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The American Council of Young Political Leaders

## **ACYPL DELEGATION DEPARTS TOMORROW FOR VENEZUELA**

**Washington, DC** – March 31, 2006 – The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), a bipartisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, this year celebrating its fortieth anniversary, will send a delegation of seven rising political figures from across the nation as delegates to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for a 13-day political study program. The program to include meetings with the U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela William R. Brownfield, Venezuelan political party leaders, members of the Venezuelan Supreme Court, elected officials, and university and civic representatives, will take place May 11-23, 2006. “This is a unique opportunity for local, young American leaders to engage in public diplomacy in a nation that has strained relations with the United States at a time when such is sorely needed,” said Brad Minnick, ACYPL Executive Director, and himself an alumnus of a 1989 ACYPL delegation to China during which Chinese students protested in Tiananmen Square.

2006 delegates (available for interviews, see full list, which is attached) include five elected local leaders and one federal government official. They will first spend a day in Washington, DC, for briefings on Venezuela from, among others, the Venezuelan Ambassador and officials from the US Department of State and Organization of American States.

Upon arrival in Caracas, U.S. delegates will be welcomed and briefed by U.S. Embassy officials. The program will provide the delegates opportunities to interact with rising leaders from local, municipal, judicial, and national institutions, political parties, the business community, universities, media outlets and the civil society. The American delegates will learn about the differences and similarities in government management, examine U.S. foreign policy toward Venezuela, as well as address local cultural and social issues.

Since 1966, the ACYPL has become recognized worldwide as the preeminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other. Receiving partial funding from the US State Department, the ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni, a large number of whom have risen to positions of great influence in the United States and in nations around the globe.

ACYPL delegates are chosen from a competitive, bipartisan field of candidates who are between the ages of 25 and 40 years old and have exhibited strong leadership during their careers in public or private service. Former ACYPL participants include many current members of the US Congress, state governors, ambassadors, cabinet secretaries, and foreign members of Parliament and prime ministers. For more information and a list of alumni dignitaries, visit [www.acypl.org](http://www.acypl.org).

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**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

**MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2006**

**DELEGATE LIST**

**ESCORT**

The Honorable Dan Stec

Town Supervisor  
Town of Queensbury, NY

**REPUBLICANS**

Ms. Laura M. Branker  
Strategies

National Director of Government  
AmeriChoice

Mr. Price Roe

Counselor to the Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Douglas Struyk

Member  
Iowa General Assembly

**DEMOCRATS**

The Honorable Emily A. Cain

Member  
Maine House of Representatives

The Honorable Dirk D. Dedeaux

Member  
Mississippi House of Representatives

The Honorable Scott McCoy

Member  
Utah State Senate

**Political Study Tour of Venezuela**

*Program arranged by:*

The American Council of Young Political Leaders

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