

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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From Passion to Profession: Making a Career That Matters
Friday, March 24th 2006, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Gaston Hall at Georgetown University, 37th and O Street, NW.

Washington, D.C. – “The nonprofit world could find itself on the brink of a leadership crisis if it does not act quickly to attract, retain, and develop the skilled, committed, and diverse workforce it needs in the decades ahead” (Schmitz and Stroup, *Building Tomorrow’s Nonprofit Workforce* – 2005).

At the same time nonprofit sector leaders are grappling with how to recruit and retain the next generation of nonprofit leaders, young people are looking for more than just a job. They want to build on their volunteer and service-learning experiences and put their ideas into action to solve community and global problems. They yearn for a career that both contributes to the lives of others and is personally rewarding. Yet, they are unsure of how to do it.

Committed to cultivating the next generation of nonprofit professionals and public servants, the Center for Public & Nonprofit Leadership and the Center for Social Justice at Georgetown University are hosting an issue forum discussing ways that students, recent graduates, and young professionals can transform their passion for public service into a rewarding career that makes a difference.

A panel of prominent nonprofit leaders will explore how talented young people can take advantage of opportunities and overcome barriers that inhibit their entry into the nonprofit sector. The discussion will be moderated by **E.J. Dionne, Jr.**, Columnist, *Washington Post* and Professor, Georgetown University. **Wendy Kopp**, Founder and President, Teach For America, will kick off the event with a few remarks about her own challenges and rewards in creating one of the most widely-recognized nonprofits in America today.

Other panelists include **Cheryl Dorsey**, President, Echoing Green – a social venture organization that awards start-up capital to social entrepreneurs; **Chris Murphy**, Founder and Executive Director, City Year Washington, D.C. – an “action” tank that promotes voluntary citizen service as a means of building a stronger democracy; and **Cecilia Muñoz**, Vice President, National Council of La Raza – the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.

“This Issue Forum will be a great opportunity for anyone considering a future in the nonprofit sector,” said CPNL Director Kathy Kretman. “We’re looking forward to bringing together this dynamic group of nonprofit practitioners to share their unique experiences.”

The event will take place between 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24th 2006 in Gaston Hall at Georgetown University, 37th and O Street, NW. Refreshments from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.. Panel discussion will run from 10:00 to 11:40 a.m., with audience Q&A until noon.

Media planning to attend should contact: Melody Gonzales, cpnl@georgetown.edu, 202-687-5541.