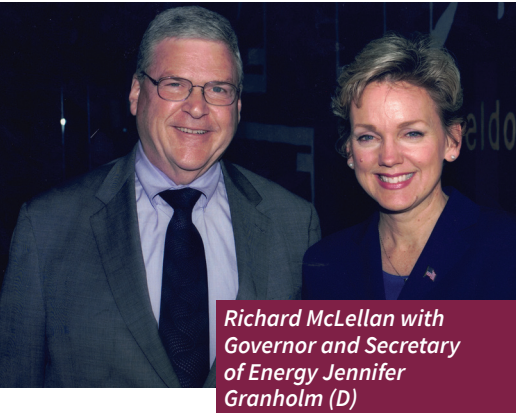


## *Richard D. McLellan Prizes*

When it came time for college, McLellan chose Michigan State University. McLellan's passion for freedom of expression was ignited at MSU—primarily through his activities with student government and political groups. When a student socialist group was barred from bringing in a speaker from the Communist Party,

McLellan fought for the right for the speaker to be heard. He also helped transform regulations that made it difficult to bring speakers to campus.

“As a student, I felt you should be able to listen to anyone,” he said. “I might not have agreed with what they said, but I felt it was wrong to ban free speech.”



*Richard McLellan with  
Governor and Secretary  
of Energy Jennifer  
Granholm (D)*

That early involvement in free speech shaped McLellan's lifelong quest to uphold the First Amendment and civil discourse. A believer in education, he shared his knowledge through statewide political leadership programs, and taught and lectured at MSU.

Several years ago, McLellan decided that he wanted to contribute to programs that fostered principles he had cared about his whole life. Through conversation, he arrived at the idea of establishing prizes, scholarships, and fellowships devoted to freedom of speech and expression.

McLellan's primary intent is to institutionalize free speech as a value during a time when many principles of free expression are being challenged. He remembers the events he saw unfolding in emerging democracies in the