

Brown on Freedom Summer panel

As part of Miami University's events to mark the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, will participate in a panel Tuesday to talk about the 1964 civil rights campaign.

Freedom Summer happened in the summer of 1964 when volunteers helped African Americans register to vote in Mississippi. Hundreds of student volunteers trained on the campus of the Western College for Women in Oxford, which is now a part of Miami University.

"The mission of Freedom Summer grew from the belief that all citizens, regardless of race, should be able to engage in the political process," Brown said. "We can honor the brave women and men of Freedom Summer – both the volunteers who trained in Oxford, Ohio and the Mississippi residents who risked their safety to exercise their right to vote – by resisting any efforts to restrict access to the ballot box."

Miami University has hosted several university-wide events to remember and honor the work for the volunteers. The commemoration continues this weekend and coming week as volunteers have been invited to share their memories. The commemoration ends on Tuesday, which is when Brown will participate in the panel – "Understanding the Past, Building the Future" – scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Miami's Marcum Conference Center, 351 N. Fisher Dr. in Oxford.