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August 6, 2009

The Honorable David Price  
2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Castle  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Price and Castle:

We, the undersigned, would like to express our strong support for H.R. 3510, the *Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2009*. We commend you for introducing this important piece of legislation which, if enacted, will better enable the federal government to recruit a new generation of leaders to fill critical positions in federal service. Thank you for your leadership in this area. We believe the *Roosevelt Scholars* program will attract top students from our nation's leading universities to solve some of the most difficult challenges facing America and the world today. The benefits of this proposal include:

- ***Roosevelt Scholars will build upon a proven model of excellence from the military.*** A combined two-fifths of U.S. military officers are products of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and receive federal support for education in exchange for their military service. The *Roosevelt Scholars* program brings a similar commitment to and investment in our civilian service.
- ***Roosevelt Scholars will help government attract mission-critical talent by financing graduate-level education in key fields.*** The federal government's brain drain is underway. Roughly one-third of the government's top scientists, engineers, physicians, mathematicians, economists and other highly specialized professionals will be leaving in the next five years. The market for highly skilled workers continues to tighten, and the federal government increasingly needs to compete with other sectors for the same, limited talent pool.
- ***Roosevelt Scholars will make government service possible for more Americans.*** Rising education costs are pricing our best-schooled citizens out of public service jobs. Tuition assistance is perhaps the most straightforward, proven instrument in the government's recruiting toolbox.
- ***Roosevelt Scholars will complement existing efforts and structures that encourage young people to consider public service.*** *Roosevelt Scholars* builds on other existing agency scholarship programs by presenting economies of scale and an opportunity for cross-agency information sharing and collaboration to identify and target the skills areas of greatest need. Furthermore, like other highly successful and prestigious fellowship models including the Truman, Rhodes, Goldwater, Marshall, and Fulbright, the *Roosevelt Scholars* model would leverage one of our nation's greatest resources – our unparalleled network of colleges and universities.

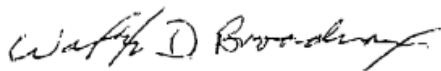
- **Roosevelt Scholars will help re-brand government service.** Ultimately, the Roosevelt Scholarship and the efforts of the Roosevelt Scholars Foundation will serve as a keystone along with other important efforts on the part of federal agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofits to strengthen the government's pipeline of critical skills. Taken together, these efforts are important to drawing greater public attention to the importance of federal work and to restoring prestige to federal service.

Representatives Price and Castle, we applaud you for your leadership in introducing this legislation. We believe the *Roosevelt Scholars* initiative is an innovative program with exciting potential, and we urge Congress to promptly pass the *Roosevelt Scholars Act of 2009*.

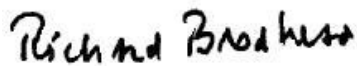
Sincerely,



Erskine Bowles  
President, University of North Carolina



Walter D. Broadnax  
Former President, Clark Atlanta University and  
Distinguished Professor of Public Administration,  
Maxwell School, Syracuse University



Richard Brodhead  
President, Duke University



Scott S. Cowen  
President, Tulane University



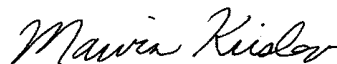
Steve Fetter  
Former President, Association of Professional  
Schools of International Affairs



John Hennessy  
President, Stanford University



Rosslyn Kleeman  
Chair, Coalition for Effective Change



Marvin Krislov  
President, Oberlin College



Anthony W. Marx  
President, Amherst College



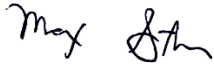
Hunter R. Rawlings III  
President Emeritus and Professor in the Department  
of Classics, Cornell University



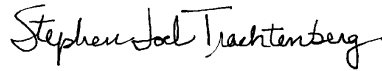
Neil E. Reichenberg  
Executive Director, International Public  
Management Association for Human Resources



Leigh Morris Sloane  
Executive Director, Association of Professional  
Schools of International Affairs



Max Stier  
President and CEO, Partnership for Public  
Service



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President Emeritus and University Professor of  
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Debra W. Stewart  
President, Council of Graduate Schools

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Kathleen Beatty  
Immediate Past President, National Association of  
Schools of Public Affairs and Administration



Kevin P. Reilly  
President, University of Wisconsin System



Daan Braveman  
President, Nazareth College

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Erik Bitterbaum  
President, SUNY Cortland

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Jean A. Scott  
President, Marietta College



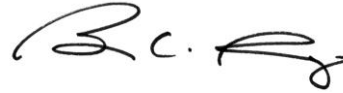
Dr. Walter M. Bortz III  
President, Hampden-Sydney College



G. David Pollick  
President, Birmingham-Southern College

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Julia M. McNamara  
President, Albertus Magnus College



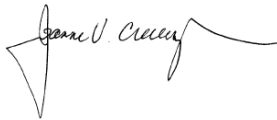
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President, Macalester College



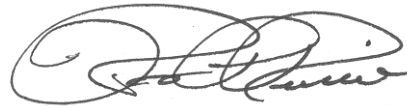
Jake Schrum  
President, Southwestern University



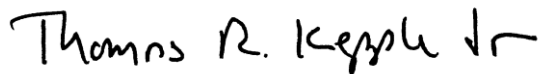
Charles Timothy Summerlin  
President, Schreiner University



Joanne V. Creighton  
President, Mount Holyoke College



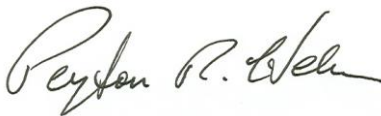
Kenneth P. Ruscio  
President, Washington and Lee University



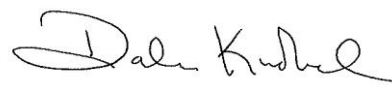
Thomas R. Kepple  
President, Juniata College



Joseph E. Gilmour  
President, Wilkes University



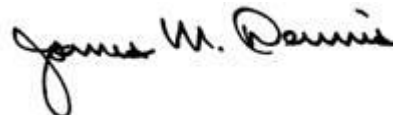
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James M. Dennis  
President, McKendree University



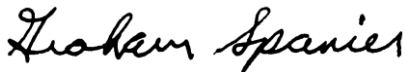
Anthony Caprio  
President, Western New England College

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Patricia P. Cormier  
President, Longwood University

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J. Timothy Cloyd  
President, Hendrix College



Graham B. Spanier  
President, The Pennsylvania State University



Richard H. Wells  
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

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John D. Welty  
President, California State University, Fresno



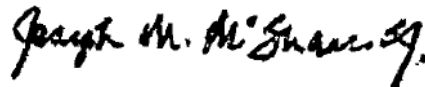
General J.H. Binford Peay III  
Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute



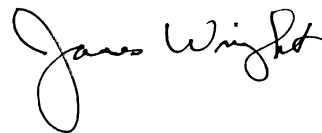
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Studies, Agnes Scott College



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Mark D. Gearan

Mark D. Gearan  
President, Hobart and William Smith Colleges



Donna Shalala  
President, University of Miami

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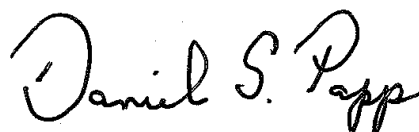
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President, Fairleigh Dickinson University



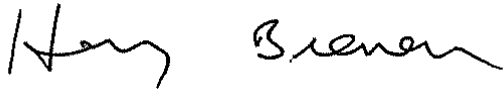
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Henry S. Bienen  
President, Northwestern University

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Albert K. Karnig  
President, California State University, San Bernardino



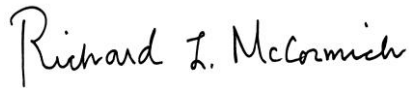
Charles R. Middleton  
President, Roosevelt University



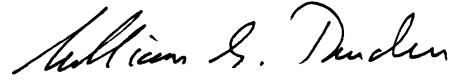
William Powers, Jr  
President, University of Texas at Austin

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Robert O. Kelley  
President, University of North Dakota



Richard L. McCormick  
President, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



William Durden  
President, Dickinson College



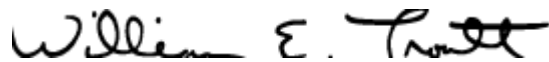
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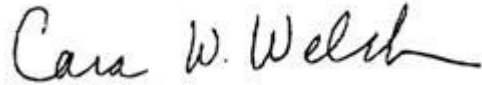
Michael S. Roth  
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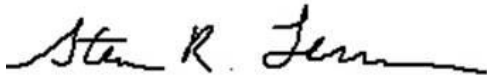
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Cara Woodson Welch, Esq.  
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Robert A. Corrigan  
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Kate Hudson Walker  
Chair, Young Government Leaders



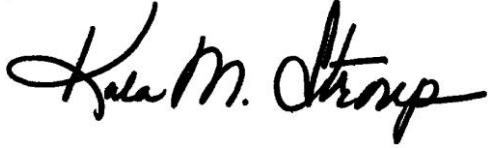
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Marilyn Mackes  
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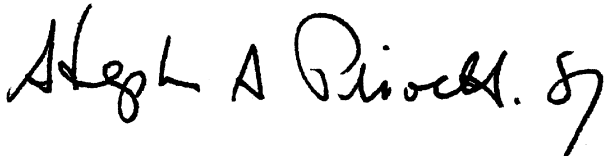
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President, University of New Hampshire



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Geoffrey Gamble  
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H. Kim Bottomly  
President, Wellesley College



Jack P. Varsalona  
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Daniel Klaich  
Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education

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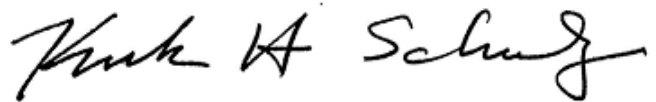
Sheila Ortego  
President, Santa Fe Community College

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Dr. David M. Abshire  
President, Center for the Study of the Presidency  
and Congress



William W. Destler  
President, Rochester Institute of Technology



Kirk Schulz  
President, Kansas State University



David J. Schmidly  
President, The University of New Mexico



Steven Knapp  
President, The George Washington University

*Donald L. Beggs*

Donald L. Beggs  
President, Wichita State University