

# SNCC Digital Gateway

This documentary website (<https://snccdigital.org/>) tells the story of how young activists in SNCC united with local people in the Deep South to build a grassroots movement for change that empowered the Black community and transformed the nation. The *SNCC Digital Gateway* portrays how SNCC, alongside thousands of local Black residents, worked for Black people to take control of their political and economic lives. It also unveils the inner workings of SNCC as an organization, examining how it coordinated sit-ins and freedom schools, voter registration and economic cooperatives, anti-draft protests and international solidarity struggles.

SNCC organizers themselves shaped the vision and framework of the *SNCC Digital Gateway* website. They worked collaboratively with historians of the Movement, archivists, and students to weave together grassroots stories, digitized primary source materials held at repositories across the country, and new multi-media productions to bring this history to life for a new generation.

## **History of the SNCC Legacy Project and the Duke University Collaboration**

In 2013, the SNCC Legacy Project and Duke University formed a partnership to chronicle the historic struggles for voting rights and to develop ongoing programs that contribute to a more civil and inclusive democracy in the 21st century.

In March 2015, the SNCC Legacy Project, Duke's Center for Documentary Studies, and Duke Libraries launched its pilot website, *One Person, One Vote: The Legacy of SNCC and the Fight for Voting Rights*, which uses documents, photographs, and audiovisual material to chronicle SNCC's historic struggle for voting rights. Throughout the *One Person, One Vote* Project, SNCC veterans came to Duke's campus as Visiting Activist Scholars, working with students, archivists, and project staff to engage SNCC's documentary legacy and contextualize its history of organizing for self-determination and democracy.

The long-term SLP and Duke collaboration is building on that effort with the creation of the *SNCC Digital Gateway*. SNCC veterans have continued serving as Visiting Activist Scholars during the SNCC Digital Gateway Project. The partnership has also conducted critical oral history sessions with SNCC veterans that highlight SNCC's experience around building democracy from the ground up and the inside out—informational wealth that will help activate people to have a say in their own lives at the local and national levels. A K–12 educational component of the partnership will draw on the *SNCC Digital Gateway* as a learning tool.

## **Content of the SNCC Digital Gateway**

- Historic materials including documents, photographs, oral history interviews, and audiovisual material hosted in digital collections at repositories across the country
- Profiles examining individuals' contributions to the Movement
- Events tracing the evolution of SNCC's organizing
- Inside SNCC pages unveiling the inner workings of SNCC as an organization
- Perspectives presenting aspects of SNCC's history from the eyes of the activists themselves
- Map connecting users to the people who worked—and the events that happened—in a specific place

Made possible by the generous support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the *SNCC Digital Gateway: Learn from the Past, Organize for the Future, Make Democracy Work* is a collaborative project of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC—pronounced “Snick”) Legacy Project, Duke's Center for Documentary Studies, and Duke University Libraries.