



PANETTA INSTITUTE

update

Institute's 10th Annual Jefferson-Lincoln Event Honors Journalists for Responsible Reporting

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As she introduced the honorees at the Panetta Institute's "Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service" on November 7, Institute director Sylvia Panetta recalled the words of Abraham Lincoln: "Let the people know the facts and the country will be safe."

It was an apt reminder as this year's Jefferson-Lincoln Awards dinner departed somewhat from tradition to salute three journalists for their dedication to balanced, fact-based reporting.

At a time when many in their profession indulge in sensationalism and partisan bias, Mrs. Panetta noted, this year's award recipients share Lincoln's view that an informed electorate is essential to a functioning democracy and have steadily adhered to high standards of objectivity in their work.

The winners of this year's awards were former CNN Washington anchor **Bernard Shaw**, chief foreign correspondent for NBC News **Andrea Mitchell**, and longtime PBS NewsHour anchor **Jim Lehrer**.

"All three of these individuals have set an example for others in their profession and indeed for all citizens as we explore and debate the crucial issues of our time," says Mrs. Panetta.

The Institute launched its Jefferson-Lincoln Awards ten years ago to honor political leaders who reach across party lines and seek

constructive compromise for the good of the country. The decision this year to honor TV journalists rather than politicians was intended to encourage a more informed and civil level of discourse on the nation's airwaves.

Held at The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, the gala dinner again featured the delectable offerings of some of the area's best chefs, and Mrs. Panetta voiced special thanks and praise for executive chef **Bert Cutino**, who has served as the dinner's chairman for the past ten years. "His leadership, his passion for cooking and his love for this community," she said, "bring together all the elements that make this gala a success."

Inside:

- Special Training for Student Leaders
- Reading Program Rewards Achievement
- Board Members Provide Key Support
- Montez and Wilson Build Our Success



Institute director Sylvia Panetta welcomes PBS NewsHour anchor Jim Lehrer, NBC News correspondent Andrea Mitchell and former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw.

Monterey County Reads Rewards Youngsters With Achievement Certificates and Books

The Monterey County Reads program is now in its thirteenth year under the direction of the Panetta Institute, and its success can be seen in the smiles of hundreds of children as they receive special recognition for their improvement as readers.



At the end of each semester, the reading program recognizes the progress of participating children through special award ceremonies in their schools.

At the end of each semester in participating schools, students in early elementary grades who have been helped by the program attend an awards ceremony where they receive a certificate of achievement and also, thanks to a generous grant from Oprah Winfrey’s Angel Network, a new book which they can keep.

“The pride and excitement in the eyes of these kids is a joy to behold,” says Institute director Sylvia Panetta, who has spearheaded the program. Since 1997, Monterey County Reads has helped thousands of area children improve their reading skills and their chances for a better future.

Working with the Monterey County Office of Education, along with area colleges, businesses, military installations, faith groups and community organizations, the Institute recruits and trains volunteers and places them in local elementary schools, where they work with individual children who are having trouble with their reading.

More volunteers are needed. To learn how you can help, call 831-582-4200.

Institute Board Members Provide Vital Support

The Panetta Institute relies on the support of hundreds of volunteers and contributors, and at the heart of this effort is our dedicated Board of Directors.

“A seat on our board isn’t just an honorary position,” notes Institute director Sylvia Panetta. “These members work hard and give generously to make this organization a success.”

All board members are highly respected leaders in their communities and bring very valuable experience in business, philanthropy and other areas. In addition to donating and

raising funds, they participate directly in setting Institute policy and determining program direction.

Along with Mrs. Panetta, the board includes **Robert V. Antle, Ted J. Balestreri, David J. Benjamin, Catherine C. Brock, Donald D. Chapin, Jr., Roger W. Coleman, George W. Couch, III, Lorri A. Koster, Mary F. Orradre** and **Rhonda A. Williams.**

“We’re deeply grateful to these good citizens for their time, talent and resources,” says Mrs. Panetta.



Students Praise “Life Changing” Experience As Institute Challenges Their Leadership Skills

The students from across California who gathered at the Panetta Institute in June for our annual leadership seminar had already made a mark as campus leaders. In fact, most were student body presidents.

But in an intensive week-long training course with high achievers from the worlds of politics, the military, community service and even professional sports, the students were challenged to stretch their thinking and take their skills to a whole new level.

And as in the past, the young participants, representing all twenty-three CSU campuses plus Santa Clara and Dominican universities, were effusive in their praise, calling the experience “wonderful” and “life changing.”

Under the guidance of **Sylvia Panetta** and Institute professor **Richard Kezirian**, the students plunged eagerly into direct exchanges with a series of distinguished guests who have shown an ability to perform under pressure and achieve difficult goals while maintaining their personal integrity.

Former San Jose congressman **Norm Mineta**, who led the U.S. Transportation Department as it rebounded from the 9/11 terrorist attacks, spoke movingly of the perseverance he learned from his parents during the family’s confinement in a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II.



Former Kansas City Chiefs coach **Herm Edwards** joined political, military and other leaders in challenging students always to lead by example.

Former Kansas City Chiefs coach **Herm Edwards**, on the other hand, gave the students a look at what it takes to turn top athletes with outsized egos into a successful team.

Among our many other outstanding speakers were **Col. Dan Devlin, U.S. Army (Ret.)** on leadership in the military; former California Secretary of State **Bruce McPherson** on how to lead in a democracy; local school district trustee **Helen Rucker** on leading at the community level; **Father Michael Russo** of St. Mary’s College on the ethics of leadership; and State Senator **Abel Maldonado** on what it takes to build a consensus.

“IT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. I LEARNED SO MUCH!”

Natalie Franklin
San Francisco State



Student government officers from twenty-three CSU campuses, plus Santa Clara and Dominican universities, engaged in lively exchanges with high-profile leaders, and each other, aimed at improving their ability to bring people together to solve problems.



The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
 100 Campus Center, Building 86E
 CSU Monterey Bay
 Seaside, CA 93955

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Montez and Wilson Make Institute Shine

People often marvel at how professionally the Panetta Institute presents its programs and manages its operations. Two who deserve much of the credit for this are **Carisa Montez** and **Ellen Wilson**.

Program Coordinator. Montez arrived at the Institute in 2000 as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member, at a time when that organization was helping us build the children's literacy program that became Monterey County Reads. Her energy and commitment immediately caught the eye of Institute founders Leon and Sylvia Panetta, and within a year she was the program's VISTA supervisor.

Since 2006, the University of Hawaii graduate has been serving as the Institute's overall program coordinator, drawing praise from the wide array of scholars, public servants and community leaders she has ably assisted.

"At the eye of the storm here," says Sylvia Panetta, "Carisa is our calm and steady force."

Archivist and More. Ellen Wilson also arrived young at the Institute, although the Scripps College honors graduate already had garnered considerable experience in her chosen field while a student, heading up archival efforts for small libraries and local history collections.

Her first job out of college was to assist Leon Panetta with the organization of the voluminous letters and papers from his



Staff members Ellen Wilson and Carisa Montez have helped build the Institute's reputation for professionalism and effectiveness.

previous thirty years of public service, which would become the Leon E. Panetta Archive.

Wilson serves as the Institute's archivist, maintaining and supervising the Panetta collection, and as assistant program coordinator. When Mr. Panetta was with the Institute, she often provided research in support of his speaking engagements. Today she supervises our Law School Research Fellows program and also handles grant writing, website development and a variety of other duties.

"Ellen is a model of what makes us a success," says Mrs. Panetta. "Reach out to help wherever you're needed, sweat the details and get the job done."