



PANETTA INSTITUTE

update

Congressional Internship Program Celebrates Twenty Years

The Panetta Institute's nationally recognized *Congressional Internship Program* completed its twentieth year in 2018, with its latest cohort of students returning from Washington. These students are from twenty-three California State University campuses and three private universities.

These Panetta Institute students work in Congressional offices as well as studying with a wide array of experts on policy, the workings of government and the impact they can make on society by learning the dynamics of public service.

This exceptional educational opportunity is available to students of all income levels. The Panetta Institute pays all costs for each student's participation.

Institute Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia M. Panetta explained that the *Congressional Internship Program* differs from others in that it begins with an intensive two-week training and orientation. The focus of this training and orientation course is to prepare students for their internship work in Washington, D.C. "We do that by inviting more than forty different speakers who share their knowledge and experience of the most important policy challenges facing our nation."

Once in Washington, interns gain experience by serving on Capitol Hill, working alongside Congressional staffers and also

continuing their weekly meetings with a variety of the nation's top policy thinkers and decision makers.

"During the twentieth year of the program, students were in Washington at a particularly noteworthy time," said Institute Chairman Leon E. Panetta. "They had a front-row seat while Congress and the Trump administration took on issues like immigration, the mid-term elections and the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh."

Volume 20, No. 2
Winter 2018

Inside:

- A Message from Secretary Panetta
- Institute honors three leaders at *Jefferson-Lincoln Awards* gala
- Internship leads to successful career for Institute graduate
- Secretary Panetta honored at West Point



Congressional interns gather with Secretary Panetta at the U.S. Capitol.

A Message from the Chairman

A Look Ahead to Our Next Lecture Series

By Leon E. Panetta

Our country's forefathers had a remarkable ability to understand the strengths and weaknesses of human nature. In designing a government of, by and for the people, they deliberately established a set of limits that would constrain the darker forces of our humanity that would dare to abuse power.

Today, we are living in a time when our institutions are being tested by a president who seems committed to exercising executive power across the entire political spectrum.

This spring, the Panetta Institute's annual *Leon Panetta Lecture Series* at the Monterey Conference Center will examine how our system is dealing with the principle of shared governance, as we look forward to four forums examining **"Checks and Balances – Will Our Democracy Survive?"**



We'll go back in time and ask some prominent historians **"What Was the Hope of our Forefathers?"** We also will examine the ongoing **"Mueller Investigation"** in order to put this ongoing investigation into context. Then we will ask a team of experts to discuss the differences and similarities of **"Nationalism, Globalism and Patriotism"** and how these principles relate to today's political dialogue. Finally will be an examination of **"The Role of the Press"** as the changing media landscape continues to change along with the changing technology of how people get their news.

As I prepare for the Lecture Series, I am well aware of the challenges America faces, at the increasing partisanship and the inability of our leaders to work together.

Nevertheless, I have great faith in our system. I have great faith in the American people, our communities and institutions that continue to make our democracy strong.

Monterey County Reads Volunteers Honored

Monterey County Reads, The Panetta Institute's longest-running program, entered its twenty-second year in 2018, and the annual Volunteer and School Recognition Ceremony marked the occasion on Friday, September 14.

The celebration, at the CSUMB University Center Ballroom, honored 169 *Monterey County Reads* volunteers for their dedication to helping children achieve grade level literacy skills. Also recognized were thirty-four elementary schools, which welcomed the volunteers into their classrooms and whose teachers and administrators help make the program possible.

The ceremony featured the presentation of a special *Golden Threads* longevity award to nine volunteers who have participated in the program for five and ten years.

Secretary Panetta served as the keynote speaker, telling those in attendance, "Volunteers are the heart and soul of the program, because you're the ones who are willing to go into school, sit down and give time to reading."

"I have always believed that encouraging a love of reading helps give our children a better life," said Institute Co-Chair and CEO Sylvia Panetta.

Two governors and a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Honored with Jefferson-Lincoln Awards

Nearly 400 Panetta Institute supporters gathered on Saturday, November 10 at The Inn at Spanish Bay to honor two governors and a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the nineteenth annual *Jefferson-Lincoln Awards: An Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service*.

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (D), former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman (R) and Admiral Michael Mullen, USN, were the latest in a series of national figures who have been honored not only for their years of public service, and for their spirit of bipartisanship in representing the American people as well as their own constituents.

Institute chairman Leon Panetta praised the honorees, saying, “Our forefathers believed that strong leadership was critical to the survival of our new democracy—leadership based on common values, mutual respect, and a dedication to working together for the good of the nation.”



From left: Secretary Panetta, Christine Todd Whitman, John Hickenlooper, Sylvia Panetta and Michael Mullen at the annual “Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service.”

All three honorees expressed their hope for improved bipartisan leadership in the years to come, and that the American people expect the nation’s leaders to work together for the common good.”

The Panetta Institute established the annual *Jefferson-Lincoln Award* eighteen years ago to recognize elected and appointed officials who have shown an exceptional commitment to public service. More than fifty individuals have been recognized.

“THESE HONOREES GIVE US HOPE THAT THERE ARE THOSE COMMITTED TO A GOOD AND BETTER AMERICA.”

— Leon Panetta

Panetta Internship Leads to Successful Career

Noel Perez, a policy and program manager at a national educational fund, says the training that he received in the Panetta Institute’s *Congressional Internship Program* ten years ago has led not only to his own career, but also the success of a Washington-based program he leads today called “StaffUp Congress.”

“I am amazed by how prepared I was when I first arrived in Washington and learned how the political system works.”

He first was hired as an aide to United States Representative Xavier Becerra (D), California, and later with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund and its StaffUp Congress program, a non-partisan effort that focuses on opportunities for minorities.

Mr. Perez praised the Internship Program’s focus on bipartisan cooperation. “We learned the value of working with both sides of the aisle.”





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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 THE PANETTA
 INSTITUTE

Donate online at PanettaInstitute.org



Secretary Panetta Honored by West Point Association of Graduates

Secretary Leon E. Panetta received the 2018 *Sylvanus Thayer Award* on October 4 from the West Point Association of Graduates — the group’s top award for a United States citizen other than a West Point graduate.

He was honored for his lifelong commitment to service and his dedication to the United States Military Academy motto, “Duty, Honor, Country.” He joins a list of *Thayer Award* recipients that includes four former presidents and many statesmen, journalists and military leaders.

“I accept this award on behalf of the American Soldier,” Secretary Panetta said during his acceptance speech. “Because I know, at this very hour in a dangerous and lonely corner of the world, there are soldiers standing and watching, ready to fight at a moment’s notice to defend America’s security and preserve the blessings of liberty for all of us.”

Secretary Panetta spent the day at West Point interacting with cadets and served as a member of the review party during a brigade parade held in his honor. He spoke to the cadets about what it takes to be a leader.

“You, the cadets, follow in the long tradition of those who have been willing to fight and die for those values and for our country,” he said. “You are warriors who understand that



Secretary Panetta meets with cadets at West Point.

your duty is not just to fight for country, but to make sure it is a country that is worth fighting for.”

By calling on the cadets to use those leadership abilities to fight for American democracy and values, Secretary Panetta also discussed the divide he has seen in Washington and the tribalism that has split the country.

“In the face of these threats to our security, America must provide the essential leadership that we have provided since World War II to work together with our allies in the world,” Secretary Panetta said.

We Ask Your Help

The Panetta Institute helps prepare people for lives of public service and greater civic involvement. Please help us continue this mission with your tax deductible donation. You can contribute online at PanettaInstitute.org.

