

**CONTACT:**

Mike Garretson, ACYPL Communications Coordinator  
(202) 857-0999 x27 or [mgarretson@acypl.org](mailto:mgarretson@acypl.org)

\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

## **Seven Young Political Leaders From Across the U.S. to Depart On Exchange to Brazil Study Program to Focus on Citizen Diplomacy**

WASHINGTON - A delegation of seven young political leaders from across the United States will depart on Friday, August 10, 2007, for a 12 day political exchange program in Brazil organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). Their departure is preceded by a day of meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. with officials from the U.S. Department of State, the Brazilian Embassy, the Brazil Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Brazilian Information Center (BIC), an independent organization which seeks to strengthen political and commercial relations between Brazil and the United States.

This delegation is the ninth ACYPL has sent to Brazil. The first delegation traveled to Brazil in 1979 and since that time, over 65 ACYPL delegates, including the current U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael L. Retzer, have visited the country. ACYPL has partnered with BIC to organize its exchanges with Brazil since 2005.

**Who:** Young political leaders from across the American political spectrum, including:

- **The Honorable James F. Burns** (R) - Member, Greenville County Council (South Carolina)
- **The Honorable J. Craig Gordon** (D) - Member, Georgia State House of Representatives
- **Ms. Angela Landers** (R) - Executive Assistant to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.)
- **Ms. Mel Raines** (R) (Escort) - Vice President, Committee on Arrangements, 2008 Republican National Convention
- **The Honorable Tonya Schuitmaker** (R) - Member, Michigan State House of Representatives
- **The Honorable Nannette Whaley** (D) - Commissioner, Dayton City Council (Ohio)
- **The Honorable Blong Xiong** (D) - Acting President, Fresno City Council (California)

**What:** Highlights will include:

- Meetings with political leaders from across the Brazilian political spectrum, such as Brazilian Supreme Court President Ellen Gracie Northfleet, members of the Brazilian Congress, Rio de Janeiro Mayor César Maia, Ribeirao Preto Mayor Welson Gasparini, Rio de Janeiro Secretary of Safety José Mariano Beltrame, Rio de Janeiro Secretary of Finance Joaquim Levy and members of the Sao Paulo City Council.
- Additional meetings with officials from the American Chamber of Commerce, the Brazilian Mercantile and Futures Exchange, Reuters News Agency, the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo and the Brazilian Center of International Relations.

**When:** August 10, 2007 (Washington, D.C.)  
August 11-21, 2007 (Brazil)

**Why:** The purpose of this program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the Brazilian political system and culture.
- Cultivate lasting political, economic and cultural relationships between the delegates and their Brazilian peers.
- Allow the delegates to engage in dialogue on international issues.

*About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)*

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians from around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 or [mgarretson@acypl.org](mailto:mgarretson@acypl.org).

###