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## **As Academia Reels from SCOTUS' Dobbs Opinion, One University Training Pro-Life Advocates**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- As the Supreme Court of the United States released its landmark opinion in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, students at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, were finishing the second college-level course in the newly established Defending Life Summer Institute. The Institute had been holding classes for two weeks and was in its final day of the 2022 session when Dobbs dropped on the SCOTUS website. Given the Institute's stated goal "to equip current and future pro-life leaders to advocate for the life of the unborn," the timing was perfect.

The 6-3 opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito held that "the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives."

Visiting professor Dr. Marc Newman was grading final presentations and preparing to administer final exams when the news was brought to the classroom that the Dobbs opinion had been released.

As president of the pro-life advocacy organization Speaker for Life, Newman was bombarded with email requests for expert opinion minutes after the decision's release. However, Institute students remained his most immediate concern.

"The arguments these students have become adept at making must be the content of the national discussion on abortion," said Newman. "Pro-life people can take a moment to celebrate this milestone, but the need for advocacy remains. Abortion will continue without pause in many states today and tomorrow. Children will be put to death. We must be their voice until abortion is consigned — like every other genocide — to the dustbin of history."

Students at the Institute were likewise pleased with the court's ruling, reacting with a mix of joy and curiosity concerning the meaning and inevitable consequences of the case. Allison Detwiler, a rising junior pursuing a degree in advocacy communication, expressed how real the struggle had become for her. "I think it's going to be completely different than what we've dealt with before," she said, "It seems like we were fighting a national battle; now it's in our community."

While the Dobbs case confirmed the value of pro-life training and advocacy, Institute professors cautioned that the fight for life is far from over.

For visiting professor Scott Klusendorf, president of the Life Training Institute, the Dobbs decision indicated not a reduction but an expansion of the battle against abortion. "The days of leaving pro-life advocacy to professional speakers and trainers are over," Klusendorf said. "Every American who cares

about unborn life and how to defend it must equip themselves to engage the abortion issue with our fellow citizens. The Institute is uniquely positioned to provide that training.”

The Defending Life Summer Institute is a uniquely designed program that is designed to equip current and future pro-life leaders to advocate for the life of the unborn. To learn more about the Summer Institute, visit [Defending Life Summer Institute](#).

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the Doctor of Pharmacy program, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit [cedarville.edu](http://cedarville.edu).