



U.S. Public Service Academy

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www.uspublicserviceacademy.org

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Wingspread Conference in February Will Focus on Academy

The Johnson Foundation has agreed to host a special Wingspread Conference for Academy officials, board members, task force participants, and other interested experts to discuss and debate our plan to build a U.S. Public Service Academy. We are both excited and flattered to be invited to participate in a Wingspread Conference. Described by the Johnson Foundation as “small meetings of thoughtful inquiry convened in an atmosphere of candor and purpose,” Wingspread Conferences have helped incubate big ideas such as National Public Radio and the National Endowment for the Arts. The meetings are held on a beautiful campus designed by Frank Lloyd Wright near the shores of Lake Michigan in southern Wisconsin. It may be a bit chilly when we hold our conference there from February 23-25, but we’ll get fired up talking about the next great American idea.

Houston Mayor Joins Academy Chorus

Houston Mayor Bill White heartily endorsed the proposal to build the Academy after meeting with co-founder Shawn Raymond. Recognizing the need for a national flagship institution devoted to public service, Mayor White is “all in” when it comes to the Academy. Fellow Houstonian **H. Lee Godfrey**, name partner in Susman Godfrey LLP, likewise committed himself to helping build the Academy by joining our Board of Advisors. Mark Gerson, CEO of the Gerson Lehrman Group and author of *The Neoconservative Vision*, also joined the board last month. Now more than forty members strong, the Academy’s bipartisan Board of Advisors represents a wide range of civic leaders.

More Media, More Media, More Media

In November, several Academy supporters wrote op-ed pieces in their local newspapers to help spread the word about the Academy throughout the country. A special Academy thank-you goes out to:

- William Ferris, *Raleigh News & Observer* 11/2/06
- * Erik Bergrud, *Kansas City Star*, 11/13/06
- Matt Joyce, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 11/20/06

We also had a commentary by Chris Myers Asch published in the November issue of *Homeland Security Today*. We need your help to tell even more people about our idea. If you are interested in getting an op-ed piece published in your local newspaper, please let us know.

West Point Visit Inspires Academy

In November, Academy co-founder Chris Myers Asch visited the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, to see firsthand how young men and women are molded into strong military leaders. Escorted by retired Col. Rob Gordon and Maj. Ken Robbins, Asch met with students and faculty, attended classes, toured campus, and attended part of the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs. It was an inspiring trip that underscored our belief that the military academies can be models for an effective national institution that builds civilian leaders.

We continue to be impressed by the full-throated support of military veterans, particularly those affiliated with one of the service academies. These people live and breathe service every day, and they recognize the dire need for a strong institution that can cultivate the values and set the standard of excellence for civilian service. We are honored to have their support.

“I wish I could go...”

Among our strongest supporters are young people, particularly college students and recent graduates who recognize how different the Academy will be from other colleges. When they hear or read about the Academy, they often grow excited, then wistful. “I wish I could have gone to the Academy,” they sigh. We know the feeling! We are hustling to get the school built so that their younger siblings will have this extraordinary opportunity.

Join the Fight for the Academy

To learn how you can help build the Academy, visit: <http://www.uspublicserviceacademy.org>. We particularly need people to do the following:

1. **Sign the online [petition](#)**
2. **[Volunteer](#) your time and expertise**
3. **Contribute financially: [Donate online](#)** or send your *tax-deductible* contributions to the address above

Tidbit...

\$ spent on political consultants (2004): **\$1,800,000,000**
 Avg. \$ spent to win Senate seat (2006): **\$7,800,000**
 Avg. \$ spent to win House seat (2006): **\$966,000**
 \$ spent by Academy in all of 2006: **\$9,267**

Contact Us

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