

You're listening to today's issues on the American Family Radio network. Tim, Wesley, Ed and Fred, we're joined now by Doctor Walter Wendler, President of West, TX A&M University. Dr. Wendler joined us couple months ago, and we decided have me back on to talk about a different topic. Doctor winter. Good morning to you.

Good morning to you, Tim and gentlemen, if I may use that term.

You are losing that use loosely. Yes, you are. Believe me, I'm in the room with these guys.

Will you be with you?

So. So you were on with us when was? When were you our? Guest.

About a month ago.

About a month ago.

And yet you hadn't been fired.

No, no, no, I haven't. I'm still here.

I just. I just figured somebody get on your case about being on with Wildman and that company. And anyway, Doctor Winter, how long have you been there at the West TX A&M University? And you guys are again in the in the Amarillo area, right?

That's exactly right, just a little South of Amarillo in that town called Canyon, TX. It's right on the. Rim of the. Palo Duro Canyon. I've been eight years now at West TX A&M.

Before I ask you about an issue, what what's the, what's the focus of your, of your, of your job, your your mission there? What? What do you want? What do you get up every day wanting to accomplish?

As this President. Well, you know, we want to serve the first thing we want to do is serve the people of. West, TX and served locally first you know a lot of times when you hear university leaders talk, they talk about a national or an international kind of agenda. I am focused on the local agenda. I want to understand the values and the commitments and the intents. Of the people of West TX, the top 26 counties of Texas, which is the Panhandle proper, you know, it's that little box at the top of Texas. I want to serve those folks first because I believe that especially in public education, it's like, and I don't often quote Tip O'Neill. But, you know, he said all politics were local. And I think all education is local also so. First thing we want. To do is serve people here 1st and. The people here. Are very special. They have a different view of the world than many, many folks. And what I want to do every day when I get to bed in the morning when my feet hit the floor, I want to serve the folks in the Texas Panhandle with a very fine and distinctive regional university here in.

I wanted to absolutely. I wanted to ask you what's been happening? You higher education? You're obviously the president of a of a university. We've seen what's happened, although it's faded somewhat, but we've seen what happened in the last couple of months. With some of these demonstrations by students across the country that have been. Against Israel anti-Semitic very anti-Semitic who?

Pro Hamas.

Obamas anti American they call it colonialism, they call it. You know, I don't know white supremacy on and on the list goes. It's the same folks from Antifa and meaning and the BLM. And the, you know, Occupy Wall Street, these these far left groups. But these students protesting and and I wanted to get your thoughts on that and also what is the is there any role in higher education and communicating. History and patriotism.

Yeah, I think. The answer is yes, Tim, there is a role in communicating true history and real patriotism as part of our job. You know, one of the problems in higher education is in an effort to serve everybody. Many universities have lost any moral compass at all, and I'm not ashamed to say. I mean, I I'd say to people, look, I am. I'm a Christian man. I believe that Jesus Christ came to save my soul and everyone else said. And to hear that at a public university is a is a fairly radical perspective. But I think it's important because it's a moral compass and I don't tell everybody they have to follow more of my moral compass. But I I want them to know almost as a matter of being honest and transparent. This is what I believe. And if my actions and my leadership. At the institution doesn't line up with the biblical person. Effective, somebody needs to say to me, hey, you're not walking the walk here and you need to, but that doesn't mean that everybody here is believes the same way that I do. I mean, we have to be open to new ideas and different ideas and so on and so forth. But the place I start is having a moral compass that is founded on what I consider to be the founding. Values of the nation and I think values that are still resident in the Texas Panhandle, it's a very I'll use the word conservative. It's not a perfect word to describe the folks here, but it's a very conservative practically minded. Feet flat on the floor view of the world that says it's still a handshake culture up here. Tim. We have a handshake culture up here. I do all things all the time on a handshake and I'm very comfortable with that. And I like it because I think it's American to be honest with you. And I think there is a role for universities. To promote that kind of behavior and that kind of leadership by example. And I it bothers me to see, you know, in terms of Hamas and Israel and the anti-Semitism embedded in that it bothers. But it's. Also not new. I can tell you 10 years ago at UCLA, there was a a young woman there, Rachel Bada, who was. In student government and they wanted her to be on a committee of Student government. And they they initially disbanded her for a drug didn't allow her to be on this committee because she was a Jew and she was

afraid of her views of the Palestinian conflict. So this is, this is all. Well, actually much older than that. You were talking about kings. I mean, this goes back a long way and.

Yeah.

The fact of the matter is this. You know that that's just wrong. And actually in the end, the daily grew in the UCLA newspaper. They got it right. And they said, look this. Is wrong. You can't keep her office committee because she's a Jew, by the way. This is not much. Different than what William Buckley experienced in at Yale that he recorded for posterity in God and Man at Yale. You know, Buckley was a Catholic at A at an institution that was largely Protestant, and William Sloane Coffin was the was the board was on the board. And led the review Committee and Buckley's transgressions, and basically Coffin said that maybe Buckley should have attended a university. That was welcoming to his kind, and he used the example of Florida, which everyone knows is a Catholic University. That you know. That is, it just doesn't make sense in a public institution and it doesn't make sense in a private institution. I'm glad in Texas our governor, Governor Abbott, put out a proclamation. Executive order at the end of March of this year that basically disallowed these kinds of protests and encampments and said that they were anti-Semitic and that was inappropriate at the public university I. Mean the fact of the. They're just that business that turns into a form of hate speech when you call for the annihilation of a race of people. And I think we need to be very careful in the public institution to to condone or allow that, you know, condone it by allowing it. And I just think we haven't done that.

Right.

Here we will not do it here. I would just say no, we're not going to do it. I've said it before on certain issues, we will not disparage any group of people on this campus. As a matter of policy and allowing something like. What's going on? The you know this from the river to the sea business, which basically doesn't allow Israel a square inch of land that's.

From the river to the sea means kill all the. Jews.

Exactly what it. Means that's exactly what it means.

That's what they're talking about from the river Jordan to the sea. The Mediterranean Sea. Get rid of them, or at least get rid of them as they exist in the land of Israel. Doctor Winter, we got to go here. But tell the folks. Where they can read more about your school.

Yes, I'm ready to attend. We're West TX A&M University, wtamu.edu, and there's a lot of things to read about West, TX, A&M and we are the most conservative public university in the state of Texas. There's a study on there that talks about why and it's a very special place. And I would encourage people that are looking for a distinctive approach in higher

education that they should look right here at a very efficient and high quality educational experience.

Thank you, Doctor Winder. Take care.

Thank you. Bye bye.

OK. Bye. Bye. That's Doctor Walter Wendler joining us from the Panhandle there in Texas.

OK.

And that he is the. President of West, TX A&M University.

So Christian conservative universities still exist. They're they're.

Well, there's a public universities. I'm sorry.

Not they're public. They're they're they're they're a public school, but they are tolerant of Christian. Conservatives, yes, yes.

That's stunning that that's a that that's an exception.

Yes, you can believe. That's what? Well, that to he, he they're to public school. That's not discriminatory.

Yeah.

Against people who are Christians, which is. In in in ways we could talk about and have talked about.

And they are promoting conservative ideas at the university.

Yes, yes, unashamedly so.

Yeah, I was looking at an article here from the Texas Tribune that that quotes Doctor Wendler at an event in 2023, and he says I want West TX A&M University to champion ideas rather than ideology. And I I I like that to that disc.