



PANETTA INSTITUTE

update

Panetta Survey Finds Students Down on Leaders, Yet More Interested in Running for Office

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A new survey for the Panetta Institute for Public Policy shows U.S. college students turning away from international concerns and increasingly dissatisfied with the country's political leadership, yet more inclined than in the past to consider running for public office themselves, particularly at the state or local level.

Only 39 percent of students in the study say they are satisfied with America's political leadership while 60 percent are dissatisfied – a major shift from five years ago, at the start of the Obama administration, when the satisfaction figure stood at 73 percent.

Yet student interest in some day seeking a federal elective office climbed to 29 percent in this year's survey (up from 25 percent in 2012) and to 38 percent for running for a state or local office (up from 30 percent two years ago).

Since 1999, the Institute's April survey has tracked college students' views and attitudes on subjects ranging from their political preferences to their personal economic expectations to interest in public service, along with a variety of policy issues.

This year's study shows students turning inward, focused increasingly on domestic issues rather than international affairs. Fully 69 percent say the problems their generation

will face will be mainly national in scope, with just 30 percent saying the problems will be mostly international. This is the largest proportion in the survey's history who expect national-level problems to dominate.

Similarly, 45 percent of students lean toward the view that the United States "should mind its own business" internationally and let other countries fend for themselves, while 32 percent are more inclined to say we have "a responsibility to help people in other countries when they are in crisis."

"Unfortunately, college students are turning inward – weary of our involvement in foreign conflicts and reluctant to engage in a troubled

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- DC Internship Opens Doors of Opportunity

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The Panetta Institute's April surveys have tracked American college students' views and attitudes on a wide range of subjects since 1999.

Institute's Kezirian Honored for His Community Service and Commitment to Education for All

On May 16, the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation presented its annual President's Award to the Panetta Institute's **Richard Kezirian** in recognition of his decades of service to the community and his continuing commitment to educational opportunity for students of all backgrounds.

Dr. Kezirian serves today as a professor and senior program coordinator at the Institute, but also taught American history and government for many years at Monterey Peninsula College, as well as at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Naval Postgraduate School.



Dr. Kezirian (left) accepts the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation's President's Award from MPC president Walter Tribley.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honor," says Institute director Sylvia Panetta, "and we're honored to have him on our team."

Among his other duties, Kezirian provides key support for the Leon Panetta Lecture Series, planning and leading seminars that help area high school and college students understand the issues being discussed. He also helps coordinate the Institute's Congressional Internship Program and its annual Leadership Seminar and serves as an instructor for both efforts.

Kezirian is the author of the textbook *American History: Major Controversies Reviewed*, which has been used by numerous U.S. colleges and universities.

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Survey Finds College Students Turning Inward

world," says Institute chairman and former U.S. defense secretary Leon Panetta. "While they're more interested in getting through school and finding a job, it's important that they care about solving problems here and abroad."

When asked to choose the most influential public event of their lifetime, a plurality of students (37 percent) pick the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, with 29 percent citing the financial crisis of 2008 and 21 percent the election of Barack Obama as president.

Yet the threat of future terrorist attacks appears not to loom as large for students as it once did, and they voice concern about the heightened government surveillance efforts that the 9/11 attacks engendered. Three-fifths of students (60 percent) worry more that the government will violate Americans' personal privacy than that it will fail to prevent another terrorist attack.

Conducted for the Institute by Hart Research Associates, the survey delves into many additional subjects. A detailed summary can be found at PanettaInstitute.org.



Panetta Lecture Series Asks: What Has the U.S. Learned Since “the War to End All Wars”?

On the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, this year’s Leon Panetta Lecture Series is asking what our nation has learned in the past century about war and peace, the role of government, the balance between security and freedom, and how presidents make their key decisions.

Institute chairman Leon Panetta laid out the theme as he welcomed the first set of speakers on March 10. “What lessons can we draw from the past hundred years?” he said. “Is the past prologue to the future?”

That opening session addressed the changing nature of international conflict. Former undersecretary of state for political affairs **Nicholas Burns**, former undersecretary of defense for policy **Michèle Flournoy** and former supreme allied commander of NATO **James Stavridis** offered a wide-ranging discussion of the continuing primacy of nation states, the creation of international structures for resolving disputes, and the rise of dangerous non-state actors, such as Al-Qaeda, that have forced new ways of thinking about national defense.

The next lecture on April 28 was no less sweeping in scope. Former congressman **Barney Frank** (D-Mass.) and former senator **Alan Simpson** (R-Wyo.) addressed the evolving role of government in a century that saw economic depression, major wars, and



Michèle Flournoy fields a question in a pre-lecture session with area students.

titanic struggles over issues of poverty and human equality.

On May 12, the subject was “Security versus Freedom,” focusing on conflicts between the need for public safety and citizens’ expectations of privacy. On hand were Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Barton Gellman**, former acting director of the CIA **Michael Morell**, and former FBI director **Robert Mueller**.

The series concluded on June 2 with a look at presidential decision making by President Obama’s former senior advisor **David Axelrod** and three former White House chiefs of staff: **Erskine Bowles**, **Andrew Card** and **Kenneth Duberstein**, who served, respectively, presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan.

SECRETARY
PANETTA:
“IS THE PAST
PROLOGUE TO
THE FUTURE?”



This year’s speakers: former undersecretary of state Nicholas Burns, former undersecretary of defense Michèle Flournoy, former supreme NATO commander James Stavridis, former congressman Barney Frank, former senator Alan Simpson, journalist Barton Gellman, former acting CIA director Michael Morell, former FBI director Robert Mueller, former presidential advisor David Axelrod, and former White House chiefs of staff Erskine Bowles, Andrew Card and Kenneth Duberstein.



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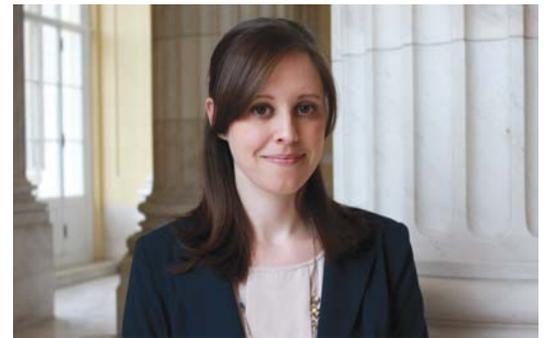
Panetta Congressional Internship Proves Life-Changing for Cal Poly Pomona Graduate

The Panetta Institute's Congressional Internship Program has introduced hundreds of California students to the world of politics and public service. One of them is Cal Poly Pomona graduate **Melissa Burnell**, who interned in 2011 in the Capitol Hill office of Third District congressman John Garamendi and serves today as executive assistant to Second District representative Jared Huffman.

"I almost didn't apply for the internship," the former anthropology major admits, "because I couldn't possibly afford an eleven-week stay in Washington and I knew very little about what goes on in DC."

Then she learned that the Institute covers the travel, lodging and living expenses of the accepted students and starts them out with an intensive, two-week orientation course on congressional operations. "That program prepared us to hit the ground running and it really set us apart from other interns on Capitol Hill," she says.

In the Garamendi office, Burnell handled administrative tasks such as answering constituent phone calls, sorting mail and researching legislation. In addition, she recalls, the Institute lined up intern seminars with various policy experts, Hill insiders and elected officials.



Melissa Burnell is now a congressional aide.

"I returned to school knowing I wanted to pursue a job in public service and ideally find my way back to Capitol Hill," says Burnell. After graduating, she won a position in the California Capitol Fellows Judicial Administration program, and then received a call from Garamendi's office asking her to return to serve as his staff assistant.

Two years later, she serves as executive assistant and DC scheduler for freshman congressman Jared Huffman. The job keeps her in regular contact with the congressman's colleagues and constituents, as well as advocacy organizations, the White House and government agencies.

"It's a dream opportunity for someone who wants to help make a difference," says Burnell, "and it definitely wouldn't have happened without the Panetta internship."