you for your courage... putting on events like this one takes real guts.”

For Aliza, bringing Brown to campus was one way of answering that call. She first heard Brown speak at the Clare Boothe Luce Center’s College Women’s Summit in Scottsdale in October 2025. Inspired by that experience, she began working with the Luce Center team to bring Brown to SUNY Oswego—and also applied for the Luce Center’s highly competitive internship program.

This summer, Aliza will join our 2026 summer intern class, alongside an exceptional group of intelligent and accomplished young women selected from campuses across the country who are preparing to lead with courage, truth, and integrity in the years ahead.



Thank you for supporting conservative women

Explore sponsorship opportunities to give today’s young women the conservative education and mentorship they need to become the strong conservative leaders our country needs*

Summer Interns	\$15,000	12 total [10 already sponsored]
Semester Interns	\$7,500	



Young Women’s Luncheon in Washington, DC

March 20 - Featuring Harmeet Dhillon and Emily Jashinsky

Full sponsorship	\$500
Half Sponsorship	\$250

Washington, DC Summit

June 26 - Featuring Alex Clark, Reagan Reese, Erika Donalds, and Leah Campos

Full sponsorship	\$1,000
Half Sponsorship	\$500

College Women’s Summit in San Antonio

October 16-18 - Featuring Isabel Brown, Mary Margaret Olohan, and other exciting leaders TBA

Full sponsorship	\$1,500
Half Sponsorship	\$750



* You will hear directly from the young women you help!

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE
CENTER *for* CONSERVATIVE WOMEN

Young Women's Luncheon



HARMEET DHILLON

Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights
Division of the U.S. Department of Justice



EMILY JASHINSKY

Host of After Party with Emily Jashinsky

College women, interns, and young professionals are invited to join us in Washington, DC for our Young Women's Luncheon, featuring a fireside chat with **Harmeet Dhillon** and **Emily Jashinsky**. This event offers practical guidance for pursuing a principled career, insights on building a life rooted in conviction, and networking with fellow conservative women.

\$10 *Spots are limited!*
REGISTER TODAY!



Your registration includes access to the event and lunch.

Student members (free to join) receive **50% off admission** to the luncheon. Scan the QR code for registration and additional details.

Friday
MARCH 20, 2026



Capitol Hill Club

300 1st St SE, Washington, DC 20003

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

11:15 am: Doors open. Check-in & Lunch

12:00 pm: Speakers, Q&A, and Photo Opportunities

1:30 pm: Final Remarks

Attire: Business Professional

From FBI Agent to Truth-Teller: A Story of Integrity and Conviction



(Left) **Nicole Parker** addresses a standing-room-only audience at the Luce Center, sharing her journey from FBI Special Agent to author and truth-teller. (Right) Parker meets with Luce Center interns **Anna Wilkinson** (2025), **Lucy Evich** (2026), and **Hannah Martin** (2026) following her remarks.

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Luce Center on February 20 to hear Fox News contributor and former FBI Special Agent **Nicole Parker** discuss her new book, *The Two FBIs: The Bravery and Betrayal I Saw in My Time at the Bureau*. The event drew students, members, and other guests, including retired FBI and CIA agents—and was covered by C-SPAN, our third Conservative Network Event in three months to receive national coverage.

Parker served in the FBI’s Miami Division from 2011 to 2022, where she investigated some of the nation’s most complex and high-profile federal crimes—from national security, fraud, and violent crime to human trafficking and crimes committed on the high seas.

She served on the FBI’s top-ranked violent crime fugitive task force and became the Bureau’s subject matter expert on cruise ship crime. Over the course of her career, she led surveillance operations, testified in federal courts, and partnered with law enforcement agencies around the world, earning three Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards from the U.S. Attorney’s Office as well as the FBI Medal of Excellence.

Before answering the call to public service, Parker spent nearly a decade in high-level finance roles at Merrill Lynch, Bank of America Securities, and Canyon Partners. After witnessing the events of September 11 while working in Manhattan, she felt compelled to pursue a career dedicated to protecting others.

That depth of experience gave weight to her remarks as she spoke candidly about what she describes as an internal divide within the Bureau—“FBI 1” and “FBI 2.” As Parker explained, “FBI 1 was comprised of honest, unbiased employees dedicated to keeping all Americans safe,” while “FBI 2 used their law enforcement power to push their personal political and social agendas.”

The tension between those two visions eventually became personal. Parker recalled making a vow with a colleague shortly before that colleague was killed in the line of duty. The two promised each other that they would never participate in politically motivated investigations for intimidation.

Remembering that promise later, Parker said she realized she could not take part in what she believed was happening: “We made a vow to each other the day before she was murdered that we would never work on a politically charged investigation for political intimidation... and I remembered that vow... and [I thought], I’m not doing this.”

She described the atmosphere inside the Bureau as one of deep mistrust. At one point, she said, “It became the Twilight Zone there and you didn’t know who you could trust. You basically trusted no one because you didn’t know who stood where.”

After years of service, Parker reached a breaking point. When wrongdoing became clear to her, she felt she had no way to speak openly while still inside the agency.



(Left) Intern Hannah Martin introduces Parker, welcoming guests to the Luce Center’s Conservative Network Event. (Middle) Social Media Officer **Rachel Hurley** and Membership Director **Catherine Hendershott** lead the event’s book raffle, giving away a copy of Dan Bongino’s *Follow the Money*. (Right) Intern Lucy Evich moderates the Q&A, inviting audience members to engage directly with Parker.

“I couldn’t say anything while I was there,” she explained. “You’re not allowed to say anything. You can’t talk to the media. You can’t say a word.”

As a line agent, she believed she had no meaningful way to challenge what she saw from within the institution. In a conversation with her father, she expressed her frustration bluntly, telling him, “Dad, I’m a nobody in Miami. I don’t have a voice. I can’t speak up.” Ultimately, they both concluded that if she was going to tell the truth, she would have to do it from outside the Bureau.

That decision meant walking away from her career—and her pension. Parker explained that the pension system itself can be used as leverage to keep agents silent: “They use the pension to silence people... If you do anything, you’re going to lose your pension. And [I thought], you know what? You can’t control me with a pension... I walked away.”

Leaving the FBI made it possible for her to finally speak publicly. That decision led to the writing of *The Two FBI’s* and, eventually, to a national platform where she now shares her story as a Fox News contributor.

The decision was not easy. Parker said it was “heartbreaking,” because she had loved being an agent. After leaving a successful career in finance to serve her country, she had invested years of sacrifice and hard work. “I worked so hard,” she reflected. “I trusted in God.” Ultimately, she felt called to step away.

Throughout her remarks, Parker returned to a theme that resonated deeply with the young women in the room: courage. She encouraged them to keep their faith even in difficult circumstances, urging them to “always keep the faith and never give up hope,” especially in moments “when you feel like your back is up against a wall.”



Guests listen intently as Parker reflects on integrity, courage, and her years inside the FBI.



*(Left) Parker presents a signed copy of **The Two FBIs** to an attendee following the program. (Middle) A long line forms as guests wait to meet Parker and have their books signed—quickly clearing out the available copies. (Right) Chief of Staff **Lauren Husmann**, etiquette instructor **Lynn Williams**, member **Stacie Husmann**, and Vice President **Cindy Rushing** gather in the board room.*

Fear, she warned, is often used as a tool of control. “Live life fearlessly,” Parker told the audience, noting that “people will try to control you with fear and they’ll try to put doubt in your mind.”

Truth, she insisted, ultimately cannot be defeated. When a person stands on truth, she said, “you have the truth on your side and no one can touch that.” In the end, she explained, her sense of accountability lies beyond any institution: “At the end of the day, I don’t report to DOJ. I don’t report to FBI. I believe I’m going to be judged... and I will have inner peace knowing that I did what was right.”

For the young women present, Parker offered practical advice rooted in integrity. In the end, she said, “that is all you have... your integrity, your hard work.” She said when people know they can trust you—and that your actions match your words—“no one can dispute that.”

As a woman who often served as the only female agent on her violent crime squad, Parker also spoke about the strength of embracing one’s gifts. She encouraged the audience to “use your gifts and use your strengths,” explaining that being honest about who you are while embracing your abilities is what makes life meaningful. The room rose in a standing ovation at the conclusion of her remarks, and guests stayed afterward to speak with Parker one-on-one and have their books signed.

The program was part of the Luce Center’s Conservative Network Event series, which brings together men and women of all ages to hear distinguished speakers discuss the issues shaping our nation. These events promote conservative women leaders, educate and inspire young women in person and online, and strengthen support for conservative women who are the trustees of a free and prosperous America.



C-SPAN cameras capture the Luce Center’s standing-room-only Conservative Network Event with Nicole Parker.

On a Personal NOTE

Dear fellow conservative,

A friend recently asked me a simple question: *What problem is the Luce Center trying to solve?* I thought you might appreciate a brief version of the answer we talked through together.

Problem: America is losing our young women to the Marxist, atheistic, anti-American Left.

Why this is happening: The Left's long march through the institutions has led to the ideological capture of our colleges and universities, government, news and entertainment media, K-12 schools, and cultural organizations, all targeting women with a vision of womanhood that is in lockstep with leftist priorities devaluing and demonizing faith, family, and freedom.

At the same time, too many conservative groups and influencers struggle to communicate with Gen Z women in a way that resonates and prevents their leftward shift. Reaching this generation requires specialized experience that connects timeless principles to the realities they face every day. Without that connection, many young women never see that conservative values offer a path to lives of meaning, stability, and genuine flourishing capable of strengthening their families, communities, and country.

As a result: Young women under 30 are now nearly twice as likely to identify as liberal than conservative, according to a recent Gallup poll, and roughly six in ten women under 30 publicly support radical leftist policies.

Concurrently, many of the institutions that once anchored American life are weakening. Today, only about half of American adults are married, four in ten children are born outside marriage, and the typical first-time homebuyer is now around 40. Nearly half of Gen Z say they often or always feel anxious. These are signs of a generation searching for stability, purpose, and truth.

Our unique approach: The Luce Center is America's mentorship institution for conservative women. Through mentorship, formation, and leadership training, **we are forming women with a zeal for truth, an appreciation for tradition, and a passion for human and societal flourishing rooted in a love of faith, family, and freedom.** What sets us apart from other conservative groups is our depth of experience mentoring Gen Z women. Our deliberate, individualized formation guides young women through cultural confusion and helps them become strong, virtuous, conservative leaders prepared to advance a free and flourishing America.

Thank you for supporting conservative women.

In Friendship & Freedom,



President



*I'm deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to the Luce Center. Here I am with President's Club member **Richard Ryan** and his guest at our Conservative Network Event with **Nicole Parker**. Richard is a wonderful friend who generously supports our work and mission. Because of supporters like you, we are forming the next generation of conservative women leaders.*

P.S. The young women you help mentor today will shape the families, communities, and institutions of tomorrow. Thank you for all you do to help today's young women and strengthen America's future.