Youth Leadership Initiative To Host Community Symposium with Former First Lady Barbara Bush

-- Forum To Feature Students in an Election Year Discussion --

CHARLOTTESVILLE - The Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) at the University of Virginia Center for Governmental Studies will host a community symposium with former First Lady Barbara Bush on Wednesday, February 9, 2000 that will focus on youth participation in the American electoral process and Virginia’s upcoming Republican Presidential primary.

“Responsible citizenship is the hallmark of the Youth Leadership Initiative,” stated YLI Director Ken Stroupe. “It is a tremendous honor for the students of YLI to meet and learn from one of America’s most gracious and well-respected First Ladies at this timely period in the Presidential nominating process.”

Where: Newcomb Hall Ballroom on Grounds at the University of Virginia.
When: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, February 9, 2000.

The Youth Leadership Initiative is the signature program of the University of Virginia Center for Governmental Studies. The program combines academic excellence with civic and community activities to bolster participation in the American electoral process. Over the last year, the program has been conducted as a pilot project in public and private middle and high schools in Charlottesville, and the counties of Albemarle, Page, Shenandoah, and Henrico. The Youth Leadership Initiative will expand statewide in August, and nationally by 2004.

Later this month -- just one day before the Virginia Republican Presidential Primary -- the Youth Leadership Initiative will host the largest online mock Presidential Primary in the nation. Thousands of participating YLI middle and high school students in every region of the Commonwealth will e-vote for the Republican Presidential candidates using state-of-the-art cyber-ballots on February 28, 2000.

This YLI Community Symposium is open to the public, with seating offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the media are invited to attend.

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