



PANETTA INSTITUTE

# update

## Annual Jefferson-Lincoln Awards Dinner Honors Three For Their Commitment to Public Service

A record-setting turnout of friends and supporters of the Panetta Institute gathered at the Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach in November to help pay tribute to three honorees at the annual Jefferson-Lincoln Awards dinner.

The annual event has grown into a gala evening in which friends old and new connect for fine food, conversation and a spirit of camaraderie. The menu each year features the best in gourmet cooking by leading chefs from throughout the area and from across the country.

Hosted by Leon and Sylvia Panetta, the evening showcased the achievements of three honorees: CBS journalist Bob Schieffer and United States Senators Barbara Mikulski and Saxby Chambliss.

Institute Chairman, Secretary Leon Panetta cited the careers of all three, saying: “We pay worthy tribute to these individuals who serve as examples to their colleagues and to each of us. The honorees have promoted fundamental principles built into the Constitution – freedom, justice and equality. They have done so despite the pressure on both politicians and journalists to focus not on what brings us together, but what divides us.”

All three honorees lamented the dysfunction of Congress and emphasized the importance of civility for political conversations. They

granted that there are not always clear answers to the challenges of our time. Nevertheless, they argued that civility was our nation’s best hope for building the mutual respect and trust among the parties.

In addition to honoring the works of those who put public service ahead of narrow political interests, the annual dinner serves as the Institute’s major fundraising event. Monies raised from the dinner help pay for the Institute’s educational programs – the Congressional Internship Program, the Leon Panetta Lecture Series Afternoon Student Program, the award-winning Monterey County Reads and more.

“In short, “ Institute Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta told the audience, “The money raised will help us inspire men and women to lives of public service. It will help prepare the next generation of leaders to active, informed and principled roles in our democracy.”



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Secretary Leon Panetta, Barbara Mikulski, Sylvia Panetta, Bob Schieffer and Saxby Chambliss at the annual “Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service.”



**Panetta Institute  
Chairman, Secretary  
Leon E. Panetta**

## A Message From the Chairman

Sylvia and I have been fortunate to serve our community and our country in public service for almost fifty years. We continue our commitment to inspiring young people to duty in our democracy through the work here at the Panetta Institute, which soon will begin its eighteenth year.

In addition to our efforts throughout our many programs to educate and inspire public service, we also highlight the need for compromise and bipartisanship. Yet in light of the recent government shutdown and the still-looming threat from the debt-ceiling debate, the current state of affairs in Washington leaves all of us concerned about the future of our children.

Our goal at the Panetta Institute is to focus our efforts on the generations who will next lead: the new voters, mayors, governors, senators, representatives, government workers and even presidents.

These are the roles that the students at the Panetta Institute will go on to fill. This is why our work is so important.

Each of our programs fills a niche in building our students' commitment to effective public service. Monterey County Reads is the first step: we are reaching out to the youngest

students and providing them a base of literacy on which they can build through their school years and on into their adult lives.

A key element of our annual Leon Panetta Lecture Series is the Afternoon Student Program, which allows high school and college students from around the area and beyond to hear and meet with some of the country's top political leaders. Three other programs, the annual Leadership Seminar, the Congressional Internship Program and the Policy Research Fellows Program, give our students and graduates real-world training in preparation for effective public service. Your support makes these programs possible.

As frustrating as today's Washington can be, our work here at the Institute is an investment in future leadership. I've often said that we can govern either by leadership or crisis. Today we are governing by crisis after crisis. The price we pay is the loss of trust of the American people in our democracy. Our responsibility is to restore that trust through new leadership.

As Secretary of Defense, I was proud to see our men and women in uniform willing to fight and die for their country. For that reason, I'm tremendously encouraged by what I see every day here at the Panetta Institute.

### WE THANK OUR SPONSORS

Our programs that promote public service would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. The Panetta Institute would like to thank our Jefferson-Lincoln Awards contributors:

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## Monterey County Reads: Making a Difference In Children's Lives

**T**he impact of the Monterey County Reads program continues to be felt in classrooms across the county as hundreds of children have shown remarkable improvement in their reading skills thanks to the efforts of committed volunteers and dedicated Panetta Institute staff.

“Our staff members travel throughout Monterey County every week to implement this program that has made such a difference in our children’s lives,” says Institute Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia M. Panetta. “What we’ve been doing is putting words into action.”

Now in its seventeenth year of placing volunteers in first through third grade classrooms throughout the county, Monterey County Reads continues to expand and innovate. One shining example: this year the program has brought members of the Naval Junior ROTC from Monterey High School into two local schools to read on a one-to-one basis with children in grades one through three. “It’s a double win,” says Mrs. Panetta. “The youngest children learn to love the written word; they really look up to the cadets. And the cadets get as much out of it as well. They develop an enthusiastic sense of what it means to help others in such a significant way.”

Or as Marcie Plummer, principal at Monterey High, said about the program: “Thank you for all the support you have given Monterey High School students and staff to provide enrichment opportunities that can not be duplicated solely in the classroom. We are very fortunate to have the Panetta Institute as our academic and enrichment partner.”

The success of Monterey County Reads was on display in October at a literacy summit



**Monterey County Reads pairs children with volunteers to provide a love of reading.**

meeting sponsored by the Literacy Campaign for Monterey County. An overflow audience crowded the CSUMB University Center and heard Mrs. Panetta discuss the success of the program. “Schools need our help,” she said. “Parents and teachers can’t do it alone. For our children and our nation to succeed we must form a circle that links the family with the schools and the community.”

Together with the Naval Postgraduate School and the Monterey County Office of Education, the Panetta Institute has been able to track data that confirms the positive impact of Monterey County Reads.

“Tracking and compiling data is no easy undertaking,” says Mrs. Panetta. “But it is what has proven that our program is successful, and it compels our dedication to helping children.”

### Monterey County Reads by the Numbers

- 115** – Number of volunteers during the fall 2013 semester.
- 9** – School districts participating.
- 33** – School sites in the program.
- 3** – Awards to the program in 2013, including honors from the Monterey County School Boards Association, the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education and the “We Honor Ours” award from the California Teachers Association and Central Coast Counties Service Council.
- 5** – Major grants: from the CSU Chancellor’s Office, the Community Foundation for Monterey County, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and the Pebble Beach Foundation.
- 105,000** – Hours of one-to-one reading time in the program’s seventeen year history.





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**We Ask Your Help**

The Panetta Institute helps prepare people for lives of public service and greater civic involvement. Please help us continue this effort with your tax deductible donation.

**Congressional Interns: ‘Involve Me and I Learn’**

**S**tudents from twenty-four California universities had a front row seat to historic political infighting this year during the Panetta Institute’s two and a half month Congressional Internship Program, routinely recognized for its educational excellence and hands-on regimen for students. The program puts into practice these famous words from Benjamin Franklin: “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

“These interns served at a time of partisan crisis,” said Institute Chairman, Secretary Leon Panetta. “But our interns are the very people who will be leading our nation in the future, and the goal of this program is to give them the tools that will bring change in national leadership in the years to come.”

The students’ involvement in public service starts with exceptional classroom sessions at the Panetta Institute and continues in Washington, D.C. with daily work at congressional offices in the California delegation for members of both parties supplemented by on-site seminars in the nation’s capital. These seminars are led by top government officials and policy experts. Among the speakers this year was Peter Rouse, counselor to President Barack Obama and one of the president’s top advisors.

This year’s roster of students benefitted from the return of Secretary Panetta from his



**Secretary Leon Panetta speaks to interns.**

former duties as Secretary of Defense and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Secretary Panetta sent the interns off to Washington with stirring words: “Whatever office you’re in, whether Republican or Democrat, be your own person; use your own judgment. Have enough independence to see what’s going on in Washington — what’s working and what’s not working.”

Interns as well have high praise for the program. One of this year’s students, Edgar Lopez of CSU San Bernardino, said: “I further understood the significance of gridlock in Washington and what it’s going to take for it to get fixed.”

The Institute provides complete support for interns, including tuition, lodging, transportation and a living stipend.