



U.S. Public Service Academy

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www.uspublicserviceacademy.org

This institution can be one of the revolutionary sparks that transforms service to become both an American and global duty.

Greg Heinrich



February 2007

Academy supporters in D.C. gathered to write letters to Congress.

Supporters Hold Letter-Writing Parties

In the past month, Academy supporters have hosted letter-writing parties to encourage their friends and families to join our grassroots effort to build the Academy. Parties in Texas, Ohio, Kansas, and elsewhere have generated hundreds of letters to key members of Congress, and more parties are scheduled for February. It may seem old-fashioned, but a personal letter to your representative makes an important statement, particularly in this age of mass emails generated by interest groups. If you are interested in hosting a party, contact us!

Academy Bill Soon to Be Re-Introduced

If all goes according to plan, the U.S. Public Service Academy Act will be re-introduced in the next few weeks. We have been working to build a broad, bipartisan base of support for the bill. Our coalition is growing as more and more members recognize the need to develop long-term solutions to the looming crisis in civilian leadership.

Our Senate supporters include: Hillary Rodham Clinton; Edward Kennedy; Mary Landrieu; Barbara Mikulski; and Arlen Specter.

Our House sponsors include: Tom Davis; Sam Farr; Charles Gonzales; Sheila Jackson-Lee; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Jim Moran; and Christopher Shays.

Three Weeks and Counting 'til Wingspread

With less than a month to go, Academy leaders are working closely with the Johnson Foundation to prepare for an intense Wingspread Conference in Racine, Wisconsin, from February 23-25. Forty Academy board members, task force participants, and special guests will spend a weekend discussing and debating the Task Force Summary Report. They will help sketch the contours of the Academy Blueprint, which will be released later this year.

Tidbit...

- %age of U.S. undergraduates who study abroad: 1%
- # foreign students attending college in U.S.: 500,000+
- # U.S. students studying abroad.: 170,000+
- %age of U.S. undergraduates who study a foreign language (1970s): 16%
- %age of U.S. undergraduates who study a foreign language (2000s): 8.7%

Source: Bipartisan Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program

Task Force Summary Report Released

Last fall, more than fifty experts representing dozens of universities, service organizations, and government agencies volunteered to serve on eight different task forces and offer recommendations on how to structure the Academy. We have worked to reconcile the eight reports into a single, streamlined document that encapsulates the recommendations and offers a glimpse of what the Academy could look like. These are broad suggestions that outline what is possible, rather than fine-grained descriptions of particular programs or departments. You may download the report from our website. We welcome your feedback.

Organizations Endorse Academy

The Academy has been winning the endorsement of numerous service, religious, and youth organizations, including: American Society for Public Administration; American Youth Policy Forum; Catholic Network of Volunteer Service; Citizen Schools; Do Something; Mississippi Teacher Corps; NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Public Allies; and Sojourners. In addition, members of the New Mexico state legislature are not waiting for Congress to act. Thanks to Rep. Al Park, they now are considering a house memorial urging Congress to support the Academy. You may [read the resolution here](#).

Academy Featured in Media

The Academy has been featured in a variety of publications in the past month. Let us know if you would like to write an article on our behalf.

- *LBJ Journal Online*: "[U.S. Public Service Academy to the Rescue.](#)" by Thomas Czerwinski
- *One Day*: "[Taking the Teach for America Spirit to Higher Education.](#)" by Chris Myers Asch
- *Dallas Morning News*: "[Another answer to the call of duty.](#)" by J. Todd Moyer

We Want You!

You can help us build the Academy by taking action today. Visit: <http://www.uspublicserviceacademy.org> to learn more about how to help:

1. **Write your senators and representatives** and urge them to support the U.S. Public Service Academy Act.
2. **Sign the online [petition](#)**
3. **[Volunteer](#) your time and expertise**
4. **Contribute financially: [Donate online](#)** or send your *tax-deductible* contributions to the address above.