



The Banning of a First Amendment Project at a Florida College

Rebecca Newman, Valencia College

Ironically, my Censorship and First Amendment project at my Florida college just got censored.

First, a two-day student summit I planned for this semester, to be led by PEN America, the 100-year-old, preeminent organization on freedom of expression, was canceled in January. Then I proposed a virtual visit by Florida resident and New York Times bestselling author, Lauren Groff, who recently announced plans for her new Gainesville bookstore, The Lynx. It was deemed too risky and scratched.

These are direct consequences of the Florida higher education SB266 bill. And sadly, students are the ones who pay the price.