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## Iannone, Carol: National Council on the Humanities Nomination (1991): Report 04

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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
HUMAN RESOURCES

6/13/91

TO: ARTS & HUMANITIES STAFF

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS FURNISHED THIS  
INFORMATION ON DR. CAROL IANNONE,  
NOMINEE FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR  
THE HUMANITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL.

THOUGHT YOU WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL.

KRIS IVERSON

President Bush Nominates Carol Iannone to the  
National Council on the Humanities

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On January 23, 1991, President Bush nominated Carol Iannone to serve on the advisory council for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The law creating the council mandates that its members should "provide comprehensive representation of the views of scholars and professional practitioners in the humanities." Iannone's nomination is now pending before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Carol Iannone is superbly qualified for the National Council on the Humanities:

- She holds three college degrees, including a Ph.D. in literature from SUNY, Stony Brook.
- For almost 20 years, she has taught literature, writing, and theater to thousands of college students; and she has been honored for her teaching excellence. She is currently a full-time faculty member at New York University, Gallatin Division.
- For the past 4 years, Carol Iannone has served as Vice President of the National Association of Scholars. She has been managing editor and is now book editor for the association's journal, Academic Questions.
- She has published more than 30 articles, book reviews, and literary critiques in such publications as Commentary, National Review, The New Criterion, and The Wall Street Journal.

Carol Iannone's nomination for the council has received strong endorsements:

- Lynne Cheney, Chairman of the NEH, calls her "one of today's most lucid and insightful commentators on the humanities and cultural issues."
- George Will observes that "Many of the most enlightened defenders of our cultural patrimony are now out in the practical world, including government, and many philistines are in the academies shaping tomorrow's elites, and hence tomorrow's governance. That is why Lynne Cheney and Carol Iannone matter more than do most of the things that get the public's attention."
- William F. Buckley asserts that "Miss Iannone, in her regular contributions to Commentary alone, can be said to have contributed more to the general understanding of important academic, cultural, and philosophical questions than a dozen issues of the PMLA."

Additional Endorsements of the President's Nomination of  
Carol Iannone to the National Council on the Humanities

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Miss Iannone is altogether qualified to serve [on the National Council on the Humanities], and nothing she has written disqualifies her.

--The Washington Post, May 20, 1991

It is true that Dr. Iannone's literary scholarship has appeared mainly in nonacademic journals that people acutally read, rather than in, say, the publication of the Modern Language Association . . . It is also true that Carol Iannone is well-qualified for the position to which she has been appointed.

--The Wall Street Journal, May 5, 1991

For years I have read and learned from her [Iannone's] articles on various literary topics, informed and invigorated by her wise and scholarly perspectives framed in clear and lively prose, free of jargon and cant. I regard her as one of the most interesting literary and social critics of our time.

--Donald Kagan, dean of Yale College in New Haven, Connecticut

Carol Iannone is no pedant dedicated to piling footnote upon footnote in the production of some obscure tome. Instead, she is vitally interested in the wider issues of scholarship and education.

--Bruce Cole, distinguished professor of fine arts at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana

She [Iannone] would be a particularly appropriate choice because of her experience as a part-time and temporary English instructor for a number of years before assuming her present position; she is thus qualified to represent the many thousands of college instructors who work without a permanent job title.

--Alan Gribben, professor in the department of English at the University of Texas at Austin

Carol Iannone is unquestionably one of the most gifted instructors I have encountered in my 25 years in academic life. Her articles have inspired students and scholars and her instruction is uniformly admired by her students.

--Herb London, dean of the Gallatin Division at New York University

Carol Iannone is a distinguished academic and intellectual who would be a great asset to the work of the Council. It is my strong recommendation and earnest hope that you [Senator Pell] will support this nomination.

--Joseph H. Hagan, president of Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts

Endorsements, continued

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Ms. Iannone promotes those values both through her own lucid prose and through the standards by which she evaluates the writings of others. . . . I am sure that she would bring the same high intellectual standards and honesty to the NEH.

--Laura K. Noell, assistant division chairman in the department of English at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia

Dr. Iannone would make a unique contribution to the work of this body, bringing to it a superbly trained judgment on issues pertaining to the place of the humanities within our larger culture, and the role of public policy in fostering humanities education.

--Stephen H. Balch, president and executive director of the National Association of Scholars

Miss Iannone's scholarship and writing for an educated public stand in the highest traditions of the humanities and exhibit commitment to the fundamental purposes for which the National Endowment was created. She will bring to the Council a combination of intellectual depth and breadth of vision essential to the Endowment's service to the American public.

--Edwin J. Delattre, Olin Scholar in applied ethics at Boston University

I have followed Professor Iannone's writings . . . and was extremely impressed by her erudition and insight, judgment and integrity. She has been a breath of fresh air in the oppressive atmosphere of political conformity that pervades our institutions of higher learning, which are being rapidly transformed into tools of social reform.

--Alphonse Juilland, professor emeritus of French at Stanford University in California

She [Iannone] would bring to the council precisely what is now most urgently needed: the ability to bridge the gap between the academy and the literate public. . . . Dr. Iannone has a special talent for communicating serious, scholarly ideas in a manner that makes them intelligible to a large audience.

--Gertrude Himmelfarb, professor emeritus of history in the Graduate School and University Center at The City University of New York:

As a highly successful public scholar in the humanities, Ms. Iannone is in fact especially qualified to serve a public agency like the NEH.

--William Rice, a doctoral candidate in the department of English at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor