



EMPORIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY™

# NEWS RELEASE

---

Public Affairs and Marketing | 1200 Commercial St. | Campus Box 4060 | Emporia, KS 66801-5087  
620-341-5454 | 620-341-5589 fax | [www.emporia.edu](http://www.emporia.edu)

January 6, 2009  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Dave Sparks, Media Relations Coordinator  
Office: 620-341-5454  
Fax: 620-341-5589  
Email: [media@emporia.edu](mailto:media@emporia.edu)

**ESU to launch speaker series with Koch Foundation grant**

An Emporia State University professor hopes to stir interest in free-market thinking with a series of speakers planned for the coming semester. Dr. Gregory Schneider, associate professor of history, has received a grant from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation to launch the program.

“The speakers series is a prelude to the development of a course on liberty in the western tradition which I would like to teach each spring for advanced undergraduates,” Schneider explained. “My hope is to develop the grant even more to allow students to take this course and meet with prominent speakers who will be brought to campus.”

Schneider’s plans call for hosting two speakers during the spring semester—one an economist, the other a historian—in March and April. They would meet with students and present public lectures as part of their appearances on the ESU campus.

The Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation provided \$6,000 to launch the lecture series. According to Liz Koch, president of the Foundation, the grant given to Schneider is one of four the Foundation awarded in 2008 to support selected programs of professors in Kansas.

“Through our support of Dr. Schneider and Emporia State, we hope students will better understand the link between free societies, social progress, and well being,” said Koch. “These funds will also provide additional resources to expand students' educational opportunities and career development,” said Koch.

Established in 1953, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation focuses its resources on not-for-profit organizations in Kansas that significantly enhance the state’s quality of life through arts, environmental stewardship, human services, enablement of at-risk youth, and education.