



PANETTA INSTITUTE

update

November 6 Jefferson-Lincoln Gala Will Honor Tom Brokaw, David Brooks and Cokie Roberts

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Supporters of the Panetta Institute will gather at the beautiful Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach on November 6 as we present our Jefferson-Lincoln Award to three outstanding journalists: NBC News special correspondent **Tom Brokaw**, senior news analyst for NPR and ABC News **Cokie Roberts** and New York Times columnist **David Brooks**.

Billed as “An Evening to Honor Lives of Public Service,” this annual event was launched eleven years ago to honor political leaders who reach across party lines and are willing to compromise for the good of the country. However, in recent years the Institute has used it also as a platform for recognizing journalists who maintain high standards of objectivity, balance and integrity in their political coverage.

“At a time when partisan invective dominates the airwaves,” says Institute director Sylvia Panetta, “we want to salute and encourage journalists who see both sides and help the public come to a clearer understanding of the issues. Our three honorees this year are among the very best at this.”

During his 21 years as anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News, Brokaw became one of America’s most trusted figures, and he continues to win admirers as a best-selling author and producer of news documentaries.

Brooks, who served as a senior editor at The Weekly Standard, now airs his conservative views on the op-ed page of The New York Times. His balanced and thoughtful approach earns him respect from thousands of readers who might not share his point of view.

Roberts is a familiar voice to NPR listeners and a longtime reporter, anchor and analyst for ABC News. With more than forty years in broadcasting, she has won three Emmys and countless other awards for her work.

The dinner, which serves as the Institute’s main fundraiser for the year, will feature fine local wines along with delicacies from some of the area’s best chefs, under the direction of Bert Cutino. For seats call **831-582-4200**.

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- Meet Our Board of Directors
- Poll Finds Students Worried About Jobs



Dinner patrons will salute three of America’s most respected journalists: NBC’s Tom Brokaw, ABC’s Cokie Roberts and David Brooks of The New York Times.

Institute's Board Steers Steady Course Through Challenging Times for Nonprofit Groups

When the Panetta Institute's board members gathered on June 4 for their semiannual meeting, they had much to be proud of. Despite an economy that has forced many nonprofit organizations to cut programs and staff, the Institute has continued to thrive.

Board members noted that our annual lecture series had just completed one of its most successful seasons ever, another class of bright and committed students had graduated from our Master of Public Policy program, and student leaders from 26 campuses across the state were preparing to arrive in mid-June for our innovative Leadership in Public Service course.

"We've had to tighten our belts," said Institute director Sylvia Panetta, "but thanks to the support of this board and careful management by our staff, every one of our programs remains on track."

In keeping with the Institute's community orientation, all of our board members are respected leaders in their local communities, with valuable experience in business, academia, the arts and other fields. They set Institute policy and program direction, and are also generous donors and fundraisers.

"These individuals represent public service at its best and are central to our success," says Mrs. Panetta. "We're deeply grateful for their support."



OUR DEDICATED BOARD. Front row: Lorri Koster, David Benjamin, Rhonda Williams, Donald Chapin, Sylvia Panetta and Bob Antle. Back row: Mary Orradre, George Couch, Catherine Brock, Roger Coleman and Ted Balestreri.

Monterey County Reads Thanks Its Volunteers

Celebrating another successful year of service, the Monterey County Reads program, which is headquartered at the Panetta Institute, held its annual awards ceremony on May 4 to honor 150 volunteers who have helped area children improve their reading skills.

"On behalf of each child whose future you have brightened, we sincerely thank you," said Institute director Sylvia Panetta, who has spearheaded the reading effort since its inception in 1997. "The gift you have given will last a lifetime."

In cooperation with the county's Office of

Education, Monterey County Reads recruits, trains and places volunteers in local elementary schools, where they work one-to-one with children in kindergarten through third grade who are having trouble with their reading.

Dozens of area colleges, businesses, hospitals, military installations, government offices, faith groups and community organizations have joined with participating school districts in support of the effort.

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



Lecture Series Asks “What’s Next for America?” As We Enter the Century’s Second Decade

The Panetta Lecture Series capped its 2010 season on May 17 with a strong plea from former vice president **Al Gore** for decisive action to curb emissions of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Under questioning from PBS “Planet Forward” host **Frank Sesno**, who moderated the event, the Nobel laureate maintained that the chief obstacle to progress on emissions reductions is not a lack of technology. “We have the means to get started,” Gore said. “We need the will.”

Asking “What’s Next for America?” in the century’s second decade, this year’s series focused on four areas: the struggling U.S. economy, the future of our foreign policy, the extreme partisanship of our politics, and the prospects for civilization’s survival on a planet under serious environmental stress.

Lead-off speakers on March 1 were **Harvey Pitt**, former chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and UC Berkeley professor **Robert Reich**, who served as secretary of labor in the Clinton administration. CNBC analyst **Ron Insana** moderated, probing for the pros and cons of further stimulus spending to get the economy moving at a time when federal deficits have already climbed to dangerous levels.

Later in the month, **James Rubin**, who served as assistant secretary of state under President



Like all our lecture series speakers, Vice President Gore met with area students to address their questions and urge their civic involvement.

Clinton, teamed up with Bush White House assistant for homeland security **Frances Townsend** to the address the question “Who Will Lead the World?” With PBS’s **Aaron Brown** moderating, they focused heavily on the threat of international terrorism and the rise of China as an economic and military power.

On April 26, former Florida governor **Jeb Bush** and former Clinton administration advisor and political consultant **James Carville** matched wits on the topic “Does Bipartisanship Have a Future?” In the moderator’s chair, NPR national political correspondent **Mara Liasson** added to the lively exchange.

“WE HAVE THE
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Al Gore on curbing
carbon emissions



This year’s Lecture Series speakers focused on the future of our economy, our foreign policy, partisan politics and the environment. Left to right: Robert Reich, Harvey Pitt, James Rubin, Frances Townsend, Jeb Bush, James Carville and Al Gore.



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Institute Survey Shows U.S. College Students Generally Upbeat but Worried About Jobs

America's college students are worried about their job prospects in a still-shaky economy, with a majority saying they feel "uncertain and concerned" about the country's future, according to the Panetta Institute's latest annual survey.

Please Help Us

The Panetta Institute encourages students and other citizens to pursue lives of public service and helps them develop the skills to do so. Please help us with your tax-deductible contribution.

Yet students are much less pessimistic about the country's general direction than they were two years ago, and more confident than today's adults overall.

The April survey shows 53 percent of students saying the country is headed in the right direction and 39 percent saying things are off on the wrong track – essentially a reverse of recent findings for all U.S. adults.

"We see a remarkable amount of optimism among students in the face of continuing bad economic news," notes Institute director Sylvia Panetta.

Still, when students are asked to pick the one or two issues that are "the most important to you personally," their top three choices, dwarfing all others, are core pocketbook concerns: scarce jobs, the cost of a college education and problems with health coverage.

Conducted by Hart Research Associates, the survey explores a wide range of questions, including students' expectations about their



Like these participants in our leadership training course, increased numbers of students express interest in government service.

future careers and economic prospects, the 2010 congressional elections, various social attitudes and issues, and student interest in public service.

This year's poll shows a continuing long-term rise in student interest in working for government. Forty-two percent now express such an interest, up from 26 percent in 2001.

"We take heart from the fact that so many students appear to view public service as a positive, worthwhile pursuit," says Mrs. Panetta. Interest in working some day for a not-for-profit community organization or foundation is also running quite high.

The Institute conducts its annual campus survey to measure interest in politics and civic life and to help guide its curriculum. A more detailed summary is posted at PanettaInstitute.org.