

# PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
AND CLEVELAND CLINIC

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

**THE**  
COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL  
**DEBATES**

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

**2020** is a unique time for a debate. The coronavirus pandemic necessitates a thoughtful approach to this important event while practicing risk-mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of coronavirus spread. As Health Security Advisor to the Commission on Presidential Debates, Cleveland Clinic is involved in all aspects of debate planning to help ensure the health and safety of those in attendance at all four 2020 general election debates. For this reason, the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic is an ideal choice to host the first 2020 presidential debate.

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## FROM CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY AND CLEVELAND CLINIC

Dear friends,

We are honored to welcome you to this presidential debate at our shared Health Education Campus (HEC). The design of the HEC emerged from our shared vision to transform health education, to bring students together and prepare them to solve complex health problems.

We can think of no better place for the first presidential debate of 2020. The pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of healthcare and scientific discovery in unprecedented ways. Debates are integral to a functioning democracy and we're proud to serve as the hosts for such a consequential moment for the nation.

We would like to thank all attendees for entrusting us with your health and safety, and for your cooperation with our safety protocols. We would also like to thank Governor Mike DeWine and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson for their leadership throughout the pandemic, and the Commission on Presidential Debates for this tremendous opportunity.

Sincerely,



**BARBARA R. SNYDER, JD**  
President  
Case Western Reserve University



**TOMISLAV MIHALJEVIC, MD**  
CEO and President  
Cleveland Clinic





## FROM CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK G. JACKSON

Dear Debate Participants and Members of the Media,

Welcome to the City of Cleveland, host of the first presidential debate of the 2020 election cycle. Cleveland has a proven track record of hosting successful large-scale events, including the 2016 Republican National Convention, the 2014 International Gay Games, and the 2015, 2016 and 2017 NBA Finals.

Cleveland is home to venues like the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, JACK Cleveland Casino, and unique dining experiences and nightlife on East Fourth Street, the Warehouse District, West 25th Street, Little Italy, Larchmere and the Flats among others.

Thank you for your participation in this important event.

Sincerely,



**FRANK G. JACKSON**

Mayor



## FROM OHIO GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE

Dear friends,

As Governor of Ohio it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Buckeye state.

With its 18 electoral college votes, Ohio has historically played an important role in national politics. In fact, our state has chosen the winner in every presidential election since 1964.

Ohio has also been referred to as the “Mother of Presidents.” Seven U.S. presidents were born in Ohio: Ulysses Grant, Rutherford Hayes, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft and Warren G. Harding. And an eighth, William Henry Harrison, lived most of his adult life in Ohio.

Ohioans are an engaged electorate and always willing to hear diverse opinions and ideas. First Lady Fran DeWine and I thank the Commission on Presidential Debates for this incredible honor to showcase Ohio to the world, and also Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic for hosting this debate.

Very respectfully yours,



**MIKE DEWINE**  
Governor



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY**

## CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

One of the nation's leading research universities, Case Western Reserve University enrolls more than 5,100 undergraduate students and nearly 7,000 graduate and professional students representing 94 countries.

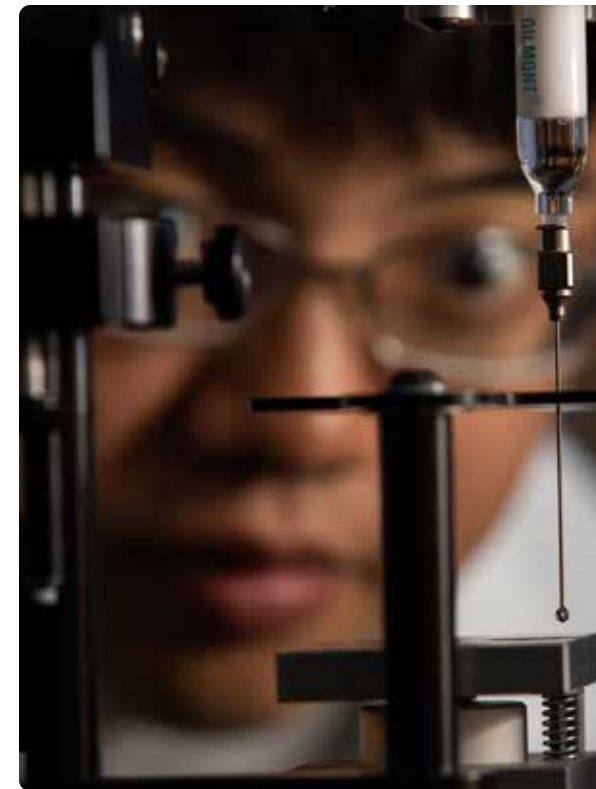


Its leading-edge offerings include the nation's 9th-ranked health law and social work programs, 11th-ranked nursing master's program, 18th-ranked biomedical engineering graduate degree, and 24th-ranked medical school.\*

Located minutes from downtown Cleveland in the cultural hub known as University Circle, the park-like, urban campus is just steps away from some of world's top hospitals, museums and performance spaces — giving students a chance to engage with academics and extracurricular activities in a diverse and exciting environment.

Plus, students can get hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities, such as the Sears think[box], a 50,000-square-foot open-access innovation center that has recently become a pandemic problem-solver; its employees are working with area hospitals to devise solutions to help fight COVID-19, including 3D-printed face shields and a decontamination system for N95 masks.

In classrooms and labs across campus, students learn from faculty who are renowned in their fields. With expertise in everything from accounting to art history, polymers to political science, and statistics



to systems engineering, Case Western Reserve's 3,500 campus and clinical faculty members are active scholars who bring their enthusiasm for research and innovation to students and colleagues.

Case Western Reserve graduates take what they learn here to make real-world impact. Among its more than 110,000 alumni, the university counts Paul Buchheit, creator of Gmail; Peter Tippett, developer of the first antivirus software; Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first Black Ohio congresswoman; Fred Gray, legal defender of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rep. John Lewis, among others; Julie Gerberding, the first female director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Frank Rudy, inventor of the Nike Air Sole; as well as acclaimed film directors and actors, politicians, Nobel laureates, CEOs, authors and change-makers.

Visit [case.edu](https://case.edu) to see how Case Western Reserve thinks beyond the possible.

\* U.S. News & World Report, Best Graduate Schools 2021 (released March 2020)

NOTE: All images were taken in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.



 CLEVELAND CLINIC 



# CLEVELAND CLINIC

Cleveland Clinic was founded in 1921 by four prominent physicians with a vision to create a hospital based on the innovative teamwork of World War I military hospitals, which three of them had experienced firsthand.



Together, they established a doctor-led, not-for-profit medical center, a model unique for its time. Nearly 100 years later, the founders' vision remains Cleveland Clinic's mission: "Provide better care of the sick, investigation into their problems, and further education of those who serve."

What began with a staff of six surgeons, one radiologist, four internists and one biophysicist has grown into a worldwide and world-renowned healthcare system. Today, Cleveland Clinic employs more than 67,000 caregivers globally, with more than 4,500 salaried physicians and researchers, and 17,000 registered nurses and advanced practice

providers, representing 140 medical specialties and subspecialties.

As a nonprofit multispecialty academic medical center, Cleveland Clinic integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. The 6,026-bed health system includes a 165-acre main campus near downtown Cleveland, 18 hospitals, more than 220 outpatient facilities, and locations in southeast Florida; Las Vegas, Nevada; Toronto, Canada; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and London, England. In 2019, there were 9.8 million total outpatient visits, 309,000 hospital admissions and observations, and 255,000 surgical cases throughout Cleveland Clinic's health



system. Patients came for treatment from every state and 185 countries.

Driven by a philosophy that discovery and innovation can improve patient lives, Cleveland Clinic has been a leading innovator, including pioneering open heart surgery, inventing coronary angiography, performing the first coronary bypass surgery, completing the first nearly full facial transplant, in addition to breakthroughs in cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's disease and stroke. Many of these discoveries now are standard practice in medicine.

*U.S. News & World Report* consistently names Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation's best hospitals in its annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey. In 2020, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Cleveland Clinic the No. 2 hospital in America and the No.1 hospital for heart care and heart surgery for the 26th consecutive year.

To see how Cleveland Clinic is there for every care in the world, visit: [clevelandclinic.org](https://clevelandclinic.org).



**HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPUS OF  
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
AND CLEVELAND CLINIC**

# HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPUS OF CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY AND CLEVELAND CLINIC

Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic launched a new era of health education when they opened the Health Education Campus in 2019.

The Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic features the four-story, 477,000-square-foot Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion. The campus also includes a three-story, 132,000-square-foot dental clinic and the Newton Avenue Park. Approximately 2,200 students from the university's schools of dental medicine, nursing and medicine — including those in Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine — learn, study and collaborate together on the 11-acre campus.

Designed by London architects Foster + Partners, the Health Education Campus was envisioned as a way to encourage interaction among future healthcare professionals in and out of the classroom. Its 27,000-square-foot Delos M. Cosgrove Courtyard includes dining options, tables, and comfortable chairs and couches where students can eat, study and discuss their latest lessons. The campus features state-of-the-art technology including an augmented-reality anatomy curriculum, medical simulation center, flight nursing simulation program and touch-screen visualization tables for anatomy teaching.

The Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic is a joint project that the university and hospital first began working toward in 2013. In recent years, the two institutions have collaborated to develop shared courses and other experiences in which students from all of the health programs learn the fundamentals of team-based care while also practicing skills together in simulated settings and at actual clinical sites.



*NOTE: All images were taken in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.*



 CLEVELAND, OHIO 

# CLEVELAND, OHIO

Cleveland's story is one of industry, innovation and resilience that is characterized by risk-taking, artistry and grit.

Currently experiencing a revitalization fueled by nearly \$20 billion of public and private investment, Cleveland's economic environment builds on the city's entrepreneurial heritage and its renowned healthcare community.

- › 109,000 companies operate across diverse and growing industries, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing and technology.
- › Led by Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, healthcare represents one of the largest economic sectors at 8.5% of the region's employment.
- › 700 biomedical companies represent a \$5.6 billion sector of our gross regional product.
- › By 2025, manufacturing is projected to represent 22% of the region's economy.
- › Northeast Ohio has the fifth fastest-growing population of workers with advanced degrees.

From renowned cultural institutions to vibrant neighborhoods, inspired food and beverage offerings, action-packed sports and indie shops and art galleries, engaging experiences can be found around almost every corner in Cleveland.

Located on the southern shore of the shallowest and warmest of the Great Lakes, Cleveland's residents are surrounded by nature — both in the city's center and in its suburbs. With 55,000 acres of parkland between the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the region's metro park system, affectionately known as the "Emerald Necklace," opportunities abound for urban outdoor adventure or quieter communing with nature.



## CAMPUS HEALTH AND SAFETY

Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic are honored to host 2020's first presidential debate at their shared Health Education Campus and have taken steps to help ensure it will be done safely. In the midst of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, this debate will be significantly different from past debates. A broad range of risk-mitigation strategies, including limiting audience size, adding distance between seats, incorporating personal health screening and safety measures, and implementing disinfectant measures, will help protect everyone within the space. In addition to co-hosting the first debate, Cleveland Clinic also serves as Health Security Advisor to the Commission on Presidential Debates, providing guidance on safety matters for all four 2020 general election debates. Cleveland Clinic is working with healthcare professionals in the debate host cities to ensure a consistent approach to health and safety. The plan Cleveland Clinic develops for the Cleveland debate will guide subsequent 2020 debates.

Specific debate plans may change based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Debate precautions will be aligned with county, state and CDC guidelines for health, safety and physical distancing. The latest updates for media will be shared on the website.

## THE DEBATE

The Health Education Campus (HEC) of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic will host the first presidential debate on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, in its Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion.

The site was selected by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) after the original host, the University of Notre Dame, withdrew because of the complexities COVID-19 created for its fall semester. Case Western Reserve also is deep in COVID-19 preparations, but the partnership with Cleveland Clinic — and the HEC's distance from the university's main campus — makes co-hosting more feasible.

In addition, the Commission retained Cleveland Clinic earlier this year to serve as its Health Security Advisor for all of the fall's debates.

This year's event will mark Case Western Reserve's second engagement with the Commission; in 2004, the university hosted the Vice Presidential debate between Dick Cheney and John Edwards in the Veale Convocation Recreation and Athletic Center. About 43.6 million people watched the 2004 discussion; viewing projections for this year's event exceed 100 million.

The 90-minute debate begins at 9 p.m. ET without commercial breaks and will be broadcast by the White House pool networks.



## MEDIA RESOURCES

The media relations and communications teams of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic are available to assist reporters with stories, photos, video and interviews with faculty, students, physicians or other caregivers. For reporters without access to the debate, other areas of campus will be available for live shots and stand-ups. Contact information is available on page 26.

Up-to-date information can be found at [2020DebateCLE.com](https://2020DebateCLE.com).

Case Western Reserve University's media team has photography and other assets available at [case.edu/umc/media-relations](https://case.edu/umc/media-relations).

Follow [@cwru](https://twitter.com/cwru) on Twitter for the recent news about the university and the debate.

Cleveland Clinic News Service is available to provide broadcast-quality interviews and B-roll upon request at [newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/](https://newsroom.clevelandclinic.org/).

Follow [@ccformedia](https://twitter.com/ccformedia) on Twitter for the latest news and assets related to the debate, including daily updates, b-roll and photos.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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