Bachmann v. Myers: Is Michele Bachmann smarter than a 10th grader?

Aaron J Shuler, University of Oregon
Forget Bachmann versus Obama. Although Bachmann v. Myers may be just as unlikely, it would probably be more entertaining. And a better match-up.

The Bachmann of course is Michele Bachmann, the United States Representative from the 6th Congressional District in Minnesota.

And Myers? That would be Amy, a 16-year-old aspiring class president at East Cherry Hills High School in New Jersey, who has made recent waves for challenging a longshot presidential candidate to a Constitution-focused civics matchup.

Ms. Myers was inspired to take on the Tea Party mouthpiece after she was dismissed disparagingly by some boys in her class as just another “girl politician” in the mold of mouth-over-matter standouts Christine O’Donnell and Sarah Palin.

Ms. Bachmann has a surfeit of verbal gaffes and historical distortions to choose from. Two recent examples exacerbated Ms. Myers’ frustration with a few inarticulate yet outspoken female politicians, and specifically Ms. Bachmann.

Last March Ms. Bachmann erroneously lauded residents of New Hampshire for being from the state “where the shot was heard around the world in Lexington and Concord." boston.cbslocal.com/2011/03/12/tea-party-favorite-misfires-puts-lexington-and-concord-in-nh/ And back in January Ms. Myers heard Ms. Bachmann state that the “[F]ounding Fathers worked tirelessly until slavery was no more in the United States.” www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/nov05election/detail?entry_id=81734

Someone should have told Abraham Lincoln and John Bingham.

Ms. Myers seeks to vitiate this stain of anti-intellectualism-as-faux-populism by aligning herself with erudite female figures such as Sandra Day O’Connor, the former associate Justice of the Supreme Court that started a civics project in retirement aptly found at www.icivics.org.

The website’s mission is to “teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy” because “Justice O’Connor is concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation.”

Ms. Bachmann may want to brush up before Jeff Foxworthy calls.