

Hurtt: Activism crucial to campus

By [Matthew Hurtt](#)

Guest Columnist

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As someone who has trained thousands of university students nationwide, I often bust a popular myth: All college students are liberal.

In my professional interaction – organizing conservative and libertarian students on campuses across the country – I can honestly tell you that most university students are apathetic to their surroundings, political or otherwise. This has never been more evident than with the upcoming Student Government Association elections.

Low voter turnout for the few candidates who managed to file paperwork to run is not uncommon, but it is unfortunate.

The students who do make the most noise on campus tend to be left-of-center. There always seems to be some qualm leftist students have with the status quo, either on campus or off.

But, I contend that in these economic times, more students should look to free market solutions to combat high unemployment and provide economic opportunities. For many of you, graduation is only a few months away. You enter an uncertain job market with fewer opportunities than those students who graduated before you.

It's a reality you must face.

Rather than delve headfirst into political philosophy in this column, I ask that you reach out to two groups in particular for outside-the-classroom education: Young Americans for Liberty and Students for Liberty. Both groups provide an array of free market solutions for our nation's economic problems.

Additionally, these groups approach social issues from a different stance than most mainstream Republicans. With philosophical backing from the CATO Institute and Heritage Foundation, among others, these groups can provide a strong foundation for your understanding of the free market. Pick up a Reason magazine while you're at it.

Young Americans for Liberty tends to be more action-oriented, while Students for Liberty takes a more philosophical approach to on-campus involvement.

Seek out these groups. I believe YAL is still active at MTSU. Once you've joined, pick up books like "The Law" by Frederic Bastiat, "The Road to Serfdom" by F. A. Hayek, and "Economics in One Lesson" by Henry Hazlitt. These will provide you with a free market understanding of our economy.

I would also encourage you to read columns or books by top economists like Thomas Sowell and others.

The solutions to our problems do not lie in a bigger government. As Ronald Reagan said, "As government expands, liberty contracts."

Look around you. The status quo is apathy, and the results are expansive government and less freedom.

Get involved on campus and make a real difference. Change the way SGA operates. When I served in the senate, it was filled with title seeking ladder climbers with little interest in improving campus, but rather more interest in padding resumes.

I want to leave you with wise words from Samuel Adams: "It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen to set brushfires in people's minds."

Matthew Hurtt is a 2009 alumnus and holds a bachelor's degree in history and political science. He works in Washington, D.C., and can be reached at Matt.Hurtt@gmail.com.